



# Spoke 'n Wheel

The Weekly Newsletter of the Winter Park Rotary Club

## September 14 Zoom Meeting



by President Bryan Thomas

The virtual assembly of Winter Park Rotary kicked off as close to noon as a sundial on a cloudy day would permit. The ritual ringing of the gong, previously an off-key and shaky rendition owing to a faulty striker, rang out the message, “A full session is underway despite miscellaneous impediments, social distancing and absence of victuals”. In any event, that is what I heard the gong to say more or less as far as anyone knows. Jim Hardy invoked, asking for divine guidance in furtherance of our intentions. Jeffrey Blydenburgh teed up an internet version of the “Star Spangled Banner” that sounded appropriate despite absence of coordination with YouTube visuals. Work on making the musical portion of the program rock continue despite limited budget and gremlins in the software. This will get resolved in a way that make that feature alone good and sufficient reason to attend virtually. The President recited the Pledge of Allegiance from memory, not missing a beat and not relying on a teleprompter which was a good thing because the teleprompter was either not working or broken.

**MEETING LOCATION:**  
*Online via Zoom*

**LOOKING AHEAD**

**September 21st:**  
*Words of Wisdom of Mr. Rogers during Covid 19 – The Rev. Katrina E. Jenkins*

**September 21st:**  
*Board Meeting*

## FUNDRAISING FOR 2020-21

### Winter Park Loves Chili for Charity



This week's warmup, capably led by President-Elect Anne, addressed fund raising in a Covid controlled climate. If you have an interest in engaging in this ongoing dialogue, Anne is the person to engage with. She furnished the participants a tidy summary of the discussion that she will make available to anyone with interest in laboring to solve that challenge.

With this in mind, we need to reconsider how to raise the funds that the Winter Park Rotary Club needs to continue its community efforts. A group of club members met before today's regular meeting to bat some ideas around. After today's discussion, we have several options for a major fundraiser.

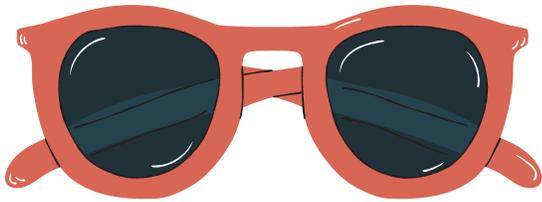
- 1) We move the date further out and plan to do the event live when conditions warrant. One change suggested was to have the event in the west field where the Farmers Market has been relocated, to allow for social distancing.
- 2) We hold a virtual Chili 4 Charity;
  - a. The event already has a following and cache, we could capitalize on
  - b. Silent Auction has already been done online
  - c. We have a Rotary model like the Westport Rotary Lobsterfest.
- 3) We create an entirely different, out of the box, unrelated event.

**Sarah said** - I think it would be cool to set a theme and have members have many dinner parties around the area – each with a goal to raise \$250.00 or more and perhaps do a short zoom showing the groups – I went to something in New York once called Blaze where everyone decorated fake pumpkins and turned it into a fantastic event- some structure to it, but not too much. I'm happy to help.

**Pitt sent in the following suggestion.** “Just throwing this out there..... I've read about a couple of successful online versions of traditional fundraisers that took place during the height of shut down. I was surprised they were successful, but it's great that they were. I wonder if waiting for our traditional time of February CFC there might be a lot of competition for online fundraisers? Maybe do an online one earlier. Sooner rather than later? Or move the in-person one to April-May.”

# CHILI PARTY

## Where were your shades?



Shades and darned little of it. The President wore his Gloria Steinem sunglasses. Kim Groves wore a pair as a spokesperson for the designer collection at Sunglass Hut and earned a complementary pluck in the 50/50. The rest of you failed to thrive or engage. That is not like Rotarians to sit on the sidelines.

### Theme for 9/21 meeting: Scarves.

So kick it into gear for the coming week in which scarves will be the theme. Woolen, silken, around the neck, over the shoulders, on the head to keep the wind or rain from disturbing one's coiffure. Imagination and execution might even lead to a free ride on the 50/50 Railroad.

