

# Tarpon Springs Rotary News

Volume 97, Number 1

Service Above Self

July 2022



## Haven provides respite after domestic violence

The Haven at Hope Villages of America provides services through two main avenues, our Emergency Shelter and our Outreach Center.

We have a 24/7 hotline to provide information, counseling, safety planning, and/or intake into our shelter for callers.

Our Emergency Shelter provides a safe and confidential respite for female survivors of domestic violence. We have 36 beds and have both family and "single" rooms (single rooms can have up to four in a room). Two sets of family bedrooms share a bathroom and four "singles" bedrooms share two bathrooms.

In addition, we have an ADA accessible room which can house a family or single. We serve over 300 women and children in our shelter a year. The usual stay is 45 days.

We provide bedding, food, and everything they may need during their stay. We offer assistance to participants in getting housing, employment, counseling, substance abuse services, medical care.

We can provide bus passes, cab services (as needed), auto repairs, gas cards, and other day-to-day forms of assistance.

Our Outreach Center provides assistance with court appearance and filing for injunctions for protection, domestic violence/abuse counseling and support services, human trafficking survivor assistance, elder abuse issues, Hispanic outreach, training and professional education, and education services/support groups for youth

and young people.

We provide services to over 7,000 individuals a year through Outreach (including to male survivors of domestic violence).

We are always excited for, and need, the assistance of our community partners. Without them, we could not provide a

full range of service.

Some of the assistance we need are with gas and food gift cards, personal hygiene products, laundry baskets (which we initially place their bedding and personal care items in when they arrive), flipflops/shower shoes for women and children,

and PJs for women and children.

Either myself or Kirk Ray Smith, our President and CEO will be your speaker on August 11<sup>th</sup>, at noon, at the Tarpons Springs Golf Club.



## DG outlines busy schedule for 6950 clubs

By Troy Willingham  
6950 District Governor

DG Troy has invited the two adjacent districts and the media to this "Countdown to History."

We're planning on a big crowd - and a lot of fun - and a nice media presence.

**11/4** Rotary Foundation Celebration @ the Spartan 2023

**4/29** Club Leadership Training + New Member Bootcamp

**5/18-21** District Conference @ Saddlebrook (think "spring weekend")

**5/19** The Governors' Ball @ Saddlebrook (new celebratory event)

**6/24** Year in Review Celebration! + Awards

My intent is more of a "town hall" and less of an exercise in public speaking.

My goal is to find out how I can help you "build better friendships and goodwill".

I'll call your club president to schedule a visit soon.

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**2022 ROTARY DAY WITH THE RAYS**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 21**  
START TIME: 1:10 P.M.  
GATES OPEN: 11:40 A.M.

Join fellow Rotary Club members from around the area for our Rotary Day with the Rays!  
A portion of every ticket purchased will benefit the Rotary Foundation

All Inclusive Rays Club:	\$170 (we must have a minimum of 12 tickets purchased)
Lower Box with a free Rays hat:	\$50
Rays Party Deck (300 level):	\$28

Deadline to purchase is Friday, August 12th, 2022

**The Rotary Foundation**

**PAYMENT INFORMATION**  
Make checks payable to:  
Bell & Hay Trust Acct  
12300 US 19, Hudson, FL 34667  
For more information, please contact  
Eugene Bell at [kiwimate@msn.com](mailto:kiwimate@msn.com)  
All tickets will be mobile through  
the Ballpark App

Offer not available through Ticketmaster Field to offer. Tickets subject to availability. No refunds or exchanges. Prices subject to change. Any internet prices subject to 6% (FL) charge.



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



**President  
Sue Carson**

## President Sue outlines year

Membership is the theme for August. Our Membership Team, headed by Robin Wikle, is ready to go.

Prospective members will be invited to attend a Rotary 101 meeting to learn more about the club and ask questions.

Invite friends and business colleagues to attend a meeting and/or one of our events. We plan to have greeters, stopped during COVID, again at our club meetings. However, we all are greeters with new people who come to our club as well as with our fellow members to make everyone feel welcome. Extend the hand of friendship and give a smile to all Rotary is about engagement, what we can do to make the world a better place. We are People of Action. The International Theme this year is "Imagine Rotary." Our Community Outreach for August is The Haven We will be collecting lightly used suitcases as well as other items.

### Officers

President ..... Sue Carson  
President Elect . D. Pentrack  
VP..... Tekoa Bean  
Pres Elect Nom. H. Malamatos  
Sgt. At Arms ..... Celia Dubay  
Past President.. Robin Wikle  
Secretary ..... Valerie Cullu  
Treasurer..... Julie Russell

### Board

R. Alderman      M. Koulianos  
C. Davey          R. Sellew  
R. Haddad        W. Wikle  
K. Gallagher

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Clifford M. Brock, Editor*

# BOD agenda packed as triathlon nears

Board members had a plateful for the July meeting.

With the triathlon approaching the board discussed volunteers.

Pres. Sue is also fleshing out committee memberships, she told the board.

