



The Spoke

February 8th, 2017

Rotary



Last Week...31

Next President **Jon McLeod** convened the meeting. **Ray Faubion** presented the invocation; **Roger Brunswick** led the Pledge of Allegiance; and **Jason Dolle**, the “kamikaze selection”, recited the Four Way Test flawlessly.

Song Leader Emeritus, **Ron Anderson**, leaped into action to quiet the “meet and greet” clamor and led very fine rendition of *God Bless America*.



Tom Burgess introduced the Rotaractors at the meeting. Among them was **Kristen Duguay** a science major who will be the next president of the Rotaract Club. She is the daughter of club member **Len Eckert**.

Kae Moore rose to give us the **Rotary Minute**. He noted that club members support many local charities and he encourages support for many good causes in the community. However, he urged members to clear with the board of directors before any appeal at meetings or emailing using the club's addresses.



Kae then gave us a pitch for the **New Horizons** Golf Tournament and drawing for a new Mustang. The drawing will be April 17th. 1,500 tickets at \$100 will be sold. **Dave Shellenbarger** and **Chuck Spears** have tickets for sale.



Bob Lombardo took the mike to outline the manpower needs for the **Nautical Flea Market**. This will be a multi-day event, Wednesday, March 29th through Monday, April 3rd. “There will be no heavy lifting..more fun than anything else.”

Wednesday and Thursday will be setting up, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday will be show days, and Monday, clean up. Jobs will include beer tent, admissions, and parking assistance. **Mary Saunders** will be the scheduler.

The annual **Rotary Regular Day** will be March 8th. There will be an organization meeting of the RR’s immediately after the February 8th meeting.

Roger Brunswick recognized birthday people, **Donna Marcotte, Jon Shaw, and Mike Poff**. Donna as “the rose among the thorns”, asked for a solo Happy Birthday singing by **Heber Paulin**.



Roger said, “That was probably the best Happy Birthday serenade this club has ever had.”

Last Week Program

Steve McIntosh was program chair. He introduced the Lee County public school principals in the audience: **Clayton Simmons**, Estero High School; **Melissa Lauer**, Bonita Middle School; **Carissa Carroll**, Bonita Springs Charter School; **Diane Sherman**, Spring Creek Elementary; and **Jeff Estes**, Bonita Springs High School.



Our speaker was **Greg Adkins**, Superintendent of Schools. He has been in the district for 29 years with increasingly important jobs. In addition, he is President of the East Fort Myers Rotary Club. Steve presented him with a “Rotary Make-up Card as a token of our esteem.”

The Lee County School District has 92,000 students in 96 public and 25 charter schools. There are 12,000 employees with a total budget of \$1.337 billion. This is the **34th largest** district in the country.

Greg treated us to a showing of **Vision 20/20**, a statement of improvement goals adopted by the district. The Vision is: To be a world class school system; The Mission: To ensure that each student reaches his/her highest potential.

Among the goals are: Increase Student Achievement; Increase Family and Community Engagement; Increase Retention of Effective and Highly Effective Employees; and Become a Model Continuous Improvement Organization.

He said, “**The most important driver of the system is the teachers.** Retaining and recruiting quality teachers is a challenge we face.” He noted that FGCU and FSW education programs graduate about 150 education majors per semester. But the local need for new hires in Lee and Collier counties may be as many as 1,000 teachers in a year.

Greg said “**PreK is critically important** to a child being successful.” The district will be increasing its PreK programs and the number of collaborations with private PreK providers.

He noted that 3 years ago Bonita Springs Elementary was a failing school. Turn around principal **Susan Caputo** was brought in. Two years later the school had an A rating. “**That’s about amazing leaders and amazing teachers.**”

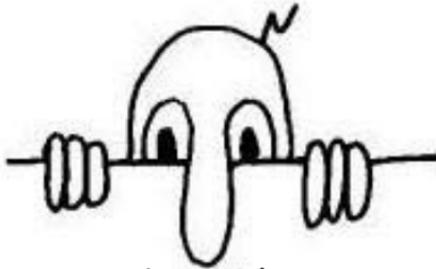
The district’s traditional high schools have graduation rates of over 80%. One school, Dunbar HS, is the **only high school in the world** that graduates kids with Microsoft certification.

The **ground breaking on the Bonita Springs High School** is scheduled for March 10th. The school will have 2,000 student seats on a 76 acre campus. The school will have a variety of “Academies” including Air Force JROTC. With FGCU cooperation, students will be able to get an associates degree while still in high school. There will be Advanced Placement and International Diploma programs as well.



This Week

**Wilson Bradshaw,
President FGCU**



50/50 \$1,358

38 Cards

**Don Thomson drew
the 7♠ For \$5**



The 50/50 is \$1,358

Birthdays

**Gary Price Feb 9
Bobbi Bird Feb 14**

Rotary Sings: Let Me Call You Sweetheart

Let me call you sweetheart
I'm in love with you
Let me hear you whisper
That you love me too
Keep the love light glowing
In your eyes so true
Let me call you sweetheart
I'm in love with you

This Morning's Invocation

O 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.

Rotary International President

John F. Germ
Rotary Club of Chattanooga, TN

District 6960 Governor

Ladd Waldo
The Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch

Area 3 Assistant Governor

Sally Smith
The Rotary Club of Estero

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Scott Gerrish issue editor.