## DEBRA BACKER: ROTARIAN OF THE WEEK

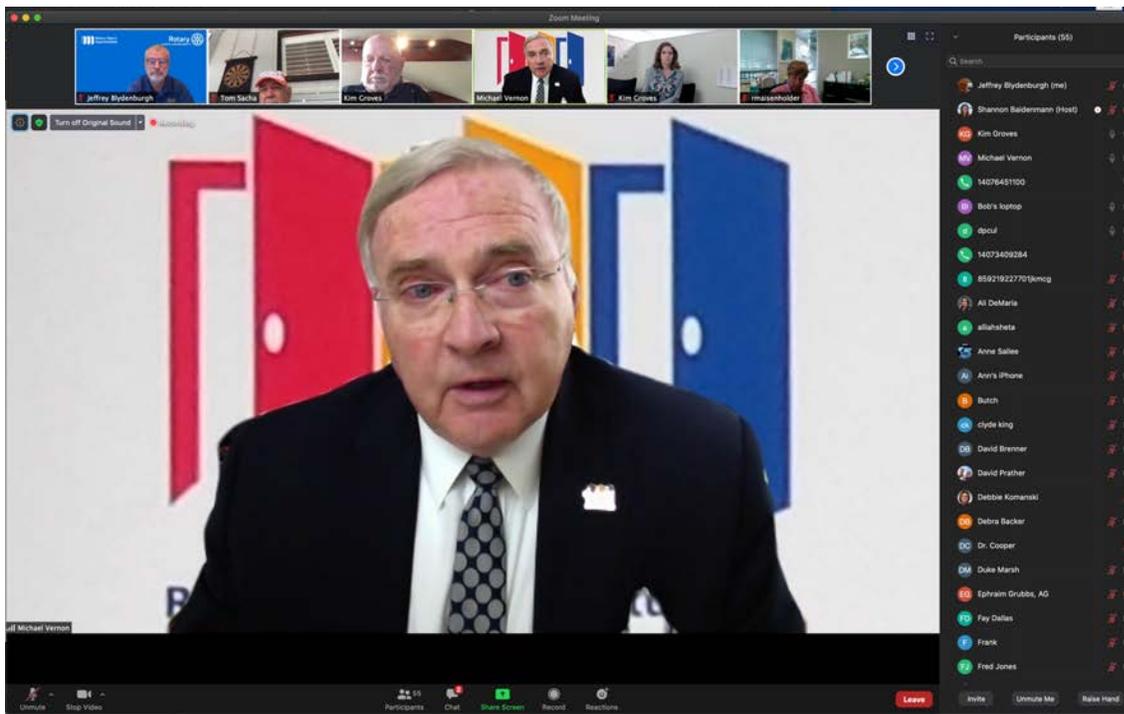


**In the absence of other nominations, the President was delighted to use a peremptory pick to anoint Treasurer Debra Backer. Some of the most effective members operate outside public view, rendering service without fanfare or acclaim. If Debra takes on a task, she does it quietly, steadfastly, joyfully and competently. Keeping the \$ straight between the Club and the Foundation requires a juggler's attention. Paying our obligations to RI and such, managing receivables and payables: all of this takes enormous amounts of time and skill. In case you didn't notice before, take notice now. If you speak with her, share with her our collective admiration for a job done so well your President sleeps through the night knowing financial affairs rest in a secure anchorage**

Now a prompting to the rest of you. Pay attention to the opportunity to recognize another member who renders a small kindness or otherwise mirrors the 4-Way Test. Zero nominations last week. That won't make the bulldog bark. Zoom creates challenges: Rotarians rise up to overcome them. Our meetings naturally lack the spontaneity of "live and in person". To compensate, engage in what can be done to maintain morale until we meet again in the old fashioned way.

