

ROTARY CLUB of SARASOTA



CHARTERED APRIL 12, 1926
CLUB NUMBER 4339
DISTRICT 6960
ZONE 34

PRESIDENT - VICENTE MEDINA
Classification. Insurance — Commercial: Personal

JULY 22, 2015

SMILE THE WEEKLY CLUB NEWSLETTER

WWW.ROTARYCLUBOFSARASOTA.COM

HEADLINE NEWS

Announced to the Board of Directors: The Rotary Club of Sarasota Foundation, the club's charitable arm, is a **Giving Partner** and has qualified to receive contributions through the 2015 Giving Challenge. All contributions to the Foundation made through the **Giving Challenge** web site will be considered new, and the **Patterson Foundation, throughout the entire 24 hour period, will match new contributions \$ for \$ up to**

\$250 per contribution. More will be announced as the Giving Challenge approaches, but this will help position the Rotary Club of Sarasota and its charitable arm to make greater local impacts.

Approved by the Board: The Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch invited the Rotary Club of Sarasota to be a partner in a major water project in the Philippines. Lakewood Ranch would be the lead US club. **Dick Rehmeier** will be our club's coordinator.

THIS MEETING

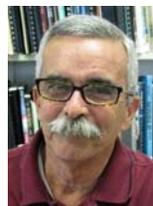
PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIR—BOB JOHNSON

July 22—District 6960 Governor Cyndi Doragh, born in Ft. Myers, calls herself an Air Force brat because she was raised all over the world. She is the proud matriarch of a Florida State University family. Her husband and five children are all Seminole grads. She is a member of the Rotary Club of Ft. Myers South, served as its president 1999-2000, and is a successful Insurance and Personal Financial representative.



FUTURE PROGRAMS

July 29—Jeff LaHurd, Sarasota Historic Society Sarasota High graduate, a history specialist at the Historical Resources office for the last 10 years, recipient of the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation's Individual Distinguished Service award for, among other things, his contributions to public education and the 15 books he has written about local history.



August 5— Skip Fazzari: How to dispose of your collection

August 12— Virginia Haley: Visit Sarasota

AROUND THE CLUB **Bennitt (Ben) Bates**, Realtor and president-elect, competitively swam to his college degree.



More **Around the Club** on Page 2

YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

Seminar for Tomorrow's Leaders (**S4TL**) and Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (**RYLA**) are the primary youth leadership programs supported by District 6960 and its clubs. Here is a note from a recent S4TL participant to Joel and Gail Walters.

Dear Mr. and Ms Walters,

Thank you very much from the bottom of my heart for selecting to sponsor me for this year's S4TL. It was truly a remarkable and unforgettable experience that I will value and cherish for the rest of my life. I have already enthusiastically sent my letter to next year's director to consider me as a 'red shirt'. Please let me know of anything I can do to support our local Rotary club. I wholeheartedly appreciate everything that you and the club have done to make S4TL the powerhouse that it has become. William Zelin

PREVIOUS MEETING by Charlotte Ryan

Rory Martin, President of the Sarasota Fairgrounds, presented an overview of the grounds, programs, and achievements over the many years, providing "a very desirable tourist destination close to the bayfront." Not only does it serve tourists, many long time and current residents of several nearby counties enjoy the benefits. Although spelled Robarts, it is pronounced "Roberts" and was begun by the Robarts family in the 1920s. A main event is the Sarasota County Fair which lasts 10 days and attracts 130 to 140,000 people each year. Booked through 2016, events include our own Pioneer Picnic and the Haiti Auction as well as themed events such as education events, banquets, seminars, consumer shows, arts and crafts shows, festivals and sporting events. The Fairgrounds also participates with FPL in disaster preparedness and provides shelter for animal fair events. Acknowledged during Rory's talk were club members **Bob Johnson**, one of the longest standing board members, **John Swift** for his dedicated work at the Fairgrounds and **Tim Herring** for his long standing chairmanship of the Pioneer Picnic.



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ROTARY CLUBS DO NOT MAKE COMMUNITIES. ROTARY CLUBS MAKE COMMUNITIES BETTER.

Rotary International is a worldwide network of almost 35,000 Rotary clubs whose members are active or retired local business, professional, and community leaders. Several members frequently visit, or, in Rotary lingo, make-up at local Rotary clubs, and this can be a significant benefit. Just ask engineer-contractor **Lee-En Chung**, who, by visiting Rotary Clubs all over the world, has almost twenty years of perfect attendance. Of course, you might not want to inquire about dancing: ribbon in Taiwan, Belly in Marrakech, or Flamenco in Spain.



All for Rotary, of course!



Consider chatting with mediator **Suzi Norbeck** about the wonderful experiences she had visiting several French Rotary clubs, experiences that enriched her personally as well as a traveler. She brought back a banner from the **Rotary Club of Perpignan** and asked that the **SMILE** publish the legend behind the banner's design. Needless to say, when legends are often more beautiful than real history, go with the legend.

Many centuries ago this flag was only yellow. At that time, 12th century, the king of Catalans, Jaume, was at war against his brother, Pere, the king of Aragon. During a great battle, Jaume was wounded in two parts: he lost the thumb of his right hand and was wounded on the left side of his body. He was lying in his palace of Perpignan when a messenger, sent by his brother, arrived bringing a large bag of gold. He then said to Jaume, "Your brother asks you to surrender and to give him your kingdom. He offers you this bag of gold if you agree." But our king pushed the bag away with his foot, soaked the four remaining fingers in the blood of his left side and with them painted four red stripes on his yellow flag. Finally he replied to the messenger, "Go back and tell my brother that if he has not enough gold to buy my kingdom, I have still enough blood to defeat him." Since that time, the Catalan flag has been yellow (representing the bag of gold) with four red stripes (representing the king of Catalan's blood).



AT ANOTHER ROTARY MEMBERSHIP MINUTE, CPA **DAN SMITH** MIGHT ELABORATE A BIT ABOUT HIS ROTARY EXPERIENCES WITH SINGHA IN THAILAND AND GOLF IN HONG KONG - *All For Rotary, of course!*