



Wheel Chair Opportunity

Last week President Sandy announced that we will be participating with the Estero and Noon Clubs in a Wheelchair Foundation project. The clubs will endeavor to **deliver a container of wheel chairs to the Bahamas.**

The Wheelchair Foundation is a non-profit organization with a goal to provide a free wheelchair to every child, teen and adult worldwide who needs one, but has no means to acquire one.

With the help of Rotary Clubs from around the globe, the Wheelchair Foundation will **deliver its one-millionth wheel chair** on June 13th, 2015.

With our initiative, you can participate in a wheelchair distribution as a hands-on Rotary project.

Together, we've changed hundreds of thousands of lives with the gift of mobility. We take Mobility for granted - a basic right that so many have never experienced. I'll bet you have no idea that **over a hundred million people worldwide lack**

mobility. Without a wheelchair, their options are limited in ways beyond our comprehension.

Several members have participated in our last two Wheelchair projects, Honduras and El Salvador, and know first hand how a wheel chair can transform someone who has lived on the ground all their lives and give them a new and more fulfilling life. **This is really a priceless gift.**

Each wheel chair will cost our club \$100 delivered. A donation of \$100 will be matched by our Foundation and the Wheelchair Foundation will match \$100 **so each donation will purchase three wheel chairs.**

Your donation **must be made by check** and made payable to "The Wheelchair Foundation". We **can not accept** credit card transactions or checks made payable to our Club, Foundation or other entity. Bob Lombardo will be collecting the checks at our club meetings or you can mail your check to The Rotary Club of Bonita Springs, PO Box 474, Bonita Springs, FL 34133.



Bob Lombardo and Klaus Helf delivering wheelchairs, El Salvador, 2013.

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Sandy Hemstead** presided. **Kae Moore** read the invocation; **Steve Slachta** led the Pledge of Allegiance; and **Joe Murgalo** performed a rousing Four Way Test. **Scott Anderson** led the singing of *America the Beautiful*.

Sandy thanked **Bob Lombardo** for hosting the Veteran's Bricks event and showed the Banner's front page, full length photo of **Steve Slachta** at the Memorial Day ceremonies.

When Sandy announced the Wheelchair initiative (page 1), **Rex Sims** was the first to pledge a donation.



Sandy announced two District honorable mention awards had been made at the District Conference. **Bob Lombardo** was recognized for his work as club treasurer and **Marjorie Rubacky** was honored for her success as speaker chair.

Congratulations! These are well deserved honors.



Steve McIntosh agreed to take the lead in a "Wonder Garden Clean Up Day" scheduled for June 6, probably 8 - 10 am. The effort will be mostly raking and picking up leaves and pruning. Will volunteers get a McIntosh for Mayor button?

Eva Navarro of Alicante, Spain, a Rotary Exchange Student, will be arriving in August. **Jay** and **Jessica Berube** will be the host

family. Eva will be attending Estero High School.



Mark McCaw deserves a thank you from all of us. He not only prints The Spoke each week, but he comes and delivers it to the meeting as well.

Brian Olitsky says preparations for the annual 4th of July Starspangled 5K are will underway. The race starts at 7:30 am. Bob Lombardo will be in charge of the water and food for the runners. Brian says, "I'm looking forward to a great time, even though I'll be out of town."



Mark McCaw rose to describe the pilot plan, "alternative meeting" to be held on the third Thursday of the month. The next meeting will be Thursday, June 18th at the Miramar Beach Club. There will be a group golf lesson at 11, lunch meeting at 12, 9 or 18 holes of golf at 1pm. You may attend any or all of the events. This is absolutely a fun group for all skill levels. At the lunch meeting, **Susan Schmitt** will present a check to the Camp Florida director who will be the speaker.

Sergeant-at-arms **George Cohan** praised the Memorial Day performances of Steve McIntosh and Steve Slachta. Then he identified himself as “Chivalrous George” for having fetched a cup of coffee for the late arriving **Claudie Delgado-Feeney**.

