



The Spoke

New Horizons



Debra Haley

Our speaker was **Debra Haley**, Executive Director of New Horizons. New Horizons is a local nonprofit committed to serving at-risk (socio-economically disadvantaged) students. The organization provides tutoring and mentoring to at-risk youth, primarily first generation Hispanic, in grades K-12. The reality for these students

is that English is not spoken at home; they live below the poverty level; 47% drop out of high school in SWFL; they are growing up in an environment of teen pregnancy, drugs, social service dependency, and crime.

New Horizons operates at 5 locations in the area. For K-5th grade, there are after school tutoring and mentoring, a four week intensive reading camp, and Super Girls Club that prepares 4th and 5th grade girls for middle school. Additional programs are available for at-risk students 6th to 12th grade.

This feedback was given by a Super Teen, "I have been with New Horizons for 10 years. They have helped me stay out of trouble and helped me stay in school. They tutored me when I needed help with my school work. This organization has impacted my life dramatically. I would like to thank New Horizons for everything they have done for me."

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LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Sandy Hemstead** presided. The Estero High School visitors led the Pledge of Allegiance. **Dale Timple** received the Four-Way Test. **Jon McCleod** gave the invocation. "Reflect on all the good things in your life. Rotary is my religion; this organization puts action before words." Jon is now sporting a shaved head as he and 5 others are supporting a fellow worker who is receiving cancer treatments.

Bobbi Bird reported the Wounded Warrior Weekend was a big success as lots of people showed up. Saturday's games were excellent. Bobbi thanks all those who helped out.

The 9th Annual **Bonita Blues Festival** is scheduled for March 6th and 7th. The proceeds from this event benefit the Bonita Assistance Office, Music for Minors, and Golisano Children's Hospital Music Therapy Program.

Ron Anderson led the singing of *Give My Regards To Broadway* written by one of George Cohan's ancestors.

Jack Power came forward to introduce the Students/Staff of the month saying, "This time of the month is always a shot of inspiration for me personally." Jack and Sandy presented the awards to this month's honorees.

Kae Moore is leading the club's effort to select students for RYLA. Our club has elected to sponsor 2 students, the Noon club 2, and Estero 1. The academy will be held near Orlando April 9-12th. The objectives are to introduce the students to Rotary and include service opportunities.

Susan Schmitt has a nice selection of Rotary shirts for sale. The order form was emailed to all. Please return the form with your check in the next two weeks.

Please contact **Sara McCallum** if you are planning to present a Paul Harris Fellowship at

the installation banquet.

George Cohan rose in his dual role as spokesman for the Reverse Raffle and as Sergeant-at-arms. George reminded us there are only 7 weeks left; that each member is responsible for selling a minimum of 3 tickets; and we must sell many more than 3 to sell out the 400. He says, "Let's all get behind this and sell additional tickets".

George lamented that in the old days, when a man lost his hair he became bald and ugly. Now they shave their head, wax, and become a sex object."

Maurice Sullivan (rr) attended her first meeting this season. She reported chairing a Big Book Drive that collected 15,120 books. The books were distributed to designated schools in Chicago. "We know that reading scores are going up because of our generosity."

Don Manley's father, **Larry**, who claims to be "unemployed and out of work" is going to India with his wife on a Rotary mission for Polio Plus."

We celebrated **Marjorie Rubacky's** 86th birthday. She says, "I'm proud of my age. I'm thrilled to be alive."

George was not all barbs today. He offered this to Jack Powers, "You do a really great job with the students."

George tried to skip over **Bob Rossier's** birthday, but Sandy wouldn't have it, so we sang for Bob as well.



Welcome back
Walter!

Walk for Water Saturday Feb. 21, 2015 9-11 am at the YMCA

One of Rotary International Foundation's six areas of focus is to provide clean water. Three local Southwest Florida Rotary Clubs (RC of Estero, Bonita Springs Noon and Bonita Springs) have joined together in organizing a three-year, \$750,000 Clean Water and Sanitation project in Santa Eulalia, Guatemala.

Rotarian Sally Smith who is spear heading the project for the Estero Club, and who has visited Guatemala for other Rotary projects said, "It is a mountainous region of the indigenous Mayan Indian peoples." She further explained that "the project will bring filtered, chlorinated water to their hospital, to common areas and finally to every home."

In order to bring awareness to the project, there will be **Walk for Water** event on Saturday, February 21 from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. at the YMCA of Bonita Springs, 27200 Kent Road.

Assistant Governor of Rotary District 6960, Rick Perry is organizing the marketing for the event. "We invite all people in Bonita Springs, Estero and Naples to join us for Walk for Water, and help make a difference in the lives of people around the world, who walk miles for clean water every day. This is a fun,



family awareness event we know that the people of Southwest Florida will enjoy. There will even be a Guatemalan Marimba band to entertain us," says Perry.

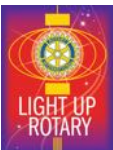
"Walk for Water will give you and your family an experience of that daily journey in Guatemala, and all walkers will be handed

empty buckets upon arrival at the YMCA," said Bonita Springs YMCA Branch Director, Maribel Slabaugh. Slabaugh continued, "Participants will walk from Kent Road to the Nature Walk path and on to the Imperial River kayak landing where they will fill their buckets with water and walk back to the YMCA to dump

their water in the retention pond."

Sandra Hemstead said, "This is the distance that parents and children walk every day for fresh water in this region of Guatemala."

To participate in Walk for Water the cost is \$20 per family or \$10 for individuals. Purified bottled water will be available to all participants at the end of their journey. The Rotary Clubs of Estero, Bonita Springs and Bonita Springs Noon are encouraging local residents and visitors to participate and support this outreach project for clean water. Please email your plans to participate to: sally_smith@ml.com



Rotary Club of Bonita Springs, chartered November 3, 1978, meets every Wednesday at Bonita Bay 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.

**Last Week: Proxy
winner Fred Partin drew
the 2♣ to win \$5**



**The 50/50 Now
\$2,459**

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?

Your finances. Your future. *Our focus.*

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Rotary Sings: *Are You Sleeping?*

Are you sleeping, are you sleeping?
Brother John, Brother John?
Morning bells are ringing, morning
bells are ringing
Ding dong ding, ding dong ding.

Frère Jacques, Frère Jacques,
Dormez-vous? Dormez-vous?
Sonnez les matines, sonnez les
matines
Ding dong ding, ding dong ding.

This Week:

**Eileen Keestler
Collier County
Community Foundation**

*It's A Birthday
Celebration!*

**Jon McLeod Jan 24
Mike Poff Jan 25**

This Morning's Invocation

Holy God, who has set before us high standards and expectations, we come prayerfully to you as men and women who seek to be diligent in meeting the expectations inherent in our identity as Rotarians.!

In home and office, in stores and schools, and in all public places in which we are under scrutiny, help us not betray the moral and ethical standards we profess to hold.

May our presence here today remind us of who we are. Help us to renew our commitments to the qualities we revere as Rotarians.!

And now for the nourishing gift of food and the nurturing gift of our being together, we offer thanks.
Amen.