



The Spoke

Julie Workman and the Heights



Our speaker last week was Julie Workman, Director of Programs & Community Relations for the The Heights Foundation. The foundation works to build strong, self-sufficient families in the Harlem Heights neighborhood in Fort Myers, Florida.

Julie was named one of Gulfshore Business Magazine's 2013 40-under-40. Through her work at the foundation, Workman has been developing programs to strengthen families in the Harlem Heights neighborhood for more than five years.

"As an advocate for at-risk families, I work in my dream job," said Workman. "It is an honor to be recognized for my contributions at the Heights Foundation and in the community."

Her professional commitments are balanced at home, where she and her husband joyfully parent three elementary school aged children. They like to spend as much time as possible on the water.

(More about The Heights Foundation on page 3.)

*Next Meeting **Wednesday, November 6th** at **Pelican's Nest.***

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- Trustees of The Foundation of The Rotary Club of Bonita Springs**
- Nancy Ross, President; John Mathes, Secretary; Tom Burgess, Treasurer; Fred Partin, Ray Faubion, Stephanie Kissinger, Guy Quinn Trustees

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Bobbi Bird** presided. **Steve Slachta** presented the invocation; **Gary Price** led the Pledge of Allegiance; and **Steve Krchniak** led the singing of the 4-Way Test. Substitute song leader **Jon McLeod** led the singing of "The Whole World in His Hands".

Bobbi recognized those who had helped to make Riverfest a successful event.

Steve McIntosh announced that he will be running unopposed in the coming election for City Council.

Kenny King announced that Chad Williams, survivor of Seal Team 6, will be the speaker at the Bonita Christian Forum November 12th at the First Presbyterian Church.

Wendy Arsenault gave a gloomy report on the sale of poinsettias. We had been planning on sales of \$20k, however, we have only \$4k to date. The sale needs focus.

Jon McLeod reported no bicycle mileage last week due to a pulled hamstring. However, he reported doing upper body exercise by lifting "two liters of booze while on cruise".

Jon announced President Bobbi was the winner of the 50/50 football pool. **Ray Faubion** was the 2nd place finisher for the third time this season.

Bobbi gave an impassioned plea for members to participate in the courses offered by the Rotary Leadership Institute. More information can be found at www.rotaryleadershipinstitute.org.

Bob Lombardo and **Frank Liles** gave a pitch for buying bricks for the Veterans' Memorial Walkway.



The City is selling bricks etched with the names of active duty servicemen as well as living and deceased veterans for an \$80 donation. See Frank or visit the City web site.

Bill Banfield was acting Sergeant-at-Arms for the day.



The Heights Foundation

Gerri Spaeth introduced **Julie Workman**, Director of Programs and Community Relations for the Heights Foundation and the Heights Center.

The center is located in the Harlem Heights neighborhood of Ft. Myers. It is an area with 400 single family homes, 375 multifamily units, and had 1,200 children. The neighborhood is one of Lee County's five historically lowest-income communities and is classified as a "Severely Distressed" community.

The Heights Foundation works to build strong, self-sufficient families in the Harlem Heights neighborhood. The mission is to support education and wellness, promote family and community development, and provide the benefits of enrichment and the arts. The foundation is a grassroots, hands-on organization that celebrates the strength and diversity of the community.

The Ft. Myers-South Rotary Club has been a big supporter of the summer camp program. There were 139 children in camp this summer. A reading program is offered in summer. Many of the children are reading 2 years behind grade level. At the end of the season there was a 25% improvement in reading comprehension of the participants.

The most recent program launch was a free medical clinic in cooperation with the Lee County Volunteers in Medicine. There is a need for professional volunteers who will give 4 hours per month to the clinic that serves only people without insurance. Most of the people of the

district will not be covered by the ACA because they can not meet the threshold of \$35,000 income/year. Julie said, "It is most unfortunate that our state has decided not to draw down those Medicaid dollars that would extend insurance to people who need it most."

"Children do well when their families do well, and families do better when they live in supportive neighborhoods".
Annie E. Casey Foundation

The center has the Pathways to Prosperity programs. These offer training and support in GED training, English as a Second Language, Goodwill Joblink, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, and the developing Culinary Arts Training Kitchen.

The culinary arts program is being operated in partnership with Catalyst Kitchen which is a nationwide program of training people in culinary arts by operating training kitchens where participants learn job skills while learning self-sufficiency.



Chet Sadler, TRF chair of the Sanibel-Captiva Rotary, explained a Rotary connection. He said that 5 local clubs including ours have joined to get a district grant to support the foundation. Each club will contribute \$2,000, when matched a total of \$20,000, that will be going to develop a "world class" culinary arts training kitchen at the Heights Center.



Rotary Club of Bonita Springs, chartered November 3, 1978, meets every Wednesday at Pelican's Nest Golf Club. The Club may be contacted through its mailing address P.O. Box 474, Bonita Springs Florida 34133 or its website www.bonitaspringsrotary.org. **The Spoke**, the Club's official newsletter, is published weekly throughout the year (except when the Club is in recess.) You can reach the Spoke through its email riverchip12-spoke@yahoo.com. Scott Gerrish issue editor.



**"The Fifty-Fifty" NOW
\$1,204**

**A disappointed Jim
Friedgen drew the
7♣ to win \$5**

**As always..we're all
winners as the "Fifty-
Fifty" helps keep our club
strong and ready to serve.**

Rotary Sings

When the Saints Go Marching In

Oh, when the saints go marching in,
Oh, when the saints go marching in,
Yes, I want to be in that number,
When the saints go marching in.

And when the sun begins to shine,
And when the sun begins to shine,
Yes, I want to be in that number,
When the sun begins to shine.

Oh, when we meet at Rotary,
Oh, when we meet at Rotary,
Yes, I want to be in that number,
When we meet at Rotary.

It's A Birthday Celebration!

Clara Anne Graham Oct 26

Harv Humphrey Oct 29

Upcoming Speakers

Today:
Jon McLeod

The Gift of Life
Program,
An Update

The 4-Way Test

of things we think, say or do.

Is it the **TRUTH**?

Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?

Will it build **GOODWILL** and
BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to
all concerned?

Food Packing at Harry Chapin. A total of 103
packers from three clubs plus Rotaract.



Your finances. Your future. *Our focus.*

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