# District Theme Presented by DG Mike Vernon

Until I became President, it never occurred to consider the amount of coordination required to keep the District and International functions running smoothly. District Governors come out of our club as naturally as sap from a maple tree. Mike Vernon, current holder of that slot, presented four points of emphasis for this district in his term ending June, 2021:



**Greetings:**

Traditionally, our District Governors have tried to make their “official in-person visits” as soon as they can after the start of the new Rotary year. However, we are in much different times today than we ever have been. Different times offer new and unique approaches allowing us to take advantage of every opportunity that comes our way. Therefore, I am doing our visits differently this year. I am starting out by reaching every club electronically as soon as I can.

Then as the COVID-19 situation becomes clearer, I can make an in-person visit to your club throughout the year with informal club visits by participating in your special events, and attending your social activities. This gives us the opportunity to keep in touch more personally throughout the year.

I greatly appreciate your letting me visit with you and conduct this “official” District Governor visit electronically.

There are some items that I want you to know about as we begin our year. I think it only fair that I let you know what I am thinking about, my expectations, and what you can expect of me.

Today, I want to emphasize just two points – **Membership** and **our District Theme this year of Friendship.**

Let me tell this story: 'A few years ago, a businessman was concerned about honesty, integrity, and loyalty in his line of business. One day, he was out running with his daughter, and after the run they stopped into a local facility for water and to take a rest. While there, he noticed a Four-Way plaque on the wall. He read it and told his daughter that this was what he had been looking for in his business career. He decided to attend one of their meetings and see what this was all about. When he attended his first meeting, he was welcomed, enjoyed the fellowship, and made some new friends. He attended more meetings and participated in a couple of service projects that they were doing, and he was asked to join and made even more friends'.

When the theme was announced, no one had any idea how appropriate it was going to become. Over the past few months, Rotary has moved forward in innovation, creativity, and accepting technology much more rapidly than anyone envisioned.

That brings us to today, our theme for Rotary Year 2020 – 2021 is



ASSISTANT GOVERNOR GRUBBS WAS IN ATTENDANCE



THE ROTARY MOTTO FOR CENTRAL FLORIDA



DG VERNON AT FOOD PACKING EVENT

In the past five months, we have moved forward at least five years in accepting new ways to meet and grow. The doors represented on our theme logo are the doors of opportunity opening for Rotarians, Rotaractors, and the family of Rotary. Interestingly, we are finding that not only does

## **Rotary Open Opportunities, but that these same Opportunities Open Rotary.**

There are new opportunities to open our clubs and districts to the public and our members. We are finding ways to attract new members in many different areas. We have increased the use of virtual club meetings, training activities, conferences, and how to expand our reach. It is not unusual to find clubs having visitors from around the world sit in on their meetings.

Our Zone and International leaders can now meet with clubs very easily. Decisions are being made more rapidly, and we are getting an opportunity to meet more people than we ever have before

## **MEMBERSHIP IS OUR FOCUS**

It is through membership that we are able to accomplish everything that we do as an organization. Club members are the engines that provide the power to drive our organization forward and into those areas where we take action to make significant, lasting, positive changes in our world. Therefore, we need to select our members carefully, engage them in meaningful activities, and meet their expectations. Our concern is not numbers but attracting and keeping the quality person who will be a Rotarian in two years, ten years, and longer.



RI President-elect Holger Knaack's theme for 2020-21, *Rotary Opens Opportunities*, asks Rotarians to create opportunities that strengthen their leadership, help put service ideas into action, and improve the lives of those in need.

