

Past President Roundtable

OUR PAST PRESIDENTS ASK
"WHEN SHOULD OUR CLUB
MEET IN PERSON AGAIN?"



WATER FOR CAMBODIA
DONATION NUMBERS
LOOKING GREAT!



**CLUB MEMBER
RECOGNIZED**
LEARN ABOUT THE LATEST
HONOR FOR JEREMIAH BLOCKER



NEXT MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 16 AT 7:30AM
ZOOM ID: 388 019 0662
PASSWORD: 263 227

THE.32081.ROTARIAN



The first four Rotarians. From left: Gustavus Loehr, Silvester Schiele, Hiram E. Shorey, Paul P. Harris.

Past President Roundtable: Our Club's Past Leaders Discuss the Future of our Meetings

"I think the people
want [in-person
meetings]." - Ian
Aguilar, President

On March 5, several members who have served as Rotary Club President gathered on Zoom to discuss current issues facing the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra. President-Elect, Mary Beth Murray, was also present. The following is an edited version of some of that discussion. The conversation started with the question, "What are your thoughts on resuming in-person meetings?"

IAN AGUILAR

Yeah, I've had talks with Rick [Kunzi] (EDITOR'S NOTE: Kunzi is co-owner) at Treylor Park and he says he's ready to go. Maybe we could do in-person meetings Q2, give it a shot? I think the [majority of] people want it. There's a certain segment of people who, rightfully so, are still concerned because they haven't gotten vaccinated or what have you. I completely understand that too. At some point you have to pull the trigger [though]. There's going to be some people who say, "Why am I paying for everyone else to eat breakfast?" Then there are some people who are going to say, "Well, I'm happy [that we're meeting in-person again]." There's going to be a divide. I do think consistent [in-person meetings] for people to get excited about would spark members to get back involved...in community service, all of those things. I think that's our big opportunity in Q2 of this year, definitely in Q3 going into Mary Beth's year. I think that's where we need to throttle up, if you will.

DENNY BALDWIN

I think our Water for Cambodia celebration on March 22nd at Treylor Park will be a good indication as to whether folks are willing to come back to in-person meetings. I know the plan is to promote it as robustly as possible and to get as many people who feel comfortable to attend it. Maybe we can tell from that if we [should] resume in-person club meetings in quarter two?

MARY BETH MURRAY

I do think that [our Water for Cambodia celebration] night will be a good measure of who's willing to come out and I do think as more people are getting vaccinated it'll be better too. They say that vaccinations for every adult American should be available by the end of May, so I really see by this summer we should absolutely be 100% in person. I think we're going to have a little bit of a growing pain until we get to that, but people should probably be able to get their shots by, I would think, June.

KELLY ALTOSINO-SASTRE

The other big consideration is the financial aspect of it too. If we say, "OK, we're going back to Treylor Park Q2 and we're going back to our regular fees," I think we have to really think about that. This is a huge issue within the entire district with people who have not attended Rotary in a year and have been expected to pay full dues. People are saying, "Wait, I'm not paying \$100 a month [for food] I don't eat anyway. It's one thing when I was there [for in-person meetings]. At least I understood my fees were covering overhead or whatever." So, we're going to have to really consider [where we meet and if we have food available] moving forward.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Ian Aguilar says it cost our club \$1500/month to have catered, in-person meetings at Treylor Park pre-pandemic. If we just pay for the space

Celebrations



Club member, Braxton Adamson, celebrates his birthday on March 11. Braxton is President of Duke Properties, Inc. Happy birthday, Braxton!



Karen Everett and her husband, Win, celebrated their wedding anniversary on February 28th. Congratulations, Karen!

and no food, it would be \$800/month.

KELLY ALTOSINO-SASTRE

We have other [meeting space] options that we didn't have before. I've been approached by the YMCA. I've been approached by Flagler here. So, it's something we really want to look at in terms of do we really want that [Treyler Park] overhead when other options are out there that are better for our bottom line and make sense? For example, I don't eat the stuff at Treyler Park. I don't eat that kind of stuff. I'm happy just having a cup of coffee. So, if we want to continue building our membership and retaining our membership, we have to look at the financial aspect of it as well and look at what our options are now. We could maybe spend the next couple of months seeing what is really out there.

