

District Newsletter



Serving east central Florida from Boca Raton to Titusville



NOVEMBER 2023 In This Issue

[District News](#)

[District Upcoming Events](#)

[Foundation News](#)

[Club News](#)

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Douglas S. Heizer
District Governor

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DG-Elect

Marcia Gaedcke
DG-Nominee

Chief of Staff
Philip Lustig

Governor's Aide
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Area Governors
Allen Konis
Yvette Rochefort-Batavia
Toni Wiersma
Arthur Mills
Marty Joe Lewis
Chris Webb
Neall Hagglund
Peggy Russell

Foundation Chair
Pam Russell

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Elaine Jones

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District News

A Message from DG Doug Heizer

Local Compassion: A Call to Action for a Better Tomorrow

This month, November, marks Rotary Foundation Month, providing the perfect opportunity to contribute and make a difference.

In the midst of our comfortable lives, it's easy to turn a blind eye to the suffering around us. However, recent experiences have brought to light the harsh reality within our own community.

I found myself in Chicago, surrounded by the stark contrast of wealth and poverty. Tents of the homeless and refugees stood in the shadows of million-dollar apartments. This unsettling scene prompted introspection: How could we, as neighbors, ignore the plea for dignity right outside our doors?

In Boynton Beach West, a once agricultural haven, I stumbled upon a makeshift shelter for a veteran. The juxtaposition of prosperity and poverty in our blessed country is disheartening. The question resonates: How can we allow such disparity to persist?

While global issues may seem distant, our interconnected world demands attention. Diseases like polio, although eradicated, can resurface in unexpected places; traces of this virus have been found in Manhattan sewers. Dengue and Chikungunya, once confined to distant regions, now threaten us in our tropical climate like Florida.

The responsibility to act lies with each of us. Joining the PolioPlus Society for as little as \$100 per year, or \$25 per quarter can ensure a safe future for our community by eradicating Polio worldwide.

Turning our gaze to immigrants and the homeless, many in our region seek refuge in hidden conditions. As responsible members of the community, we must empathize and extend our help. The Rotary Foundation Global Grants program provides a beacon of hope for a good life, allowing dreams of security, health, education, and employment to flourish.

We can create or support projects globally or even here in our region focused on the Rotary International area of Focus that is: peacebuilding and conflict prevention; disease prevention

and treatment; water, sanitation, and hygiene; maternal and child health; basic education and literacy; and community economic development.

Contributing to the Rotary Foundation leaves a lasting legacy, saving lives and offering hope to those who need it most.

Today, I challenge you to commit to change. Become a Permanent Donor to the Foundation; with just US\$100 per year, you become a sustainable member and join EREY, Every Rotarian Every Year. Let's be a community that cares, takes action, and leaves a positive impact on the world.

To motivate you even more to participate in these two initiatives, I want to give you the opportunity to become a Paul Harris Fellow.

Let me explain how: there will be two opportunities. If you join the Polio Plus Society and/or become an EREY member by December 15, that is, in the next 30 days, you will be entered into a draw that will take place on January 14, 2024, during the Rotary Foundation lunch, attended by RIP Gordon McNally.

You will receive your Paul Harris pin directly from the hands of our President in front of the entire District. This is an expression of gratitude for your efforts.

Don't waste time; take on this commitment and let me know by sending an email directly to me. I will forward it to our End Polio Coordinator JoAnn Meaker and our TRF Chair PDG Pam Russell, indicating your commitment to a Better Tomorrow for our communities.

Let's continue to Create Hope in the World!

District Upcoming Events

**November 18, 2023 - Grant Management Seminar:
8am - 12pm at Keiser University, Port St. Lucie**



November 18, 2023 - D6930 Rotary Family Day



We are thrilled to announce an exciting event that's sure to be a touchdown with your family and friends! Join us for the Rotary District 6930 Family Day at the FAU Football Game, where we'll come together to celebrate sportsmanship, community, and camaraderie.

