



The Spoke

The Everglades, Our Water Source

Eric Eikenberg is CEO of the Everglades Foundation. He leads the Foundation's science, advocacy, communications and legal teams, which are nationally recognized for their expertise in Everglades restoration.

The Everglades are a national treasure. The ecosystem is home to hundreds of species of beautiful and fascinating wading birds, mammals, fishes, reptiles, amphibians and plants. It is home to 67 threatened and endangered species, provides fresh water to 7 million Floridians, and is an international destination.

However, America's Everglades are on life support. More than 100 years of ditching and draining have reduced the wetlands to half their original size; its wading bird population has diminished by 90 percent; and pollution and other impacts have harmed much of the remaining ecosystem.

The Foundation's scientists are involved in ongoing projects to clean the water, as well as improve water storage and flow. "Everglades restoration is like trying to assemble the world's largest, most complex, eco-oriented jigsaw puzzle," says Dr. Tom Van Lent, "just when you think you have all the pieces, you realize you need help identifying other pieces of the puzzle so you can complete the picture without missing something critical."



Eric Eikenberg

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 Rotary Club of Taipei, Taiwan

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Area 3 Assistant Governor
 Rick Perry
 Bonita Springs Noon

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Peter Zahner	Jason Dolle

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2014-2017

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Peter O'Flinn	Susan Schmitt

Trustees of The Foundation of The Rotary Club of Bonita Springs

Nancy Ross, President; Jim Dati, Secretary; Richard Garner, Treasurer; Ray Faubion, Ed Houck, John Mathes, Guy Quinn, Trustees

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Sandy Hempstead** presided in the cosy confines of the Grill Room. **Mark McCaw** presented the invocation. **Steve Slachta** led the Pledge of Allegiance, first urging us, "Let's say it like we meant it." Rotaract Past President **Jasmin Williams** recited the Four-Way Test.

Sandy reported that Shelter Box had sent 1,000 units to Vanuatu which was severely damaged by a recent Pacific storm and there is an appeal for more Shelter Boxes.

Sara McCallum thanked the members for the \$83 had been collected in the Blue Buckets at the last meeting.



Peter Zahner came forward to present the Blue badges to **Paul Gavin** and **Steve Hiatt** who have completed all the requirements for membership.

Sandy's daughter, **Kelsey Scoggins**, is next president of the Naples Rotaract Club. She described an upcoming fund raiser where **Tom Briers** would be "kidnapped" and held for ransom of \$500. Tom is hoping that there will be enough contributed by club members to bail him out because his wife,

Joy, "wants me to be home". Contributions may be made by check or by credit card on the club site.

The funds raised will be used to award a Paul Harris Fellow to their Rotaractor of the Year. The event will be **April 25th, 5-8pm at Boston Beer Garden** on Immokalee Rd. Everyone is welcome. The \$30 fee includes appetizers, two drinks, and a raffle entry. There will also be a silent and live auction.

Our next club meeting will include a Business Meeting for an **important vote** about a charter change. Please come since a minimum of 55 members must be present.

The Installation Banquet will be held on Friday, April 24th. Tom Briers will reveal details Real Soon Now. Please contact Sara McCallum if you would like to have a PHF presented at the banquet.

Treasurer **Bob Lombardo** presented checks for \$7,500 to **Steve Slachta** and **Jack Powers** winners of the Reverse Raffle. Bob said the event was very successful and relayed



that event chairman **George Cohan** especially praised **Adam Botana** for his work on the committee.

Scott Vail was stand-in Sergeant-at-Arms. He introduced guests and tried to celebrate **Roger Brunswick's** often postponed birthday. Roger asked it be deferred until George is here.

Paul Gavin, Member in the Spotlight



New member **Paul Gavin** was in the "Spotlight". Paul is Boston Irish from Dorchester, one of seven kids all of whom went to college. He graduated from Northeastern University. While there, he co-op'd as a docent at the Boston Museum of

Science. After graduation, he spent a couple of years as a teacher in New South Wales, Australia, where "there are kangaroos in the neighborhoods".

Leaving Australia, Paul graduated from the U. of San Diego School of Law in 1978 and practiced law for 36 years. His specialty was Family Law and Domestic Relations. The motto of his law firm was, "Settlement

When Reasonable, Litigation When Necessary. Our attorneys know how stressful family law disputes can be. Our goal is to help you resolve your case in the most effective and time-efficient manner possible."

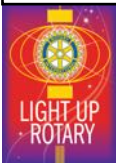
He was honored to be named a "Super Lawyer" several times. His practice was 15% mediation and 85% litigation. He says litigator is "A cross between a lawyer and an alligator."

Paul has been married for 36 years with one son and no grandchildren yet. In the San Diego area, he was a member of a small Rotary club and helped to organize and fund a literacy program in Haiti.

One of the reasons he moved here was to pursue a favorite sport, kayaking. He says he previously lived in Paradise West and has now moved to Paradise East.



Ron Anderson and the Grill Room Chorus led the singing of *So Happy Together*.



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: Kelsey Scoggins drew the Q♥ to win \$5.



The 50/50 Now
\$500



Tom's Installation Friday, April 24th
Save the date!

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:

Paul Woods
CEO Algenol

Birthdays

Sara McCallum Mar 24
Roger Brunswick ????

This Morning's Invocation

Sovereign God, having come to these tables to add yet another experience of Rotary fellowship to the adventure of life, we give thanks for the opportunity to be adventurers in our respective fields of endeavor.

Give us the courage and will to employ the Four-Way Test in decision-making and in relationships.

Help us to know the difference between selfish exploitation of human and physical resources, and the exploration of ways to be good stewards of all things.

We thank you for food to sustain us, fellowship to enrich us, and ideas to inspire us. Be present with us as a silent guest at our tables, and give us your blessings. Amen.

Your finances. Your future. *Our focus.*

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