**This year our RI President, Holger Knaack, asks our clubs to do four things:**

- 1. NEW CLUB MODELS SUCH AS A CLUB WITHIN A SINGLE BUSINESS OR AN AFFINITY CLUB SUCH AS VETERANS.**
- 2. STRATEGIC PLANNING GUIDELINES TO ASSURE ABILITY TO MEET THE FUTURE "ARMED AND DANGEROUS"**
- 3. SELECTION OF MEMBERS - RECRUIT AND RETAIN "GIVERS" AND "DOERS"**
- 4. BURST THROUGH THE TAPE AT THE POLIO FINISH LINE. RI IS CLOSE BUT THE RACE ISN'T OVER QUITE YET. REMAINING HOT SPOTS STILL MUST BE COOLED OFF.**



**DISTRICT LEADERS MEET ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT NOMINEE SHEKHAR MEHTA AND HIS LOVELY WIFE ARRIVING FROM INDIA.**

We are going to grow this year by continuing to attract new members and by **Planting Satellite Clubs.**

By strengthening the bonds of friendship in our clubs, we will be able to reach out to new areas and new clubs. There is a new RI video about membership called Anytown. We are going to use the message in this video as our central focus for membership this year.

In growing membership, not only in traditional ways, we will be planting clubs in the following areas:

- **Cause-based clubs such as for veterans, environmental concerns, and other issues.**
- **Corporate clubs in Healthcare facilities and at our Universities.**
- **Clubs in areas not served before.**
- **Community-based Rotaract clubs**

Growing membership takes time, effort, planning, sponsors, mentors, and most of all, a friendly, welcoming attitude and environment. It requires planting, nurturing, cultivating, and help while growing. You can each make a positive difference in this area.



Paul Harris once said, The foundation upon which Rotary is built is friendship.

**I am the businessman mentioned earlier.**

I showed up at the Rotary Club of Oviedo one morning searching for something in my life. I have come to realize that the something was friendship. The service aspect is icing on the cake. Serving others is a gift, friendship is a blessing. I have made many friends In Rotary, locally, throughout the United States, and internationally. I value those friendship deeply and greatly enjoy the deepening friendships as we work together to create lasting change, across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves. In closing,

I return to the District theme this year – Friendship. I am reminded of an Irish proverb:

**"There are good ships and wood ships, ships that sail the sea, but the best ships are friendships, and may they always be."**

With your help, we are going to have a fun and exciting year together! Let's take advantage of every opportunity that comes our way! Thank you!



**DG MIKE WRAPPED UP PROMPTLY AT THE VERY DOT OF 1234. NO TIME TO ASK QUESTIONS BUT HE IS AVAILABLE ONLINE IF YOU HAVE A WASP IN YOUR WIG OR A BEE IN YOUR BONNET.**

**24 OCTOBER IS WORLD POLIO DAY!**

**“THE POLIO MILES”  
VIRTUAL MARATHON  
September 1 - October  
22, 2020**

POWERED BY DISTRICT 6980 FOUNDATION  
DISTRICT 6980 POLIO PLUS VIRTUAL  
MARATHON FUNDRAISER

Get ready to sweat, walk, run & get FIT for Polio. from wherever you are in the district—this year District 6980 is going completely virtual. “THE POLIO MILES” is a collaborative fundraiser designed to have fun at your club or family pace, for a great cause. And with different distances for you to choose from (marathon 26.2/ half marathon 13.1, & 10K), there’s a run that’s perfect for where you’re at. Dress in fashionable running gear, track and post your mileage using the Run - keeper app on your smart phones. If not tech savvy, just email your mileage and photos in.

Registration starts September 1 - 5, 2020.

**NO ENTRY FEE TO PARTICIPATE  
FREE MARATHON HEADBANDS  
EVENT GOAL: \$5000.00**

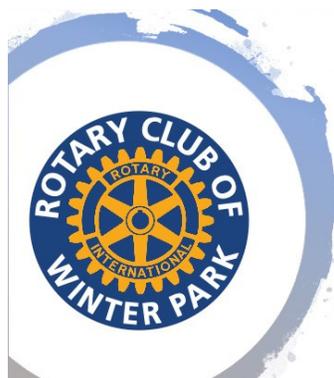
For more information, email District Polio plus chair Michael Franklin at [strataceo@yahoo.com](mailto:strataceo@yahoo.com)

<https://raise.rotary.org/strataceo4/challenge>

**The 1 Minute Commercial: Tom Sacha**



Tom Sacha is to Rotary what Muhammed Ali was to boxing. He shared quick stories of top line participation at local, district and international levels. 38 years perfect attendance. Bumping into Gary Brewer at the same table in a sea of over 25K Rotarians in Germany. Bodo’s Bagels in Charlottesville site of a chance encounter with your current President. Rotary leaps and national borders and shrinks the distance between people. On deck: David Brenner. The only rules are one minute, no religion or politics. Otherwise let ‘er rip.



