

Rotary



Rotary Opens Opportunities

The SMILE

March 10, 2021

ROTARY CLUB OF SARASOTA

CHARTERED APRIL 12, 1926
CLUB NUMBER 4339
DISTRICT 6960
ZONE 34
PRESIDENT – LAURA RANDALL

The Four Way Test of Things we Think, Say or Do:

- 1. Is it the TRUTH?
- 2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- 3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- 4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Upcoming speakers

Mar. 17.....Dr. Brennan Asplen, Superintendent, Sarasota County Schools

Mar. 24.....Beth Duda, Patterson Foundation

Apr 7.....Club Election, Pam Akins -TRF, Dan Danheisser - Strategic Plan Update

This week's speaker

Francine DiFilippo Kent



Francine DiFilippo Kent was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, is a college drop-out who went on to earn 2 masters degrees and a doctorate in business administration. She worked her way through college waitressing and bartending and sometimes found herself back on the floor during

economic hard times in New England. She put up her white shoes and promised herself she would never waitress again before moving to Sarasota.

Francine has lived an interesting and varied life by her own accounts. Married for 35 years to the same guy, Peter Kent, they have one married daughter who was raised to be self-employed. Daughter Skye is known to some of the old timers in the club because she has attended many of our Rotary activities over the years and her husband, Sean, was a member of this club. Their business is now over 10 years old. No grandchildren yet!

Adapting to Sarasota from New England corporate technology firms she became a serial entrepreneur, business developer, opening the first business incubator in Sarasota over 38 years ago. Francine has used technology to give her business efforts a competitive advantage. She has never been put in Facebook jail or any other but has been tear gassed and probably was a hippie back in the days of Kent State.

Business interests afforded many opportunities to travel overseas and she achieved a black belt with three red stripes in tai kwan do and graduated Magnum Cum Ha-Ha from Les McCurdy's Bermuda Triangle Comedy School.

March 3rd Meeting Recap

by Francine Difilippo

Sheriff Curt Hoffman was our guest speaker, and we learned a great deal about how our county is managed from a law enforcement and service perspective. Sheriff Hoffman is well educated and versed in law enforcement and we are privileged to have him serve as our Sheriff. While it is an elected position, he is an incredibly qualified and credentialed officer. The Department focuses on what is described as the quality of life for the citizenry. He highlighted accomplishments and recognized many of his predecessors and current staff for the good position we enjoy as citizens. The models of enforcement and treatment are being emulated in many other counties in Florida and in other states.



They are amid their 4th strategic plan which was begun under his predecessor Sheriff Knight. Implementation of the plan is the most important part. He highlighted capital improvements that need to be made including an over capacity 200 bed jail. The pods model helps offenders re-enter society to make constructive use of their lives. It has successfully been implemented to work with offenders through education, job training, addiction recovery, veterans, mental health, societal reentry, etc. they host job fairs and with the Florida Licensing on Wheels can provide identification cards, driver's licenses etc. to facilitate reentry.

The Sheriff distributed some materials such as How We Serve that explains the approach to the culture of the office. In the pipeline will be similar sheets explaining the topics of Children, Veterans, the Homeless, Mental Health and others as needed. They have a Homeless Outreach Team and he spoke of the differences of homelessness in urban (usually hardcore) and in the unincorporated areas (usually catastrophic incidents leading to whole families becoming homeless.) another handout showed how using the advances of DNA testing they were able to solve a 21-year-old murder case that occurred in Sarasota. The perpetrator was arrested in St. Petersburg where he had been living all that time. The DNA information allowed them to determine characteristics – even freckles - and create an image of what the criminal most likely looked like then and now. That is how they were caught.

Violent crime in our county is down 57% and we have little of the types of crime that has been on the uprise in other parts of the country such as car-jackings. Cyclical recycling of hardcore repeat prolific offenders is dealt with differently than 1st time incidental offenders. In the last 57 days that he has been in office 64 police have been killed nationally so it is not an easy occupation. Their most recent class in the academy has 7 graduates compared to the usual 35 – 40. Those 7 graduates have had 35 job offers. Pay, benefits, and Career opportunities have a great deal to do with retaining and recruiting officers to any department. The defund the police movement has made many officers and would-be candidates take a second look at law enforcement as a career. We are at full strength, but good officers are always welcome and a county to the south of us is short 35 officers.

The Sheriff's department oversees 3 major areas: public safety, community corrections facilities, and administrative operations. Health care, dental, nutritional standards, courts, holding facilities for substance abuse, and administrative facilities which are located on Cattlemen Road are all part of the system. His office oversees marine units, 2 helicopters, aviation units which sometimes are called on for fire suppression, a bomb squad, a dive team, and s.w.a.t. units.

Collaborative programs such as working with 1st Step has allowed for behavioral response teams to work with specific segments of the population. Another is the Sheriff's Athletic Activities League that our member Jon Swift sits on as a board member. This program currently has 60 kids enrolled. They do ride-a longs, teen court, attend events, and have opportunities to be exposed to things they would not ordinarily have a chance to do.

The department has good working relationships and partners with many other agencies and the Chiefs of Police serving the cities in the county, many of whom are former captains with the Department.