Event Details:

- **Date:** November 18th, 5pm

- **Location:** FAU Stadium
- **Teams:** Tulane vs. FAU
- **Ticket price:** \$30

This is your chance to enjoy a thrilling college football game while creating lasting memories with your loved ones. Here's what you can expect:

- **Family-Friendly Fun:** FAU Stadium offers a welcoming atmosphere for fans of all ages, making it the perfect backdrop for a day of family bonding.
- **Live College Football:** Be part of the action as Tulane and FAU go head-to-head on the field. Feel the excitement of game day!
- **Team Spirit:** Experience the camaraderie that comes with supporting your team. Whether you're a die-hard fan or new to football, you're sure to enjoy the friendly competition.
- **Affordable Tickets:** At just \$30, our tickets are budget-friendly, making this an accessible event for everyone.
- **Food and Refreshments:** Indulge in a variety of delicious concessions to satisfy your game-day cravings.
- **Rotary Fellowship:** Connect with fellow Rotarians and their families, building new friendships and strengthening the bonds of Rotary District 6930.

Get Your Tickets: <https://bit.ly/3u7jWIT>

Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to enjoy quality time with your loved ones, support your team, and embrace the spirit of community and sportsmanship. Secure your tickets now by clicking the link above.

Let's come together and create unforgettable memories on November 18th at the FAU Stadium. We look forward to sharing this exciting day with you and your family!

RYLA:

from Donna Gaiser, District 6930 RYLA Chair



The application for 2024 Camp RYLA is now online on our Rotary6930.org webpage. There is only one application for both campers and junior staff.

If you can identify a former attendee who wishes to be a Junior Staffer, please have them fill out the form, checking the appropriate circle. We do need these positions filled first (for training purposes).

Our registrar is AG Toni Wiersma; all inquiries should be directed to her.

Let's make this year's RYLA ROCK!

Donna Gaiser
District 6930 RYLA Chair 2024
dgaiser08@gmail.com
 863-610-9416

Rotary Leadership Institute:

Congratulations to those who attended The Rotary Leadership Institute on November 4th. There were three parts and a graduate level.

The next RLI will be in April 2024 and registration is already available on DACdb.



**A Visit to Rotary
 Headquarters, Evanston, IL,
 April 15, 2024**



District Conference, June 6 - 9, 2024



Foundation News

The Rotary Foundation



A Message from PDG Pam Russell , D6930 Foundation Chair,

This month, as we celebrate The Rotary Foundation, let's recognize it for what it is: one of the world's best humanitarian organizations. Charity Navigator has once again given us a 4-Star rating as well as 100 points, the highest possible score. No matter what your individual passion is, The Rotary Foundation supports it through the seven areas of focus.

Share the wonderful news of our foundation through a club program this month and a Rotary Foundation thought each week. You can find 52 thoughts in a document in DACdb. These are short paragraphs that only take a couple of minutes to read to your members. We can all learn something more about The Rotary Foundation.

November 18 will be our Rotary Foundation Grants Management Seminar, but it will be so much more than just information about how to apply for a grant. There will be inspiring speakers, including a beneficiary of a global grant who will talk about how The Rotary Foundation has changed her life. A segment will include ways to give that you may not have thought about before, options for immediate and long-term impact. There are even ways to give that will be beneficial to you, the donor.

In 2016, I was the team leader for a vocational training team to Kampala, Uganda. We were there to teach hundreds of Uganda Rotaractors peace building in their communities. In partnership with the Institute of Economics & Peace, the team led lectures, discussions and breakout sessions to educate them on the Eight Pillars of Peace. Upon returning home, they completed peace building projects based on what they had learned.

The top projects received cash awards. One of the Uganda Rotaractors that I got to know attended the 2019 Rotary International Convention in Hamburg where I was delighted to see her at a Rotaract Pre-Convention session. The Rotary Foundation truly supports our vision statement of creating lasting change across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves.

District Grant Check to Port St. Lucie Sunset Club:
by Nils Weibul



Recently Nils gave the \$1,000.00 district grant check to Port St Lucie Sunset Club. The grant money was to purchase 1,250 Constitution booklets that they gave to all seventh graders in all six Port St. Lucie schools. Linda Thayer, secretary, was the driving force behind the efforts.

The picture shows the President Jeanette Weiss.

Major Donor Award to Rotary Club Boca Raton Sunrise member Reinhard Bruderer

Our heartfelt congratulations go to our member Reinhard Bruderer, who was awarded the Major Donor Award and pin, recognizing his contribution of over \$10,000 over his lifetime!

