



The Spoke

Lee County Schools



Cathleen Morgan

Steve McIntosh introduced **Cathleen Morgan** chairperson of the Lee County School Board and the member representing our district. By way of getting started, she cited some statistics: District students speak 159 languages, 33rd largest district in U.S., 9th largest in Florida, 88,000 students, 120 schools of which 24 are charter schools, and a \$1.3 billion budget.

She believes that two biggest issues in the district are English language learning and poverty. The poverty kids come to school without fundamental backgrounds in vocabulary and literature and they “start to feel inadequate when they walk through the door even though they are excited when they do.”

Cathleen says there are a lot of requirements for testing that aren’t well coordinated and the results are not really informative of what is going on in the classroom.

The board is committed to a new high school in Bonita Springs providing a suitable site can be found. The site owned by the district is in the DR/GR zone and there is opposition to building on the site from the environmental and no-growth communities.

The district has been growing at 1500-2000 students per year. At the same time, the state has cut the millage rate and reduced impact fees have resulted in a loss of \$600 million in revenue since 2007. The state legislature has continued to mandate programs without funding. This is a very difficult position for a growing district resulting in the discussion of a sales tax in the county.



LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Sandy Hemstead** presided. **Sara McCallum** read the invocation; **Adam Botana** led the Pledge of Allegiance; and new member **Donna Flammang** recited the Four-Way Test. **Ron Anderson** led the singing of *Michael Row the Boat Ashore*.

This was Week 35 and also Rotary's 110th birthday.

Sandy reported that 100 people participated in the **Walk for Water** at the YMCA. About \$1,000 was raised for the Guatemala Water Project.

Steve McIntosh is looking for volunteer readers for the March 7th "I like me" project.

Mark Generales reported on a new fund raiser scheduled for next year at Lover's Key. The event will be modeled after the Upper Keys Rotary Club

Gigantic Nautical Flea Market in Islamorada.

Sara McCallum announced that the club would contribute \$500 toward Paul Harris Fellowships. She urged members to take advantage of the opportunity to get a new PHF or to honor someone with a PHF at the Installation Banquet, April 24th.

The 9th Annual **Bonita Blues Festival** will be held Friday and Saturday, **March 6 -7** at Riverside Park. See Len Eckert for tickets.

The 19th annual **Reverse Raffle** will be held Saturday, **March 14th**.

The annual **CREW** concert and Eco Auction will be Saturday, **March 21st** at Riverside Park. The club will be selling beer at the event.

Three local Rotary clubs banded together to make a \$2,496 donation to the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team. Shown from left to right, Rick Perry Assistant Rotary Governor, Pete Doragh Rotary District Governor, Henry Bird President of Estero club, Betty Jean Christenson President Bonita Springs Noon club, Cyndi Doragh District Governor Elect, Sandy Hemstead President Bonita Springs club, David Van Sleet President and Founder of Wounded Warriors Amputee Softball Team, and Josh Wedge double amputee.



PRESIDENT-ELECT URGES ROTARY MEMBERS TO 'BE A GIFT TO THE WORLD'

"All of you have been given so many gifts. And you have now been given this great gift: one year to take all your talents, all your gifts, everything that you are and can become -- and Be a **Gift to the World**," said Ravindran, revealing his **presidential theme** at the annual five-day training meeting in San Diego, California, USA. "You have one year to take that potential and turn it into reality. One year to lead the clubs in your district and transform the lives of others. The time is so short, yet there is so much to be done."

Highlighting Rotary's **biggest challenge, the eradication of polio**, Ravindran said, "A future without polio is a gift that we have promised to the children of the world. And indeed it is a gift that we will give."

Ravindran, a member of the Rotary Club of Colombo, Sri Lanka, used Rotary's successes in the fight to eradicate the disease as an **illustration of the impact Rotary members can have in the world**. When Rotary set a goal of eradicating polio 25 years ago, it was endemic in 125 countries, and more than 1,000 children were becoming paralyzed each day. Today, **polio remains endemic** in just three countries, Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan. And in all of 2014, only 333 cases were reported. "We will battle on. We will prevail," he said.

Ravindran discussed some of Rotary's

other challenges, including membership.

"We have to find a way to bring back the fundamentals that built our organization: **the emphasis on high ethical standards** in all aspects of our lives, and **the classification system** that encourages a diversity of expertise in each club," he said. "Too often these ideas are viewed as little more than inconvenient obstacles to increasing our membership. But they have been essential to Rotary's success, and **we ignore them at our own peril.**"

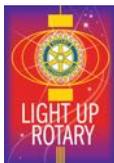
Ravindran told attendees that the **focus on branding** is essential to helping Rotary grow. "We need to reposition our image, which we recognize has faded in many parts of the world," he said.

Rotary also needs to **continue to raise funds** for The Rotary Foundation, **attract new members**, and **encourage greater participation from current members**, he added.

"There are no easy answers to any of these questions. And yet the answers must somehow be found. We are the ones who must find them," said Ravindran.

The president-elect closed his speech emphasizing that **now is the time to make real change.**

"You have one year to build monuments that will endure forever, not carved in granite or marble, but **in the lives and hearts of generations**. This is our time. It will not come again. **Let us grasp it,**" he said.



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: An optimistic Kae Moore drew 4♣ to win \$5



The 50/50 Now
\$2,921

Rotary Sings: So Happy Together

Imagine me and you, I do
I think about you day and night, it's only right
To think about the girl you love and hold her tight
So happy together

If I should call you up, invest a dime
And you say you belong to me and ease my mind
Imagine how the world could be, so very fine
So happy together

Me and you and you and me
No matter how they toss the dice, it has to be
The only one for me is you, and you for me
So happy together

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?

This Week:

**Rotaract Club
in Kenya**

Birthdays

Roger Brunswick Feb 26
~~—Carl Schwing Feb 26—~~
Jim Renfro Mar 2

This Morning's Invocation

O God, we come humbly into your presence by this avenue of prayer, expressing both our gratitude for gifts received, and our yearnings to be used as gifts to others. To that end, grant us visions of service yet unrendered, an awareness of goals yet unattained and hopes yet unrealized. Give us zeal and power to bring to reality the good and worthy things waiting to be done, and confirm our efforts by your assistance without which we labor in vain!

Strengthen us now by food prepared and enjoyed. Enlighten us through productive conversations, and go with us as we return to waiting opportunities to make the day better for others. Amen.

Your finances. Your future. *Our focus.*

McCaw Wealth Management

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