

# Rotary



# Rotary Opens Opportunities

## The SMILE

March 31, 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

- Apr 7.....Pam Akins, The Rotary Foundation/Dan Danneher, Strategic Plan
- Apr 14.....Toni Duval, Sister Cities Program
- Apr 21.....NO MEETING
- Apr 28.....Andrew Wright, Otsuka, Inc.
- May 5.....Ciera Coleman, Downtown Farmers Market

## This week's speaker

### Ron Turner Supervisor of Elections



Ron Turner was elected Supervisor of Elections in Sarasota County in 2016 and re-elected in 2020. Supervisor Turner began his career with the Sarasota County elections office as chief of staff,

...serving from 2011 until his election. He serves as secretary of the Florida Supervisors of Elections statewide association (FSE).

In addition to his work as an elections administrator, Turner has extensive governmental and nonprofit leadership experience. Turner began his public service career, at the age of 23, as a city council member and deputy mayor for the City of Arcadia and later served as supervisor of elections for DeSoto County, Florida.

A native Floridian, Turner earned a Bachelor of Arts in American Studies from Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida, and a Master of Public Affairs from the University of Missouri's Harry S. Truman School of Public Affairs. He is an alumnus of Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, where he completed its Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government and is a nationally Certified Elections/Registration Administrator (CERA) through the Elections Center.

Turner has been very involved in the community since moving to Sarasota County in 2001. He serves on the board of directors of First Step of Sarasota, is a graduate of Leadership Sarasota County, and is a member of the Disabled American Veterans. Turner is a proud veteran of the United States Army.

# March 24th Meeting Recap

by Francine DiFilippo

Our speaker Beth Duda came to us via zoom for her presentation. As the Director of the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, Beth Duda oversees efforts in the four counties: Sarasota, Manatee, Charlotte, and De Soto. This organization is affiliated with over 300 other communities. The Patterson Foundation underwrites her salary, and the Sarasota community foundation underwrites the cost for Sarasota county. Beth said efforts to improve grade level reading so that children achieve level 3 reading by the 3rd grade since all educational and teaching efforts after grade 3 are based on a child's ability to read and comprehend. All the work must be accomplished by grade 3 and "it is a marathon not a sprint" there are no quick fixes.

In 2015 children were tested and scores have improved. There has not been a most recent test. They are anxious to see what negative impact COVID has had on our children, if there has been a COVID Backslide like that which can happen over the summer months if children are not reading.

Test scores in 2015:

- Charlotte - from 50% to 69%
- DeSoto - from 29% to 34%
- Manatee - from 45% to 51%
- Sarasota - from 68% to 70%

The kindergarten readiness bags have approx. \$18.00 worth of tools and supplies in them and many have additional materials from local efforts. Josh the Otter a Rotary swimming readiness book is in the bag along with Alphabet charts and magnetics, flashcards and a school readiness checklist to help parents know what their child should know. Our Rotary Club Foundation supplies the bags that hold all the materials, and our Rotary volunteers stuff the bags!

Beth went on the talk about other initiatives such as the "" This Book is Cool" project that highlights 20 books and has 100 webisodes. 1100 families participated in the last session and she is hoping to double that number. It was extraordinarily successful and there was no loss in reading proficiency for 85% of the children. Working with families they are following attendance data as a key indicator of where there may be problems. They also work with the families to provide Parent Programs in Grooming to Literacy, the Power of Presence and a Book Circle. The 0 – 3 age group is of primary importance to help the little ones get a good start in learning, so they especially work with day care and early childhood centers. They partner with everyone willing from the Boys & Girls Club to the Libraries, Parks & Recreation Departments, YMCA, summer camps and faith based VBS programs. These programs receive weekly stipends. Incentives and prizes are made available for the children – the effort is to get the children to read 6 books over the summer. If they read even 3 books it helps them to avoid a learning loss. If a child does no reading at all over the summer, it can result in a 2 ½ - 3 months of learning loss when they are tested. The program uses data to analyze and inform its educational efforts.

The program was recognized as a National leader in 2014 and is a Pacesetter for other communities.



## **Election Alert!**

**Election of our Club's Officers and Directors will be held at our lunch meeting on March 31st. According to our bylaws, members wishing to vote in the election must be present at the meeting either in person or via Zoom.**

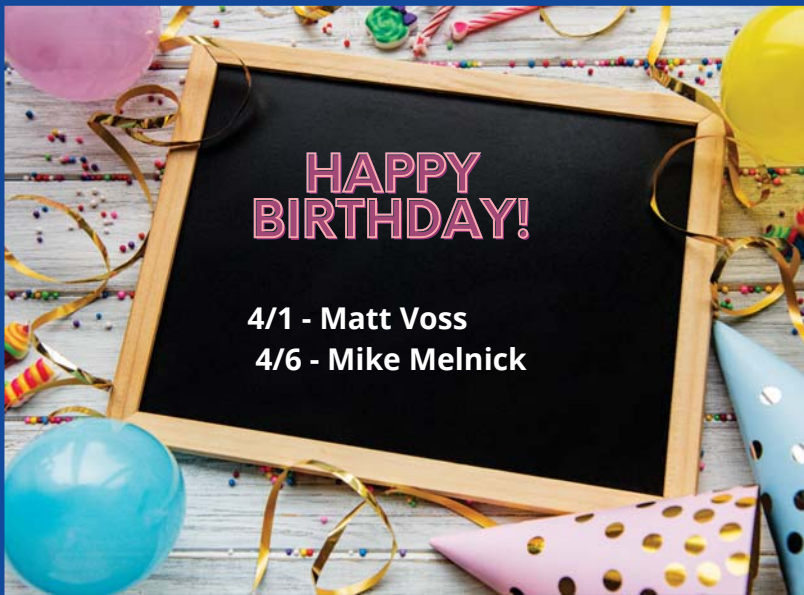
The Nominating Committee, comprised of Past Presidents David Bowman and Joe Devore, Immediate Past President Jeff Meyer, President-Elect Lee-En Chung and Vice President Steve Cork, have proposed the following slate of candidates for election:

- **Vice President - Jay Riggs**
- **Secretary - Pam Akins**
- **Treasurer - Peg Cork**
- **Sargent-at-Arms - Tony Swart**
- **Director - Dan Dannheiser**
- **Director - Francine DiFilippo**
- **Director - Lois Schaper**
- **Director - Lou Schwartz**

Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the meeting. Once all names have been collected, the ballot will be created and an electronic copy will be sent to all members who are present at the meeting. Ballots must be returned by 5:00pm on Friday, April 2nd to be counted.

## Where do you help?

We want to know where our members do good deeds outside our Club. Brag a little and let us know about your do-goodery! Send info to [laurarandall813@gmail.com](mailto:laurarandall813@gmail.com)



### 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.



# CELEBRATE!



YOU ARE INVITED TO

## *A Night of 1000 Paul Harris Fellows*

MAY 21, 2021

COCKTAILS - 6:15PM | DINNER - 7PM

CHARLOTTE HARBOR EVENT CENTER  
75 TAYLOR ST, PUNTA GORDA, FL 33950

\$75 per person | Cash Bar | Black Tie Optional  
RSVP on DACdb

## 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