

ROTARY CLUB of SARASOTA



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

PRESIDENT - DAVID BOWMAN
Classification: Law, Real Estate

JAN 10, 2018

SMILE THE WEEKLY CLUB NEWSLETTER



Today's Program Pam Akins

For 44 years, the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay has sponsored a home stay program for Rotary District Governors-Elect. This year DGEs hail from Denmark, Germany, Finland, Croatia, England, Australia, Japan, India, Norway, Sweden, Columbia, Turkey, Austria, Nigeria, Malawi, and

the USA.

Members of the Rotary Club of Sarasota have participated in the program for all 44 years. This year, the following members hosting DGEs from various countries are:

Bill & Debbie Jotham	Australia
Bill & Diane North	Sweden
Pam Akins & Barry Levinson	Japan
Bob & Chris Stobaugh	Austria
Lois Schaper	Finland
Maarten Meckman	Croatia



New members Pam Akins and 'Jolly Lou' Schwartz.

Regular Social Gatherings

Saturday morning 9 a.m.
Panera Bread @ US 41 & Bahia Vista

Monday Evening 5:30 p.m.
Amore'
Burns Court 446 South Pineapple Ave.

PREVIOUS MEETING by Ron Rayevich

It was great to be back with all of our Rotary colleagues following the Christmas/New Years holidays. **Scott Christensen, Sarasota Costco Warehouse Manager** and veteran of 32 years with that company, shared with us the history of Costco and some key facts about the company's success. Today Costco Wholesale Corporation is the second largest retailer in the world with sales of \$126 billion at 750 warehouse stores. The company has 240,000 employees and 90 million card holders and today has locations not only in the US, but around the world. In Sarasota alone there are 54,000 card holders. A surprisingly large number of our fellow Rotarians are members. 96% of its employees have benefits and it has the lowest turnover of staff (just 5%) of major retailers in the industry. The company roots go back to the Price Club in San Diego founded by Sol Price. A typical warehouse store is located in a trade area of at least 200,000 population and the Sarasota warehouse, located at the Westfield Sarasota Square is one of the top stores in the Costco chain. Thanks, Scott, for an excellent overview of this retail giant.

KNOW OUR NEW MEMBERS



MAJOR CHUCK WHITEN
Area Commander – Sarasota, FL

Major Chuck Whiten has been an officer in The Salvation Army since June 6, 1993. He has been stationed in the states of South Carolina, West Virginia, Maryland, Mississippi and North Carolina before coming to Florida.

He graduated from Winthrop College in 1989 and entered the College for Officers' Training in 1991.

Chuck's life was greatly impacted by The Salvation Army, and the difference it made in his life motivates him to affect change in the lives of others.

He and his wife strive to foster community while challenging themselves and others towards excellence.

Quote:

"The privilege to meet human need and to positively impact lives is inspiring, challenging and fulfilling. We are grateful for the effective programs and ministry currently in place to serve the Sarasota community and look forward to continuing and advancing these efforts."

SMILE STAFF - Reporter - Jim Roque jim.roque@suntrust.com

ROTARIANS MAKE THE WORLD BETTER . . . ONE COMMUNITY AT THE TIME.