

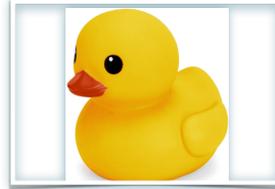


**Let's Can Hunger!**

**CANNED FRUITS & VEGETABLES ARE AMONG THE ITEMS YOU CAN GIVE DURING OUR NOVEMBER FOOD DRIVE FOR THE ST. JOHNS FOOD PANTRY**



**LAST CALL FOR B-BALL**  
 RSVP BY THIS TUESDAY TO JOIN US FOR OUR SOCIAL OUTING TO UNF ON NOVEMBER 29



**GETTING OUR DUCKS IN A ROW**  
 BENEFICIARIES APPROVED FOR OUR DUCK RACE IN MAY



**NEXT CLUB MEETING**  
 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6 AT 7:30AM  
 TREYLOR PARK RESTAURANT IN NOCATEE  
 ZOOM: ID - 831 0429 0873; PASSWORD - 252056

# THE.32081.ROTARIAN

**4000 local families are served every week by the St. Johns Food Pantry.** That's why we've dedicated the month of November to collecting donations for them. You can help our effort in a variety of ways.



Donation collection from November 8



Donation collection from November 15

Scan the QR code on our electronic Food Drive flyer (or click [here](#)) and be taken to a complete Amazon wishlist of needed items. Just click the items you want to purchase and send them to the address option of "Dean Jones' Gift Registry Address."

# FOOD DRIVE

Please help us collect non-perishable foods for the St. Johns County Food Pantry this Thanksgiving. The Pantry serves 4000 families every week in our community.

## WHAT THEY NEED:

- Canned fruits & veggies
- 1 lb bags of white rice
- Peanut butter & jelly
- Boxed pasta & sauce
- Dry beans
- Cereal
- Canned meat (Spam)



SPONSORED BY



You can also buy items in the grocery store and put items in any of our donation boxes around town including:

- Vystar Bank in Nocatee
- Watson Realty in Nocatee
- Y M C A in Nocatee

Thank you!



## ***UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE***

**November 22** - No Meeting (Thanksgiving Week)

**November 29** - No Morning Meeting; Social Outing to UNF Men's Basketball Game vs. Trinity Baptist, 7pm

**December 6** - Guest Speaker: Shane Lockwood, Administrator of the Florida Department of Health in St. Johns County

**December 13** - Club Holiday Party & Blessings in a Backpack Service Event

## **RSVP for a Road Trip to UNF!**



**Join us on Tuesday, November 29, as club members gather for a social outing to cheer on the UNF Ospreys men's basketball team versus Trinity Baptist! Tickets are \$15/person (\$5 additional per person if you want a meal of concession food). The game tips at 7pm and family members and friends are welcome! **You must RSVP for your tickets by this Tuesday, November 22, through this Sign Up Genius.** Pay for your tickets via the club's Venmo account (@PonteVedra-Rotary) or through a check made out to "Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra" (collected by club President, Bob Wiltfong, at the game).**

Once again our amazing Rotary Club is coming to the aid of kids in our community through “Blessings in A Backpack”. “Blessings in a Backpack” provides food for school aged children on the weekends and during holiday breaks in our community that experience food insecurity. Over 9 million children in the US experience food insecurity, that’s one in every 8 American children.



Club members gather around their donations for last year’s Blessings in a Backpack

Our local chapter of Blessings in a Backpack has let us know that Crookshank Elementary School in St. Augustine is in critical need this year and we are stepping in to help. We will be packing 125 backpacks full of food at our holiday meeting on December 13<sup>th</sup>. These backpacks will be distributed in time for the school holiday break. Notecards are given to the children who receive these backpacks. These notecards are something the kids treasure, share and trade with their friends. All we need to do is write a quick positive, inspirational note, example; You Are Loved! You Can Do It! The World Needs You, etc. We will have the notecards at our next meeting if you would like to take a few, write a message and decorate the card. In addition we are collecting candy canes to be attached to the notecard so please bring in a box or two. Lets help make this holiday season special for these kids!

## The Votes are In...

We asked our club members to vote for two additional beneficiaries (besides Learn to Read of St. Johns County) that we could raise money for with our annual Rubber Duck Race event (May 21, 2023). The winners of that vote were:



**Bit of Faith Ranch** - Ponte Vedra Beach-based horse ranch where individuals and families impacted by autism and related disabilities can experience belonging, growth, and relationships through horseback riding, recreation, and respite.



**Port in the Storm** - St. Augustine-based youth center that provides overnight shelter, food, clothing, case management and daytime drop-in programs for homeless youth.

Club members will solicit corporate sponsorships for this year's Rubber Duck Race starting next month. All funds raised through the event will benefit our beneficiaries and help build the endowment of our club's foundation.



