



The Spoke

Rotarian of the Year Peter Zahner



Sandy's citation. "Rotarian of the Year is awarded to a member who is integral to the success of the club in many ways. Our members are our biggest resource. The year's ROY has served as our Membership chair. He has mentored new members and conducted new member orientation, handled the red badge and blue badge process, and has kept track of all or our membership data on-line. He has done this daunting job exceptionally well."

Larry Miller (rr) - Herb Barnes Heart of Rotary Award



Mark Generales - Service Above Self Award



LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Sandy Hemstead** presided and showed off a flag from the Sedona, AZ club. Sandy read the invocation; **Carl Schwing** led the Pledge of Allegiance; and **Ray Faubion** flawlessly recited the Four Way Test. **Ron Anderson** eventually got the group under control long enough to sing *Sing, Rotarians, Sing*.

Sandy noted, "There's a smaller, more interesting group here at Rotary this morning."

Peter Zahner and **Adam Botana** came forward to present a blue badge to **Mary Saunders**. Her classification is Residential Real Estate Associate. Sandy presented Adam with his **2nd** Member Sponsor Pin, saying, "**The biggest compliment you can give your club is to bring in a new member**".

Interested in Saturday morning golf this summer? Contact **Mark McCaw**.

We will be looking for a high school student to sponsor the **Seminar for Tomorrow's Leaders (S4TL)**.

There will be a social on Thursday, May 7th, at 6 pm. Details will be announced later. Save the date.

The annual District Conference will be held at South Seas Island Resort, Captiva, May 14-17. We will be hosting Saturday lunch. **Nancy Ross** will have a booth for "Josh the Otter".

Sandy recognized **Kae Moore** for his leadership in selecting and driving the students to RYLA. Kae says that on the way home the kids talked about Rotary and what's Service Above Self.

George Cohan was Sergeant-at-arms for the second straight week. He noted that there were lots of empty seats and the "roads are better".

He then pointed to **Ray Faubion** and said, "There's a man where I have never seen that he doesn't call somebody by name, is genuinely happy to see them, and always has a smile on his face. **This is the kind of guy we all need to be like when we put our feet on the floor in the morning**". Well said, George.



Click Here: https://www.SurveyMonkey.com/s/BonitaRotarySurvey2015



Were you there when the bell rang?

Last week **Aaron Morris** gave us a look at the ideas and processes being used and tested at **Florida Urban Organics and Selovita** with the goal of sustainable agriculture.

Tucked away in an industrial sector of Fort Myers, Florida Urban Organics and Selovita aim to **change how food is grown around the world.**

Florida Urban Organics occupies **less than an acre on the industrial outskirts** of downtown Fort Myers. The farm's neighbors include a scrap-metal recycling center and an auto body shop. Leafy tiers of hydroponically grown lettuces — green butter, Cherokee, green oakleaf — stretch along Metro Parkway, south of the railroad tracks.

In October, less than 2 years after taking root here, Florida Urban Organics and its parent company Selovita earned a one-of-a-kind distinction. The farm, already certified organic by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, **became the first aquaponics/hydroponics facility ever to be GlobalG.A.P. Certified**, an honor awarded to growers that maintain stringent standards of food safety, sustainability and environmental stewardship.

While this urban facility is part farm — its first lettuce harvest of the season took place in October for delivery to area restaurants and grocers — its mission is research and development. **This for-profit company**

hopes to create new methods of agriculture. Methods that could revolutionize the way food is grown.

At Florida Urban Organics **they farm fish and use the pasteurized byproduct waters to nourish their vegetables**, a system they'd like to see replicated on large-scale farms. They study soil samples and monitor bacteria levels to determine how little soil a plant needs to thrive in places like Haiti, where nutrient-rich land is lacking.

They do all this in the midst of a concrete jungle, where the rattle of dump trucks is white noise, working to yield as much as possible from every last inch of dirt.

Chefs such as Vincenzo Betulia, of Osteria Tulia, on Fifth Avenue South in Naples, are the beneficiaries of all this R&D. **As the farm works to improve yields by tinkering with fertilizers and irrigation techniques, area restaurants get dibs on the local, organic produce that results.**

"What attracted me to them ... was their growing standards and self-sustainable methods," said Betulia, who will use Florida Urban Organics' lettuces in his salads, "the fact that they grow amazing bounty in an abandoned warehouse. They are very passionate and serious about their craft, and so are we."

adapted from a News-Press article



W e r e y o u t h e r e w h e n t h e b e l l r a n g ?

Last Week: Lucky Steve Hiatt drew A♠ to win \$100.



The 50/50 Still
\$500

Rotary Sings: *God Bless America*

God bless America, land that I love.
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night
With the light from above.
From the mountains
To the prairies
To the oceans, white with foam,
God bless America,
My home sweet home.
God bless America,
My home sweet home.

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:

LT. Brad Hamilton, LCSO
Human Trafficking

Birthdays

Geri Spaeth Apr 24
Adam Botana Apr 27

This Morning's Invocation

God, we gather once again as men and women committed to the values espoused by Rotarians everywhere, values and virtues desperately needing to be infused in our culture. We believe the qualities which characterize Rotarianism at its best have their origin in Your will and purpose. We pray, therefore, for divine assistance as we seek to so integrate them into our social, business and professional structures, that they become the accepted basis for behavior.

Bless now the food provided for our use and enjoyment, and use the congeniality of our fellowship as a winsome witness to the quality of our togetherness.

Accept our gratitude for all gifts and challenges which come from Your hand. Amen.

Your finances. Your future. *Our focus.*

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