PROPOSED NEW MEMBER

Name: Nathaniel Buck

Classification: Sales - Hearing Aids and Related Services

Proposed by: Judy VanHouten

If no written objections are submitted to the Board of Directors by the end of the work day March 8, 2021, Nate will be invited to our club's Rotary Information Meeting.



Wearin' of the Green!

Come Join your RCS Friends for a Fun Evening
Celebrating St. Paddy's Day!!

When: Saturday, March 13 at 6 PM

**Where: Joe and Linda Formella's Home
6210 Stillwater Court, University Park, FL**

Presented by your RCS Social Committee



This is an outside BYOB event, and we welcome appetizers or desserts if you'd like to share!

Your Social Committee will Provide a Traditional St. Paddy's Day Menu to include Shepard's Pie, Corned Beef, Cabbage, Carrots and Potatoes and Assorted Breads.

Please help us plan a great party by signing up at Marina Jack's or contacting Judy VanHouten by Wednesday, March 10th.

Infinite Possibilities: Series 2

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Presented by Rotary District 6960

FABULOUS and ENDEARING are the best descriptions we can offer for our upcoming February 26th Infinite Possibilities Series: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, featuring Past Rotary International President and World Leader Barry Rassin, along with International Speaker Brian Rusch. "Embracing Our Differences" is the focus of our conversation, as we listen to stories of their personal journeys and life experiences. This conversation will touch your hearts and inspire your spirit to greater service.

This multi-part webinar series offers you the opportunity to hear from very dynamic speakers who will offer vision, encouragement, enthusiasm and motivation to grow your membership. We encourage you to invite not only your fellow Rotarians, but prospective members as well. You can register below for this session, as well as the March and April events. [Members can register through their DACdb account and Non-Rotarians can register at: \[rizoness33-34.org/infinite-possibilities/\]\(https://rizoness33-34.org/infinite-possibilities/\)](#)

March 26, 2021 at 1:00pm – Investing in Equity, hosted by District 6960 Governor Darryl Keys, with featured speaker Xavier Ramey, fellow Rotarian from Chicago.

April 30, 2021 at 1:00pm – Celebrate Diversity, with special guest speakers Rotary International President Holger Knack, Rotary International Director Peter Kyle and Anna Ekbäck.



At our next **Club Board** meeting, we will be discussing two items which may be of particular interest to our members, in addition to conducting our regular Board business. We will specifically be discussing 1) continuing support for the Kindergarten Readiness Bag Project and 2) conducting in-person, hybrid or virtual meetings in the future. All Rotarians are welcome to attend Board meetings and participate in the discussion.

This meeting will be held on Monday March 8th at 5:30pm at Comfort Suites Sarasota-Siesta Key, 5690 Honore Ave., Sarasota. We will also provide video via Zoom and the link for that can be found by clicking [here](#) at the appointed time. If you wish to attend in person, contact Pres. Laura so we can make sure we have ample space for everyone to be safely seated.



As of July 1st two seats will be available on the Rotary Club of Sarasota Foundation Board. If you are interested in applying please email Susan Leavis at sleavis@gmail.com by March 19, 2021. Please include a brief bio if available.

Responsibilities of RCSF and its Board Members

The Rotary Club of Sarasota Foundation, the charitable arm of the Rotary Club of Sarasota, is a registered 501(c)(3). Its mission is to help the Rotary Club of Sarasota build a better community and world through humanitarian, educational, and charitable endeavors. The Rotary Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation that receives contributions and distributes funds in support of approved humanitarian and educational activities that are implemented through Rotary clubs and districts.

Elected Directors serve terms of three years each, commencing on July 1st. Foundation Board Meetings are held quarterly and as a board member attendance is expected. Secretarial and treasurer reports are presented as well as a review, discussion and vote on any proposed projects submitted by the Rotary Club of Sarasota. Meetings last between one and two hours.

Let's get social!

You can now find the Rotary Club of Sarasota on Facebook and Instagram @RotaryClubOfSarasota. We'll post photos and stories so you can share.



Is it fair to all concerned?

As Rotarians we need to be aware of the behavior expected of us. Conducting ourselves in adherence to this code of conduct can help us all act in the Rotary spirit.

ROTARIAN CODE OF CONDUCT

As a Rotarian, I will:

1. Act with integrity and high ethical standards in my personal and professional life
2. Deal fairly with others and treat them and their occupations with respect
3. Use my professional skills through Rotary to mentor young people, help those with special needs, and improve people's quality of life in my community and in the world
4. Avoid behavior that reflects adversely on Rotary or other Rotarians
5. Help maintain a harassment-free environment in Rotary meetings, events, and activities; report any suspected harassment; and help ensure non-retaliation to those individuals that report harassment



2020-2021 Rotary Club Board of Directors

Laura Randall - President
Lee-En Chung - President-Elect
Steve Cork - Vice President
Jeff Meyer - Immediate Past President
Andrea Nierenberg - Secretary
Dan Smith - Treasurer
Drew Adams - Sargent-at-Arms

Directors
Pam Akins
Peg Cork
Zain Hartman
Ruth McLaren
Tom Melville
Paul Mlotok
Steven Stegall