IAN AGUILAR

I think that's a great idea. All you [really] need [for our in-person meetings] is a space and a gallon of Dunkins [coffee]. I think most people would be happy with that to be honest with you. I think most people share the same sentiment that they don't eat Treyler Park's food when we have it.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The general consensus among the group was that any decision to come back to full-time, in-person club meetings should be made by our Board of Directors, not Ian.



Water for Cambodia: We are SOOOO Close!



We're almost there! Please fill your collection jar with loose change, bills, and/or checks to present at our **Victory Celebration March 22, 2021, 5:30PM, at the Treyler Park in Nocatee**. Our goal is that each Rotarian will donate at least one filter for \$83.22 to help the needy villagers of Cambodia.

Considering Becoming a Rotary Ambassador?

The Water for Cambodia project leadership team will travel to Siem Reap next year (early 2022), and would warmly welcome a member of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra accompanying them to participate fully in normal oversight activities (along with a bit of sightseeing).

We encourage you to consider the possibility that you might join them and become an emissary of international good will and building mutual ties of understanding for our club next year. Let Andy Erickson (americkson@aol.com) know if you are interested in discussing further.



Fellow Rotarian Caught Doing Good!



Late last month the St. Johns County Veterans Council awarded our very own, Jeremiah Blocker, with the prestigious Colonel George E. Taylor Award. This honor is named after Colonel (Infantry) George Arthur Taylor who, on June 6, 1944, organized units during the D-Day invasion while facing deadly snipe and machine gun fire. Colonel Taylor was able to help clear an exit from the beach for thousands of huddled soldiers on a narrow beachhead. This was the only exit opened in the early part of the assault and subsequent events proved it to be one of the most vital points contributing to the success of the operation. Jeremiah we are proud of your service and congratulate you on this well-deserved honor.



Great Developments on the Rubber Ducky Regatta

The Rubber Ducky Regatta committee has confirmed partnerships with the National Honor Societies at our four local high schools (Ponte Vedra, Nease, Creekside and Bartram Trail) to help us sell duckies for this year's event! That means over a thousand students, collectively, will be selling adoptions for our event. In addition, the committee has already raised \$7000 in corporate sponsorships. This event will raise money not only for our club but for the Learn to Read organization of St. Johns County. This year's Rubber Ducky Regatta will be held May 16th at noon with headquarters at the Palm Valley Outdoors Bar & Grill. Mark your calendars to be there!





Autism Speaks Walk - North Florida Awards Celebration!

join us at the Walk Awards!

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

Virtual Awards Ceremony

7:30 pm – 8:00 pm

[Join us on our Facebook Page to watch the ceremony!](#)

You're invited to join us as we celebrate the 2020 North & Central Florida Walks.

Help us celebrate you – our fundraising teams & walkers, our corporate sponsors, our committees, and the volunteers who helped make it all possible.

**Please RSVP by March 10rd to
JacksonvilleWalk@AutismSpeaks.org**

For more information contact:

Natasha LaMonica

Manager

(407) 483-2282

Natasha.LaMonica@AutismSpeaks.org

Upcoming Meetings & Speakers

Tuesday, March 16 at 7:25am - regular club meeting

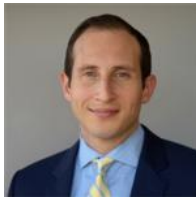
Speaker: Lisa Rinaman, St. Johns Riverkeeper - addressing sewage issues that are threatening our waterways as well as a legislative update from Tallahassee

Meeting Location: Zoom - ID number 388 019 0662, Password 263 227

Tuesday, March 22 at 5:30pm - Water for Cambodia Victory Celebration

Meeting Location: Treylor Park in Nocatee

Present your collection jar with loose change, bills, and/or checks as we celebrate World Water Day at our victory celebration for Water for Cambodia! The goal is for each club member to donate at least one water filter for \$83.22 to help needy villagers in Cambodia as part of a Rotary effort there.



President

Ian Aguilar



President-Elect

Mary Beth Murray



Vice President

Kelly Altosino-Sastre



**President-Nominee
Secretary**

Meagan Perkins



**Public Relations
Chair**

Bob Wiltfong



Membership Chair

Mark Hulsey



**Community Service
Chair**

Denny Baldwin



Speaker Chair

Karen Everett



General Counsel

Edward Sarnowski