George had all the “no Rotary pin” members standup. He chastised them individually and collected some nominal fines. Then he announced a \$5 fine credit for Joe Murgalo for his fine recitation of the Four-Way test.



Kenny King

introduced the speaker Maj. **Jim von Rintein**, USA (retired). Jim spent a career in the United States Army as a helicopter pilot and staff officer in command and staff positions worldwide, including a tour as an

intelligence officer at the Pentagon specializing in threat assessment and terrorism. After moving to Marco Island, he worked as Collier County Emergency Management Director, then as CEO of the Collier County Chapter of the American Red Cross. Jim is currently on U.S. Representative Curt Clawson’s staff in the Naples office. This office provides help to the congressman’s constituents from a local office.

Jim handles most of the veteran’s issues that come up. The VA has two sides, benefits and health care. Both side have issues so he frequently gets calls from Vets for help. Often it involves getting the vet the right contact

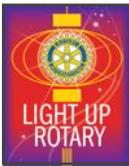
person to provide the assistance required.

Jim discussed, the “Congressional Inquiry”, a tool that the congressman has that is, “kinda like getting called to the principal’s office.” Essentially, this requires the agency, IRS, VA, FEMA, take the issue out of their system, take a look at it, and give it special treatment.

He spends 80% of his time working on vet’s cases. He believes, “The VA is such a bureaucratic institution that I don’t know if it can be fixed without serious dismantling and re-design.” He believes the current secretary is trying, “but it is so difficult because there is such an entrenched bureaucratic system that is, in my view, designed to perpetuate itself, not necessarily fix itself.

Jim says he is able to help a good number of constituents and that is heartening, but takes up a lot of time. “It shouldn’t. I shouldn’t be able to fix something with a phone call that somebody who works for VA or IRS could have done. If the employee can fix it for me, why couldn’t he fix for the constituent.”

Jim points with pride to his work on the nomination committee for Service Academy appointments. Congressmen have the honor and authority to nominate worthy students to service academies. Typically, congressmen give the nominating authority to a board responsible for screening and selecting. There is usually one slot for each academy, Army, Navy, Air Force, Merchant Marine. This year, there were 13 kids from the district accepted at the academies. This is a great testimony to the work of the committee and the quality of local kids applying.



Rotary Club of Bonita Springs, chartered November 3, 1978. The Club may be contacted through its mailing address P.O. Box 474, Bonita Springs Florida 34133. You can reach **The Spoke** through its email BonitaSpoke@aol.com. **Scott Gerrish** issue editor.

President	Sandra Hemstead
President-Elect	Thomas B. Briers
Secretary	Gregory T. Holtz
Treasurer	Bob Lombardo
Sergeant-at-Arms	George M. Cohan III

**Last Week: A Happy Adam
Botana drew A♣ to win \$100.**



The 50/50 is \$678

**Rotary Sings:
On Top of Old Smokey**

On top of old smokey
All covered with snow
I lost my true lover
From a courtin' too slow

On top of old smokey
I went there to weep
A false hearted lover
Is worse than a thief

For a thief, he will rob you
And take what you have
But a false hearted lover
Will send you to your grave

She'll hug you and kiss
And tell you more lies
Than the cross ties on the
railroad
Or the stars in the skies

On top of old smokey
All covered with snow
I lost my true lover
From a courtin' too slow

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:

Leslie Amick
Executive Director
SWFL American Heart Assoc

Birthdays

Dick Fredrickson May 28
Ray Faubion May 29
Dick Hamlin June 2

This Morning's Invocation

Dear God, Lord of Life and Source of Truth, at the outset of this month in which young people experience graduation, we offer our prayers in their behalf. May their commencement be to new levels of moral and ethical maturity and to increased social responsibility. Help them to appreciate their heritage in family and nation, and the price of preserving it.

Help us by word and example to encourage our young people as they make transitions in life.

Bless now our food and fellowship and all aspects of club life and service. May all we do and say be in accord with Your will for us. In the name of Him who promised to be with and to bless those who serve.

Amen.

Your finances. Your future. *Our focus.*

McCaw Wealth Management
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