



The Spoke



September 6th, 2017

Last Week Meeting

Meet and greet at 7:25 am. Then, with President **Jon McLeod** as captain the meeting got underway at 7:30. **Eileen Tasso** presented the invocation; **Roger Brunswick** led the Pledge of Allegiance; and **Jay Berube** wowed us with the Four Way Test.



The surprise duet of **Sue Masters** and **Dale Timple** stepped up to lead the singing of *I've Been Working on the Railroad*. Former song leader *Steve Krchniak* crooned the second verse before turning down an offer to be the Song Leader.

There is still time to sign up for the **Club Social**, September 12th, 5 pm at Momentum Brew House. \$25/pp. Pay on-line or bring a check.

Bob Lombardo again announced the start of automatic dues payments beginning with the October 1st quarter. If you are interested, please give Bob your credit card information.

Eileen Tasso has started collecting all the left over **paper for recycling**. She will have a box at the front desk and will clear the tables as well.

Paul Harris Fellowship Deals

Between now and September 30th, the District and the club's Foundation will contribute 334 PH points each toward a member's PHF. So the member **actual cash outlay will be \$333**. A great bargain and an **opportunity for everyone in the club** to gain a new PHF and/or to honor a family member or a deserving community member.

Flood News

Bobbi Bird will be leaving for Houston to aid in a 250,000 meal packing event. District Grants chair **Rich Krischner** will coordinate efforts in the district and will be helping local people who have

lost everything. We are waiting to hear what they want and how they want it.



The club's Foundation has set aside funds for local and national relief. A rare "**pass the hat**" effort raised \$912 from the attendees which was matched by the Foundation for a **total of \$1824.**



City Manager **Carl Schwing** reported there was significant flooding in the community in the areas that have typically flooded in the past. The city and the fire department are out with their resources and the Bonita Springs Assistance Office (BSAO) is aiding the victims.

"Tuesday was worse than Monday. In addition to the rain we have water everywhere. We can't pump it away because that just hurts someone else. And we have sheet flow which will keep the water high."



Teri Lamaine, executive director of the BSAO says "We are identifying immediate and on-going needs; met with the Red Cross; and are working with 17 displaced families. BSAO is actively engaged and cooperating with the City, LCSO, and the fire department. **We have funds available. We're**

here to help the community."

Vince Modarelli reported that the very productive Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Fort Myers had been flooded and the merchandise lost. Please take any donations to the Bonita ReStore or contact Vince if you can help.

Other Stuff

Tom Briers offered 2 Happy\$. He is meeting with family to celebrate his 70th birthday and then will be attending the W.V./Virginia Tech football game.

Roger introduced guest **Carlos Tasso**, father of GT, who was visiting from Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Roger organized a shout-out for birthday boy **Joe Murgalo**. Joe will bring his check Real Soon Now.

Last Week Program



Roger Brunswick (center) organized a “conversation” with **Dave Hengel** (left) and **John Spear** (right) for the program. Both are long time Bonitans and were active in real estate in the growing community.

Dave Hengel had first visited Bonita in 1956 as a teenager. Then he said it took several days to reach Bonita Beach because of all the cars stuck on the sand roads. At the beach, he found front-end loaders piling shells into dump trucks. The shells were being used as surface material for “shell roads”.

Dave moved here in 1972 and became the 5th employee of the Post Office. After a serious accident in 1981, he left the Post Office and launched a land clearing business and small concrete and statue-manufacturing business as well as becoming an investor in real estate. Rex Sims, another old-time resident, called him a “dirt peddler”.

Dave remembers on his visits in the '50s going to the Dome Restaurant with his family.”My father would put 5 dimes on the counter and we would get all the OJ you could drink.”

He says, “Anyway, I love it here and this is where I will stay for eternity.”

Roger first came to Bonita in the '80s. He was in the office equipment sales business with offices in Fort Myers and Naples. In those days, “I could drive between the offices in 25 minutes. The only impediment was the stop sign at Bonita Beach Road.” Roger said it was a great relief when the McDonalds was opened offering a stopping place along the route.

