

District 6930 Group Study Exchange Team 2006 (going to District 3140 Mumbai, India)



Edward Rowan
Team Leader
Certified Public Accountant
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Ed was born in East Tennessee in a ninth generation Scot-Irish Family. He completed his high schooling in Atlanta, Georgia. He has a Bachelor of Business Administration (1972) and a Master of Professional Accountancy (1974) from Georgia State University, Atlanta.

He began his working career at the Atlanta office of McGladrey & Pullen LLP in 1975, moved to the McGladrey & Pullen LLP office in the Fort Lauderdale office in January 1981. He became a Partner in 1984, became a Managing Director with RSM McGladrey, Inc. in July 1999 and retired in July 2003. He is still associated with the firm in the community.

He has served on the boards of many professional and service organizations in the South Palm Beach / Broward County area. He currently serves on the City of Boca Raton's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board and he teaches a senior level corporate income taxation course at Florida Atlantic University.

He joined the Boca Raton Sunrise Rotary Club in January 1995, and was elected to their Board in July 1996. He has served on many committees with the club and started their annual Family Bicycling Event in 1998. He established the Boca Raton Sunrise Foundation in 1997. He became President in July of 2000 and in July 2001, he became Assistant Governor for five South Palm Beach County Rotary Clubs (which grew to 6). He repeated as Assistant Governor from July 2003 till June 2003 with the four Boca Raton area Rotary Clubs. He serves as co-chair of the Boca area Rotary Clubs 100 year Centennial Committee and is the coordinator for the Boca Raton area Rotary Group Study Exchange Host Committee.

Ed is married to Lorie and they reside in Boca Raton. They have three grown daughters (two married) and one single and in November 2005, he became a new grandfather. Lorie grows and exhibits orchids; together they are avid cyclists and take 14-day cycling trips around North America. Ed is also an amateur painter. Ed has also been a season ticket holder, since inception, of the 2 time World Series Champion Baseball Team the Florida Marlins.

The family name Rowan comes from early Ireland and means "red" after the Rowan Tree berries. The Rowan tree has a mystical background it was valued as a protection against enchantment, unwanted influences and evil spirits. Sprigs of Rowan were placed

over doorways to protect from harm. Similarly, in Wales Rowan trees were planted in churchyards to watch over and protect the spirits of the dead and you were to “knock the Rowan tree” for luck, or “knock wood”. So when you need to “knock wood” for good luck, allow me to provide myself.



Tracy Joinson
Team Leader
College Councilor
Joinsont@yahoo.com

Tracy lives in Lake Worth, Florida with her cat, "Chicken". She was born in Nicaragua in 1969, and since then, has lived many places in the eastern United States including: New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, North Carolina, and finally Florida. Lake Worth, which goes by the motto of “Where the tropics begin”, is a small city on the coast of the Atlantic Ocean in south Florida.

After graduating from high school in Massachusetts, she attended Keene State College in New Hampshire where she completed a bachelor's degree in Sociology. Upon graduation, she worked in a psychiatric hospital, and then as a social worker for several years providing services to adults with either physical or mental illnesses.

Later, in 1998, she completed a Master of Science degree in Higher Education/Student Affairs, with a concentration in career counseling at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida. While studying and living in Tallahassee, she worked in the University's College of Law, Placement Office assisting students with obtaining internships in the legal field. This was in addition to teaching a career development course and career counseling in the University's Career Center.

Tracy has been working at Palm Beach Community College in Boca Raton, Florida for the past seven years. She is again teaching a career development course and is Coordinator of the Career Center. In this role, she assists students who: are unsure of their career direction, have employment-related needs, or need to research various occupations.

Regarding personal interests, she puts travel at the top of her list, with a special interest in visiting "off the beaten path" places. Her other interests include cultural experiences such as theater and museums (especially for photography exhibits), reading, camping, music, water sports, and watching her cat chase lizards, which are abundant in South Florida.



Arti Sonpal
Team Member
Accounting – Management
Artius@aol.com

Arti lives in a western suburb of Ft. Lauderdale called Plantation in the sunny state of Florida. She has been a resident of the state for 10 years after completing her Undergraduate degree in Accounting and Business Administration in Cleveland, Ohio at Ursuline College where she graduated with honors.

She was born in May 1971 in Mombasa, Kenya, a major port city on the East Coast of Africa. She has a younger sister in the hospitality industry in Austria and her parents recently immigrated to the US and live with her. At the age of 1, Arti and her family moved to the capital, Nairobi, where she completed her primary and secondary schooling following the British Curriculum. She had the opportunity to study at a boarding school in Thika, Kenya, which enabled her to cultivate friendships with students from various other nations. She then moved to the United States to study for her bachelor's degree.

At the present time, Arti is the controller of a chain of lighting stores and works at their head office in Pompano Beach. She is also responsible for managing the accounting department and for training the staff under her which she finds rewarding. Her personal interests include traveling and learning about the history and culture of the places she visits, learning other languages (she is currently taking Spanish on Saturday mornings), and has recently discovered the wonderful world of the "ipod" and downloading music.



JOSEPH WINKE
Team Member
Builder Joseph
Joe.winke@plumbingexperts.com

Winke was born April 16, 1981 in Boca Raton, Florida which is a city in the south of Florida. He currently lives in Fort Lauderdale, Florida with his roommate, Kyle Jones. He graduated in 2003 from the Rinker School of Building Construction at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida. After graduating, he took a job in Washington, DC working

as a project engineer for Bovis Lend Lease, an international construction management firm. He moved to Florida in 2004, obtained his General Contractors license and currently works as vice president of a remodeling and construction company in Boca Raton.

Joe is fond of the sea, boating and going to the beach. He enjoys reading non-fiction books, traveling as much as possible and continually meeting new people. When traveling, Joe likes to seize the day and see as much of a new place and culture as he can.



Birt Reynolds
Team Member
Attorney
Birt.Reynolds@yahoo.com

Birt is an attorney in Fort Pierce, Florida which is located in an area generally referred to as the “Treasure Coast.” The area gets its name for the sunken treasure that has been found off the coast. Prior to moving to Fort Pierce, he received his Juris Doctor in 2004 from Case Western Reserve University, School of Law located Cleveland, Ohio. Cleveland is home to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and is known as the “Paris” of the mid-west for its cultural and entertainment offerings. He also earned a B.A. in Psychology from the University of South Florida.

From his childhood to the present, Birt has lived in various states on both the East and West coasts ranging from California, Texas, Ohio and currently in Florida. Growing up Birt lived in Orlando, Florida which is the birthplace of Walt Disney World, home for sports and movie stars, as well as, one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world.

Birt volunteers as a presiding judge to hear cases at Teen Court. Teen Court is a program where local high school students are introduced to the practice of law by acting as either a prosecuting or defending attorney for juvenile clients charged with minor criminal offenses. It is one of the most unique educational programs in the country and has been as much a learning experience for both the Judge as the students. In his free time, Birt enjoys watching movies, playing poker and learning how to play golf. Unsurprisingly, Birt enjoys traveling and aspires to utilize his experiences with various cultures to one day work as a foreign diplomat.