Club President Michael Kridel, Past District Governor Phil Lustig, and Treasurer Ira Herschbein were all on hand to present Reinhard with this great honor.

These funds have contributed to many projects over the years that have helped our local and global communities. Rotarian Reinhard just recently celebrated his 95th birthday!



Bike Tour for Polio – Tucson, AZ
by Vanessa Havener



On November 18th, Vanessa Havener, District 6930 Endowment Chair, and her husband, John will compete in the 40th Annual El Tour de Tucson to raise money for the End Polio campaign. Since 2009, the Rotary Fellowship of Cycling to Serve has been organizing Rotarians to ride in the race and has raised more than \$35 million.

Vanessa, who is a member of the RC of Boca Raton, grew up in Tucson, Arizona and joined Rotary while living in District 5500. She and John will ride with family and friends who are members of the RC of Tucson Catalina.

"I've never done a bike race before, but John has done several and I thought, why not? He's riding 62 miles and I figured I could ride 32. It'll be fun to be in my hometown with my parents and in the District where I first joined Rotary in 1999," says Havener

El Tour de Tucson is a premier cycling event which typically draws approximately 7,500 cyclists from all over the world. To make a donation to the End Polio campaign in support of Vanessa & John, click [HERE](#). The link will be active through the month of November.

Stuart Club:

The club collected \$300 from our happy/sad



collection for PolioPlus.

New PolioPlus Society

members: Thank you, thank you, thank you - to those 41 new PolioPlus Society members who stepped forward and pledged to donate \$100 per year to PolioPlus until Polio is declared eradicated worldwide.

You, too, can participate. Go [HERE](#) for the pledge form.



Suntree Club Grant progress: Making a Difference Together!

The Rotary Club of Suntree is partnering with the Rotary Club La Paz (Honduras) in a Global Grant project. They recently sent us an update on the progress.

We're thrilled to share some heartwarming news with you all! Thanks to an incredible grant from The Rotary Foundation, the Rotary Club of Suntree in Florida and Club Rotario La Paz we've been able to make a meaningful impact in the small mountain village of Guachipilin, La Paz.



The Rotary Club of La Paz recently journeyed to this wonderful community to roll up our sleeves and get to work! We installed essential water filters, letrinas (latrines), and pilas (water stations) that will make a world of difference in the lives of the local residents.

Our partnership with The Rotary Foundation and with two other non-government organizations (Operation La Paz and Honduras Compassion Partners) is something we hold near and dear to our hearts. Together, we're tackling the critical issue of water and sanitation in communities that need it most. This project is a testament to the incredible impact we can achieve when we come together with a shared mission of making the world a better place. Thank you for your unwavering support and stay tuned for more updates as we continue to work towards a brighter future for all!

Club News

Suntree Club: Fundraiser Enjoyed by other Club Rotarians

From Facebook – Neal Hagglund:

Yet another great thing about Rotary ... clubs support each other! Rockledge Rotary members and district leaders came out in full force to support Suntree Rotary's annual charitable fundraiser "Great Tastes at Suntree." It was a terrific event!

Left to right: Angela (Rockledge Rotary president) and Shon Neal, Karen and Wes Houser, Ken Zeszutko, Wade Nomura (Past



District Gov 5240), Doug (District Gov 6930) and Dini Heizer, Julia Babbitt (Past District Gov 6930), Gene Hinton and Neal Hagglund. Not pictured but we spotted them there: Mike Selig and June Pebley.

At Suntree Rotary's event, Bob took the opportunity to meet Lesli Joy Smith, Director of Development for CITA Rescue Mission in Melbourne and gave her a copy of the Brain Game book. CITA was one of the organizations that the Suntree Club was raising the money for at the event. The other was Space Coast Volunteers in Medicine.

Indialantic Club:

By Gerard Zack

Bob Visconti delivered *Brain Game* books to Liz McGinley of Every Mother's Advocate in the WAYS offices in Eau Gallie. This is her second time ordering *Brain Game* books. He also delivered 100 books, donated by members of our Club, to the Rotary Club of Boca Raton and presented them to the **Titusville Sunrise Club**. A copy was also provided to Stephanie Williams for consideration in her missionary work in the Dominican Republic. Thanks to Bob for continuing to be such a strong advocate for the *Brain Game* book.



