



Past President Don Thomson presented his “Vocational” Moment. Don is **almost** a rare Florida native. He has lived in Florida for 52 years, Bonita Springs for 43 years. Don is married to Kim, his best friend and high school sweetheart. They have four children and one grandchild.



Don is the “managing stockholder” of the Bonita Springs office of the Henderson Franklin law firm. The firm was founded in 1924, has offices in Ft Myers, Sanibel, and Bonita Springs, and is the largest locally based law firm between Tampa and Miami.

Don has transitioned his practice from civil litigation to real estate “transactional”. He says, “After 30 years in the courtroom,

this allows me to make my own schedule instead of judges and the court system making my schedule. It’s working out well and I thoroughly enjoy assisting my clients with their real estate needs.”

Don joined the club in 1985 having been proposed by his father-in-law. His father was also a club member in the mid ’80’s.

Don was honored with the Love of Bonita Award in 2012. Recipients are chosen based on the following criteria: They consistently choose to use their time, energy and/or money to make a difference in the lives of people living within the Bonita Springs community; they actively encourage and perform community service to help improve the quality of life in the Bonita Springs area; and they enthusiastically promote empowerment, self-sufficiency and positive change in others, either as volunteers or as employees of community organizations.

The citation was “Over the years, Don’s service to our community has been many-fold. He has tirelessly given of his time and talent to make a difference in our community. His efforts are well deserving of our 2012 Love of Bonita Award.”

Don and Kim have a cabin in Beech Mt, NC which they visit a couple of times each year. He says “What I most proud of is my faith in God and my family.”

## LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Tom Briers** presided, Week 20.



As the first item of out-of-order business, Bonita Springs Rotarians toasted Past President **Sandy Hemstead** who has been named **District Governor Nominee Designated**. She will serve in 2018-19 after **Bobbi Bird's** term.

**Kae Moore** presented the invocation and **Brad Piotrowski** recited the Four Way Test. **Ron Anderson** led the singing of *God Bless America*.



Visiting Rotarian, **Tom Driving** of Sweden, played our National Anthem on his "field" trumpet. It was very appropriate for our Veteran's Day meeting.

Member **Don Manley** is going to run in the World's Toughest Mudder event. **He has pledged** to buy a wheelchair, through the Wheelchair Foundation, for every mile he completes. His goal is 50



miles. If you want to be part of this let him know how much you would like to donate per mile. Every dollar will make a difference.



**Jay Berube** chairman of the club's Josh the Otter effort, received the 2015 JCMF Rotary Water Safety Advocacy Award from **Nancy Ross** chairman of the District 6960 campaign.

Jay Berube reported that Exchange Student Eva Navarro's mother had passed away suddenly. Eva went home and has returned to complete the year here. He also reported that a new "home" had been found for the Exchange Student of the South Fort Myers club.

**George Cohan** was Sergeant-at-arms. He introduced visitors and was told by Tom Driving's wife, "We love this area and the people around here, and it's so nice to be a guest at the Rotary."

George reported on a book that impressed him; **Marble Mountain: A Vietnam Memoir** by Bud Willis. It is a personal account of a young man's 1966 combat tour as a Marine helicopter pilot.

## LAST WEEK PROGRAM

**Marjorie Rubacky** introduced our speaker **Kathleen Passidomo**, Florida State representative for District 106. (Naples, Marco, Goodland). Kathleen's term ends in



2016 and she is running for the State Senate.

After graduating from college, she spent eight months backpacking in Southeast Asia, trekking in Nepal, hiking in Thailand, and was almost

swept away by a Tsunami in Malaysia. She has lived and practiced law in SWFL since 1979 and was first elected to the Florida House in 2010.

She reported on the past year's activity in Tallahassee saying that the House and Senate have been "in-sync" except for the issue of expansion of Medicaid. They managed to pass 200 bills last year, most having bipartisan support.

Kathleen described the redistricting problem saying "It is virtually impossible for the Florida legislature, under our current state constitution, to create a federally constitutional map." The requirements of the U.S. Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the "Fair District Amendment" passed by Florida voters are in conflict. She says, "What's going to happen is this is going to be sent to

the U.S. Supreme Court [to be settled]."

Like most states, Florida requires a balanced budget. "We have a tight budget. The Governor wants to cut taxes by \$1 billion, good idea. The problem is when you are reducing taxes, if you don't have income you may have to cut education or health care. It's going to be the devil in the details."

She also says, "Florida is one of the worst places in the country to do business from a litigation perspective. We have to fix that."

When asked about a bill that would limit the ability to regulate "fracking" only to the state, she said, "Horizontal well drilling crosses county lines. That's why I think the state should regulate and [regulation] should be done on a state-wide level."

**Wednesday, December 9th, 6 pm.  
Club Christmas Party, at The Colony  
Bay Club. \$65/person.**

**TODAY'S PROGRAM**  
Deirdre Capone, Author,  
"Uncle Al Capone"

What's in a name? If you're a Chicagoan and your surname is Capone, everything. There is perhaps no more notorious name associated with the city (except perhaps Gacy, or for a time, Bartman). Growing up, Deirdre Marie Capone lived what she calls a "shame-based existence" and struggled with her family ties to one of the towering crime bosses of the 20th century



**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](mailto:BonitaSpoke@aol.com).  
**Scott Gerrish** issue editor.

<b>President</b>	<b>Thomas B. Briers</b>
<b>President-Elect</b>	<b>Steven Slachta</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Jon McLeod</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Bob Lombardo</b>
<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	<b>George M. Cohan III</b>

Last Wk: A relaxed Kenny King drew 9♥ to win \$5

## 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.

**The 50/50 is \$1,971**

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*

Deirdre Capone, Author  
"Uncle Al Capone"

### *Birthdays*

**None**

### **This Morning's Invocation**

Good and Gracious God, in this season of Thanksgiving, we pause to reflect upon what life would be like were it not for Your immeasurable love, grace, and generosity. We give thanks for life itself, for minds to use in creative ways, and for hearts which generate compassion and love. We are grateful for the capacity to worship, to work, and to use those gifts to bring honor and glory to Your name.

As we share today the material gift of food in the context of meaningful relationships, we are grateful for the spiritual realities of life which supersede the material, giving satisfaction to the soul. With thankful hearts, we pray. Amen.

Your finances. Your future. *Our focus.*

**McCaw Wealth Management**

**Mark W. McCaw**

Sr Vice President--Wealth Mgmt, Sr Portfolio Manager  
8000 Health Center Blvd., Suite 150, Bonita Springs,  
FL 34135-8175  
239-495-4192 888-300-9001  
mark.mccaw@ubs.com

[ubs.com/fa/markmccaw](http://ubs.com/fa/markmccaw)



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