John Spear's folks bought a condo on Bonita Beach in the late '70s. John first visited the week after Easter in 1982. "Six weeks later my first wife and I quit our jobs in St. Louis, sold our house, and moved here."

John's first office was on the second floor in the Naples Federal branch. At that time, I 75 stopped at Immokalee Road. East of I 75 on Bonita Beach Road, there was an 18" drop to a sand road. "There was nothing out there except for a few hardy pioneers in stilt houses. There was quite a migration of young professionals who were being squeezed out of the rust belt by the recession of the late '70s and early '80s."

And there was Bill, a quiet, older man with an office near John. John never was successful in engaging him in conversation. Only later did John find out this man was assembling the final parcels for the development that would become Bonita Bay.

"No doubt about it, the face of Bonita Springs changed with the development of Bonita Bay and Pelican Landing. Before that the perception was it was full of poor people and trailers."

Dave told us that in the '70s the land east of I 75 on Bonita Beach Road was "jungle". Then it became farm land and now is being developed as communities except for the land in the DR/GR and CREW preserve. **"Take a ride out to the end of Bonita Beach Road. You'll be amazed."**

From: *The Spoke* archives:

10 Years ago

Rotarian in the News

Bonita/Naples Daily News, in two pages of its business section, recently featured Rotarian **Peter Zahner** and his line of sunscreen products, Melan-Sol, which helps block harmful UV radiation.

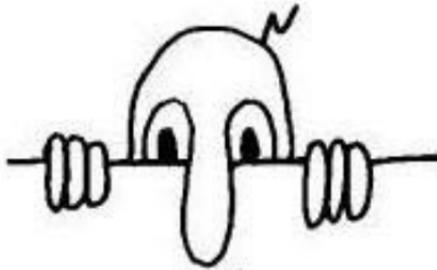
Peter developed the formula two years ago [2005] from 100% natural ingredients following his own bout with skin cancer.

5 Years ago

President **Stephanie** presided. **Susan Schmitt** delivered the invocation. **Rex Sims** led the Pledge of Allegiance and **Richard Garner** led the 4 Way Test. We all collaborated on a rousing rendition of *I've Been Working on the Railroad*.

This Week

**Suzanne Jeffreys, Certified
Nutrition Therapist**



50/50 \$500

43 Cards Left

Including 3 Aces, Joker

**Brad Piotrowski drew
the J♠ for \$5**



The 50/50 is \$500

Birthdays

**Mark Generales Sep 3
Tom Briers Sep 3**

**Rotary Sings:
Battle Hymn of the Republic**

Mine eyes have seen the glory
of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage
where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning
of His terrible swift sword:
His truth is marching on.

Glory, glory, ha!elujah
Glory, glory, ha!elujah
Glory, glory, ha!elujah
His truth is marching on.

This Morning's Invocation

Gracious God, from whose storehouse of abundant blessings we have generously received and by Whose Love we are embraced, we offer the gratitude of our hearts and the labor of our hands.

In the spirit of Labor Day's observance, we are thankful for the ability and opportunity to be workers, helping to make constructive differences in society. In our physical and mental laboring, help us to maintain the high vocational standards as expected of us as Rotarians.

Bless all aspects of our meeting today. As we enjoy food and fellowship, we remember those less fortunate and all who seek to minister sympathetically them. Amen.

Rotary International

Ian Riseley

Rotary Club of Sandringham, Australia

District 6960 Governor

Bobbi Bird

The Rotary Club of Bonita Springs

Area 2 Assistant Governor

Joe Faerber

Estero Rotary Club

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Sergeant-at-Arms Roger Brunswick

Asst. Sgt-at-Arms Bill Banfield

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Claudie Delgado-Feeney,

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Bob Lombardo, Kae Moore,

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2017-2020

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Treasurer; Jason Dolle, Sandy

Hemstead, Steven Slachta, Rex Sims

Trustees



**ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**

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