AND...

The Club continues to make progress with its Drown Zero Project. We've installed sixteen stations in



Satellite Beach and five in Indian Harbour Beach. The Indialantic City Council is meeting soon to discuss our request to install stations in that community. These stations provide a potentially lifesaving floatation device to be used in emergencies.

The club received a thank-you email for our support of the Community Center built in Guatemala along with a picture of the dedication plaque that includes our club. We worked with Lyn Kenney in support of this effort. We also received a thank-you note from the Marine Resources Council for our sponsorship of a recent Brevard Coastal Cleanup event.

The club sponsored a table at the National Veterans Homeless Support Fundraiser. We had a table of 10 representing the Club and a great time was had by all in support of the National Veterans Homeless Support organization. Bobbi Johnson and Sam, Jean Hender, Sue and Carl Miller, John Haralson, Sharyl Tabat, Matt Margut from the club

attended. We were joined by John Hearton and Rebecca Boone.

And the club donated \$250 to the 14th Annual Florida Strollathon for Rett Syndrome. Club member Henry Perez matched that amount.

Lake Worth Beach Club:

From Facebook

Club members, along with our new Interact club from John I. Leonard high school, were represented at the Bark Back Benefit 2023 located at Bryant Park, Lake Worth. The event lasted until 10pm and included music, food trucks, and vendors. It was a beautiful fall Florida day.



AND from Chris Dabros

“On Saturday, October 28th, the Rotary Club of Lake Worth Beach helped sponsor the 8th Annual Dia de los Muertos festival

in the City of Lake Worth Beach. This free event is hosted each year by the Lake Worth Beach Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA).

Dia de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, invites residents and visitors to party and honor deceased relatives, satirize the living and entice the spirits to visit with flower-decked altars and offerings of food. One of South and Central America’s most distinctive holidays, Day of the Dead is considered a day cheerful celebration rather than one of mourning. This year’s event attracted over 2,000 attendees throughout the day to listen to the great live music and celebrate with their neighbors and friends. Check out some of the photos.”



Titusville Club:
From Facebook



Congratulations to the Titusville Rotary Club members who celebrated the club’s 100th Charter Anniversary!

As part of the



festivities, they created a time capsule

Boca Raton Club Toy Drive:



It’s that time again – get ready for the club’s XVII Boca Raton Rotary Toy Drive.

For 15 years, the Rotary Clubs of Boca Raton have been collecting toys for underprivileged children in the Boca Raton area.

The first kickoff party was on October 24 at Hooters, Boca Raton.

The next one will be November 28th.

Sunrise Vero Beach Club:
From Facebook

The Sunrise Rotary Vero Beach Club has opened its 3rd Community Fridge in Indian River State College's Schumann Building on its Mueller Campus, located at 6155 College Lane. To read the complete article go [HERE](#).

Cocoa Club Party in the Park:

From Facebook



Join us for our largest fundraiser of the year - Party in the Park at Cocoa Riverfront on February 10th, featuring musician, Ian Munsick!

Tickets are available from your favorite Cocoa Rotarian or message us here (on Facebook)!

Cocoa Beach Club:

from Kimberly Demeret:

The Rotary Club of Cocoa Beach is working with our Interact Club on a number of exciting projects this year. Interact just completed their 2nd annual Newcomer's Ice Cream Social on October 6th- a service project to welcome all new students transferring into Cocoa Beach Jr/Sr High School. The clubs are also working together on a 2024 "Create Hope in the World" Art Calendar to raise funds for Interact and Rotary service projects for the school and community. Interactors are also planning a school supplies drive to support the Ak'Tenamit school in Guatemala and a celebration of the National "Random Act of Kindness" day in February.



AND ...



The Rotary Club of Cocoa Beach has adopted two city parks, and on October 19th eight members of our club mulched the playground area at the largest one - Cameron Barkley Park.

All had a good time, and one of our invited volunteers, Steve Gates, has applied to join our club. What a great way to support our community and introduce ourselves to people interested in Rotary!

From Facebook

Congratulations to the club who is First in the District for increase in district membership for quarter.

Wellington Club:

From Facebook

Today, Wellington Rotary members, Donald Gross, Larry Kemp, and Tatiana Ferreira distributed dictionaries to students at Discovery Cove Elementary School. One school down, several more to follow over the next several weeks!! We LOVE this project!