### **CLUB'S VISION STATEMENT**

A vibrant, diverse and inclusive Rotary club that is widely recognized for highly effective programs and projects within a framework of friendship and service.

### **CLUB'S CORE VALUES**

Fellowship•Integrity•Diversity•Service•Leadership

# Meeting Highlights: November 8, 2023



Hilary Wilson recognized as a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow by club President, Bob Wiltfong.

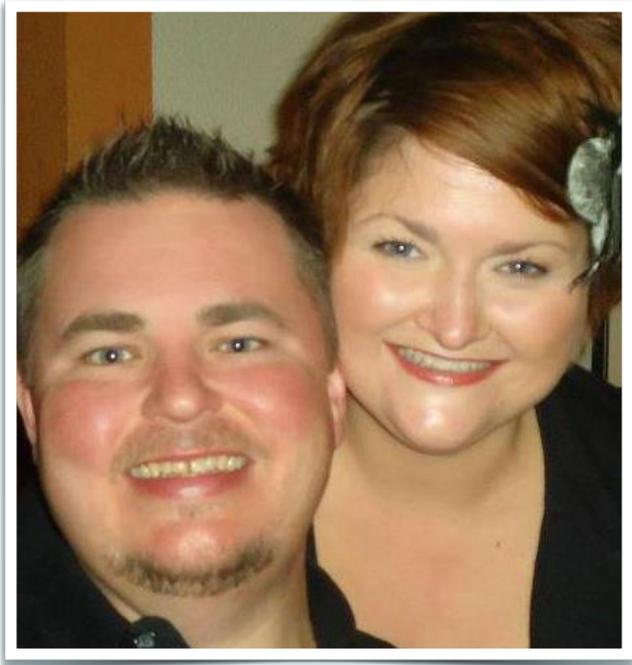


Chief Warrant Officer Michael Donato and Master Chief Duane Spears speak to club members about the Nease JROTC program.

# Meeting Recap: November 15, 2023

Our Food Drive Chair, Dean Jones, reported on how donations are going so far. Andy Erickson pinned a banner from his old East Greenwich Rotary club on our newly-minted banner exchange display. Jim Huster shared some moving personal reflections on autism awareness and the importance of early intervention. Community Service Chair, Denny Baldwin, asked for volunteers to spearhead our Club's focus early next year on local student homelessness. And our featured speaker, Claudia Portell, presented the compelling story of Ascension St. Vincent's Mobile Health Outreach Ministry—the only provider of free comprehensive health care in NE Florida.

## Celebrations



Dean Jones and his wife, Kelly, celebrate their wedding anniversary on November 26. Happy anniversary you two!



Bob Wiltfong's birthday is on November 26!

## From the President's Desk



President of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra, 2022-23, Bob Wiltfong.

**Culture is what's rewarded.** That was an idea introduced to me this week by, of all things, listening to sports radio. I'm a huge sports fan, but I don't usually turn to that interest to inform me as a leader in Rotary. However, those words — "culture is what's rewarded" — speak to me as President of our club.

Put another way, that phrase means that an organization's culture isn't defined by its mission statement or its stated core values. It's defined by what the organization does. Who and what it puts its focus on. Actions over words

Every club meeting, we end our time together by reciting the 4-Way Test of the things we think, say or do as Rotarians. They are:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

They're fantastic concepts, but can turn in to meaningless platitudes if we, as Rotarians, don't actually practice them. Again, actions over words. This holiday season I challenge us all to live those words in our personal lives and in our Rotary club. Be a light in someone's darkness. Reward the culture you want in your family, in your country, in our world.



### **CLUB'S MISSION STATEMENT**

To realize our club's potential through increased membership and engagement; expanded diversity, equity, inclusion and service; and enhanced fellowship and comfort.



Follow the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra



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**President**  
Bob Wiltfong



**Secretary**  
Rosemary Lorenz



**Treasurer**  
Sean Smith



**Membership**  
MaryBeth Murray



**Community Service**  
Denny Baldwin



**Rotary Foundation Chair/  
International Service Chair**  
Andy Erickson



**Sergeant-at-Arms**  
Linda Lomax



**Program Chair**  
Karen Everett



**Public Image Chair**  
Mari Perroni



**General Counsel**  
Edward Sarnowski

**Comments, questions or inquiries about the 32081.Rotarian?**  
Please contact the Editor, Bob Wiltfong, at [rotarybob1@gmail.com](mailto:rotarybob1@gmail.com).

**Interested in joining the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra?**  
Please contact our Membership Chair, MaryBeth Murray, at [pontevedrarotary@gmail.com](mailto:pontevedrarotary@gmail.com).