*The Four Way Test  
(updated)*

- Is it
- TRUE?
- FAIR?
- KIND?
- USEFUL?
- And FUN?



**The meeting adjourned upon rendition of the Winter Park Reade’s Digest version of the 4 Way Test: "true, fair, kind, useful."**

## Welcome Alliah!



GUEST INTRODUCTIONS: In the future, help me out with guests by sending a chat message or otherwise letting me know who has graced us with their presence during the pregame show. This week's guests might have also been Hannah Frechette and Marlene Linders although Fearless Leader cannot be certain that they were there or that there were others in attendance who escaped notice.

## Rotary Club of WP on LinkedIn

Have a LinkedIn account and want to connect with fellow Winter Park Rotarians? Join the new group 'Rotary Club of Winter Park Members and Friends' on LinkedIn to connect with fellow members and friends of the club! This is meant to be a resource during these digital times to support and connect with each other professionally, and is open to members, prospective members, and friends of the club.

## Recruit, Recruit, Recruit

Always be recruiting. It is not a hostile act to invite another to join our fellowship. Replacement of those fallen by time and turbulence is a must to keep our mission moving forward.

### No 50/50 until the pot gets to \$200.

At the pace members are buying tickets, the drawing might have to wait until next year. Popping for a pluck cost about the same as a large latte. Killarney Food Pantry benefits. What is keeping you from visiting the website to take a shot while supporting the project all of us can point at with pride as the way our club makes a difference right here in Winter Park? Charity begins a home (that is what my mother always told me).

### *New Member Proposal*

#### *2nd notice:*

**Marlene Linder**

Sponsored by Bryan Thomas,  
Classification – Healthcare

**Hope you will join our fellowship at noon next Monday. The Zoom counter needs to bump up to the 60's and 70's.**

## Club Announcements

*Our Zoom Raffle is changing! We're now doing a 50/50 raffle that pays out to the raffle winner when the cash prize totals \$100. You still participate in the same way as the previous raffle, with one entry for \$5 and six entries for \$25!*

*Support George! Our former star caterer is offering a staggering 25% off discount to Winter Park Rotarians! Just mention your membership to the cashier and enjoy some great food at a great price.*

**With Valentine's Day rushing up, you might want to inquire of the President, "What does it take to be included in the black tie gala?" Once the ten slots fill, that's all there is folks.**

## September Birthdays:

- 3rd: Bob Hartnett
- 4th: Dean Shaheen
- 5th: Tom Infantino
- 8th: Bill Walker
- 11th: Karen Gourlay
- 12th: Alan Price
- 17th: Jim Hardy
- 22nd: Steve Kramer
- 28th: Debra Backer

## Club Leadership

### Officers

**President: Bryan Thomas**  
**Vice President: Don K. Hulslander**  
**President - Elect: Anne Sallee**  
**Treasurer: Debra Backer**  
**Secretary: Jeffrey Blydenburgh**  
**Frank Salerno: Sergeant at Arms**

### Directors

<b>Mike Baldwin</b>	<b>Jody Lazar</b>
<b>Lania Crouch</b>	<b>Lauren Cooper</b>
<b>Steve Kramer</b>	<b>Butch Margraf</b>
<b>Kristin LeFleur</b>	<b>Justin Levy</b>
<b>Richard Yount</b>	<b>Kim Groves</b>

**Special Advisor: JoAnn Beck**

### Spoke 'n Wheel

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**Rotary**



CLUB OF WINTER PARK FL

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