AND...

From Facebook

The club was pleased to present the Quarter One Student of The Quarter for to

Ft. Pierce Club:



Coretta Williams on behalf of her daughter, Azaria



Williams, who is a student from Wellington High School Interact Club! We give an award to one student each quarter, which not only recognizes them, but also adds points towards a potential scholarship. We have given out more than \$50,000 in scholarships in the past two years!

Boca Sunrise Club:
By Susan Weinblatt

Many thanks to Rotarian Charles Shalmi for coordinating another successful event, packing 10,000 meals for the US Hunger organization. There were over 40 volunteers, including volunteers from the Interact Club of FAU HS, West Boca and Spanish River High Schools, Rotarians from the Downtown Boca Raton Club and Kindness Angels. A special thanks to the family members of club Rotarians Doyle Dally and Erin Garcia: we love seeing the kids! Our deepest gratitude to the YMCA Boca Raton for providing a wonderful space for our volunteers to do their good work: you rock!

Downtown Boca Raton Club:
From Facebook



The club donated 860 books to the "Friends of the Boca Raton Public Library." Great job, everyone! Sales from these donated books will support early literacy learning stations, adult literacy & education, youth literacy & education, and summer reading programs. A special emphasis in our donations included children's books.

This service project was led by Lana Rosenzweig. Other members helped by donating books themselves or by encouraging friends. A bunch of us stored multiple boxes of books in our cars - for weeks in advance. A big thank you to all of our volunteers.



AND By Kim Champion

The club celebrated World Polio Day with a dinner attended by 13 Rotarians, including DG Doug Heizer! They combined this celebration with a New Member Orientation. What better way to teach a new Rotarian all about The Rotary Foundation and End Polio Now?

Our five newest members in attendance were Dr. Ryan Alman, Bill Morris, T.J.

Johnson, Mark Holler, and Marcia Mithun. Our Orientation was led by our Membership Co-Chairs, Gloria Wank and Lana Rosenzweig.

Northern Brevard Club Playground,
From Facebook

There was a groundbreaking ceremony recently for the club's \$300,00 "All Inclusive Playground".

Thanks to all that attended this event.



Vero Beach Club:
By Jason Conklin



Rotary Club of Vero Beach just helped to restore a perimeter salt marsh habitat in Riverside Park in Vero Beach. These habitats have all but disappeared in the southern portion of the Indian River Lagoon.

We teamed with the City of Vero Beach, Clean Water Coalition (CWC), Sunrise Rotary and Coastal Conservation Association to provide financial support for this special project. Thanks to Mark Yanno and the CWC for this fantastic idea, the area is thriving again with healthy plants and sea life!

We have 125 kids between the ages of 6-13 who have committed to participate, with still 6 weeks to go. *We are now in need of Volunteers!* If you are interested, please click on the following link or scan the QR code below to sign-up to help us on Registration Day (Dec. 1) and/or Race Day (Dec. 2). Thank you to all Rotarians who have already signed up!





<https://runsignup.com/Race/Volunteer/FL/VeroBeach/KidsTriathlonVeroBeach>

Northern Palm Beaches Club:
by Richard Hartman

On October 25th, The Rotary Club of the Northern Palm Beaches will present their initial STUDENT OF THE MONTH LUNCHEON for the 2023-2024 school year. This 30+ years program, which encompasses five Student Of the Month luncheons, honors 5th graders from area schools.

The schools, their teachers and principals, nominate and present their 5th grade students.



Okeechobee Club:
From Facebook

We have a new Interact Club at Yearling Middle School. Designed for young people ages 12 – 18, Interact Clubs are a part of Rotary International and are sponsored by Rotary. The purpose of the club is to develop young leaders, build friendships, and to help them develop a servant heart. Students have fun and conduct school and community service projects.

The Rotary Club of Okeechobee is proud to welcome these young people.

Port St. Lucie Club:
From Facebook

Thank you to club members Leo Ladefian, Linda Thayer and Jeannette Weiss for volunteering at the Keiser University Trunk or Treat tonight. So many kids, big and small, with amazing costumes. Thank you to Keiser University for the opportunity to give back to our community.

