

Rotary



Rotary Opens Opportunities

The SMILE

April 7, 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
- Apr 14.....Toni Duval,
Sister Cities Program
- Apr 28.....Andrew Wright,
Otsuka, Inc.
- May 5.....Ciera Coleman,
Downtown Farmers Market

A message from President Laura

The Rotary theme for 2020-21, **Rotary Opens Opportunities**, asks Rotarians to create opportunities which strengthen their leadership, help put service ideas into action, and improve the lives of those in need. This goal asks us to be people of action who work to make a positive impact... on our fellow members, on our community and in our world. At my installation as President of this Club, I laid out a series of goals, and I want to reiterate them so we can all take a look at how we are doing and where we need to work harder.

- Strategic Plan - We are working with future club presidents and the leadership of the Foundation to ensure this process is fair to all concerned and will be embraced by future club leaders. At the end of April, the Strategic Planning committee will present the plan to the Club and Foundation Boards for their review. In the middle of May the final iteration of the plan will be presented to the Club so each member knows where the Club is headed and what they can do to help the Club get there.
- Keeping our Club safe – The safety of our members remains my primary concern. We will continue to provide streaming of our meetings through the end of June. While I our numbers continue to grow at Marina Jack every week and the fellowship among members is at fever pitch, we will respect those who choose to abstain from these gatherings for health reasons. Social events are organized with a careful eye to member comfort, safety and FUN.

Continued

A message from President Laura

(continued)

- Secure high-quality, informative speakers and the introduction of the Rotarian Minute – I have heard from a large number of members who are pleased with the quality and diversity of speakers who have addressed us this year. Because the Rotarian Minute has not happened as often as I would have preferred, we will put an emphasis on this for the remainder of the year and feature more of our members as speakers in the remaining quarter.
- Public Relations effort – IPP Jeff Meyer has convened his committee and will meet with them in the coming weeks. Jeff has submitted media alerts to local news papers and electronic media, and has plans to move our social media presence forward in the next quarter.
- Diversity and inclusion – The Strategic Plan has a specific focus on DEI. It has become clear that our Club must prepare the environment for more diverse members in order to attract them as members. Specific steps will be outlined in the plan so we can move in that direction as we continue to improve the integrity of our Club. I continue to challenge all of us to become the kind of membership which will attract people who can deepen our thinking and broaden our understanding.

My pledge to you at the installation was “I will do all I can to preserve and enhance the vitality of this club and maintain the stature of the club in our community. When needed, I will lead us through the hard decisions and put the vigor of the club as our number one priority. Because we cannot accomplish anything for the community if we do not keep this group intact and functioning at the very highest level.” Thank you all for your contributions to reaching these goals. Please look for the updated financial reports in next week's issue of the SMILE.

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



March 31st Meeting Recap

by Francine DiFilippo

Ron Turner is the only Supervisor of Elections that has served in more than one county in the state. He was appointed by "Walkin' Lawton Chiles in 1994 and then elected at the age of 23 in DeSoto County. Elected as the Supervisor of Elections in Sarasota County in 2016 and was re-elected in 2020. Ron made a strong case for viewing this constitutional position as a profession that needs professional election administrators in the office.



This is his lifelong passion. It is imperative within the 67 counties in Florida that elections run smoothly. He currently serves as Secretary of the State organization and will be moving up to becoming the Vice President in June. His goal is to serve as president of the organization to ensure that our county has a seat at the table with legislators who write the laws and need feedback on them before they are enacted.

He gave us a short history of his experience going back to the "hanging, and pregnant chads" of 2000 which was a catalyst for change. The resulting statutes from the Florida legislature made Florida one of the most efficient vote tabulating states in the country. Most people would agree that Florida got it right in the fall elections. Some stats on the operations of his office. Ron has 32 permanent staff members and 1300 temporary workers who serve as poll workers, warehouse staff (where they keep the machines and related equipment like the wheeled drop boxes), vote by mail, email & phone handlers and data entry staff.

Sarasota county has approx. 350,000 registered voters, making us the 13th largest county in the state. Elections happen year-round in the county in different municipalities and for different elections like the school board. In 2020 there were three elections which were complicated by COVID. Poll workers opted out and locations canceled due to their concerns. Somehow it all got done because people like our own Jayne Corey hung in there.

We have No Excuse Vote by Mail which mean that you only ask. Usually, the break down for voting is 1/3 day of the election, 1/3 early in person (2 weeks before), and 1/3 vote by mail (requests must be made 40 days in advance). Our drop boxes are staffed and supervised with all votes that are received logged in. We do not mail out ballots that have not been requested. 150k people took advantage of this feature this past year. 272,000 people voted which is an 80% turnout overall. The state average is 77%.

Ron aspires to Continuous Quality Improvement to make sure voting is Accessible, Fair, and Secure. The office makes every effort to encourage voter registration including having young people register to pre-vote while they are in high school at 16, and once they turn 18, they are sent Happy Birthday greetings with their voter registration card. One of the most effective voter information materials they produce is the advance ballot so voters can become informed and do the research that is needed to exercise their voting right, responsibility and privilege. The ballot can be long the last one for the general election was 2 pages printed on both sides with officers, judges, referendums, etc. Under voting on down ballot material does occur when there are many votes to be decided and often are submitted incomplete. He assured us that what we do vote on is counted even if it is an incomplete ballot.

The budget for the office is \$6MM and the general election cost \$2MM. Once redistricting is completed after the census new voter cards will be mailed out to all registered voters at an estimated cost of \$250,000. Districts and precincts require many ballot forms and styles for each, and this is a proofreader's nightmare. Getting the right ballots and forms to the right locations speaks to his military experience! It is obvious that his is not a 2 day an election job.



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



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