The membership committee gave a report on several new members who are going thru the orientation process.

The Rotary Foundation has points available for Paul Harris awards and there is an event at the Rays on August 21st. Our fundraiser, The Tarpon Springs Triathlon, will be held on September 10, please get sponsors for this event and we need many volunteers.

Our Cornhole fundraiser will be held April 1, 2023.

Our Strategic Planning committee is meeting August 1st. The Strategic Plan is done every 3 years. The Financial Review Committee was voted to continue serving.

The Scholarship committee is looking for members if you would like to serve, contact Valerie Cullu.

## Variety of club activities take board notice

Boating Family's next event is Oct. 15 at Caladesi Island. Boats and volunteers are needed. Contact Rtn. Mike Johnson.

The club's district grant will be Nov. 5 with Sleep in Heavenly Peace at The Boys & Girls Club.

"We are also looking in to doing a District Grant or Global

Grant with a Club in Bali," Pres. Sue told the board.

The venue committee will be meeting in the future.

The website in conjunction with Rtn. Abi Holland with Bipper Media will be live soon.

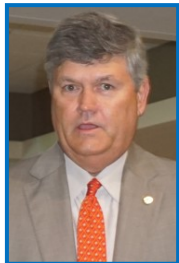
If any members have communications about things going on in the community, should contact Pres. Sue by the last Sunday of the month so she can review and possibly send with her president's letter that goes out on Mondays.

The president told board members she would remind members that any member is welcome to attend board meetings. Board meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 a.m. at IHop on Hwy. 19.

## Member Spotlight

# Trask club leader many years, ways

Rtn. Tom Trask lives in Palm Harbor with my wife, Faith, and two cats. He has two sons, Tommy and Dawson, who currently live in Colorado. Tommy is a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army. He also has two grandsons, Tegan and Talon.



**Tom Trask**

He grew up in Tarpon Springs, attending both middle school and high school in Tarpon, where he played Sponger football.

He is a partner in the law firm of Trask Daigneault, LLP and is city attorney for Tarpon Springs, Oldsmar, Madeira Beach and Belleair Bluffs.

When not working, he enjoys boating, fishing and woodworking. He and Faith also enjoy going to estate sales and spending time with friends.

He joined the Tarpon Springs Rotary Club in 2008 and was the club's president in 2012-2013.

He has been on the board of directors on and off since joining the club and am currently the administration chair under Pres. Sue Carson.

Over the years he has enjoyed participating in various causes and fundraisers including the Tarpon Springs Rotary Triathlon, meal packing, parades, cemetery clean-ups, etc.

"I look forward to retirement and being able to devote more of my time to Rotary events and causes," he says.

"When I initially joined Rotary

I mainly did so for business and networking purposes," Tom remembers. "I quickly learned that Rotary is so much more than that. I have formed true and valuable friendships and received support from fellow Rotarians at times in my life when that support was greatly needed."

He is proud of the work that Rotary does not only worldwide, but in the community.

"I am honored to call myself a Rotarian," Tom says.

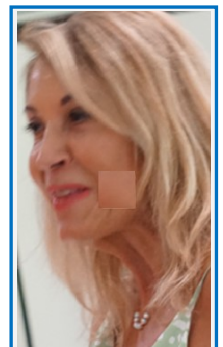
## Rotary faces are happy faces



**Bob Wilson**



**Dave Tobey**



**Jill Sanchez**



Wrap Up, July 21

## Spotlight on young scholars, club meets awardees



### Scholars presented to club

"Service Above Self" is not just a motto in RCTS. It is a whole scholarship program. Three Tarpon Springs students, two from the collegiate high school and one from Tarpon High, can attest to that.

The club recognized students with a special scholarship awardee luncheon in June.

In addition to the "Service" awardees, the club recognized its district scholarship winner, Hal Marion. The club is also investing in the future, recognizing three of these outstanding young people.



### SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

#### High School "Service Above Self" Scholarship

Colton LeGath - St Pete Collegiate High  
Dulce Charrez - St Pete Collegiate High  
Jackie Kassarian - Tarpon Springs High (16 year old - patient of Justin Tello, he found out today at the meeting)

#### Rotary District Scholarship

Hal Marion - Florida Institute of Technology

#### Take Stock In Children Scholarships

Izavier Finely - 5th Grade TS Fundamental Elementary (TSIC)  
Maryam Shehata - Tarpon Springs High (TSIC)  
Jayla Jones - Tarpon Springs High (TSIC)

## Area sets meeting events

Past Rotary International Director, Zones 33-34 Stephanie Urchick announced that later this month, the Rotary Works team will launch a new program in the initiative called "Club 27."

Club 27 is a monthly zoom meeting for any Zone Rotarian or Rotaractor who is in an active career or job search and would like an opportunity to ask specific questions about his or her situation.

Most times, answers and suggestions will come from any or all participants on the call, as well as from the host. The zoom meetings will always occur on the 27<sup>th</sup> of the month at 7 p.m., and last up to 60 minutes.

If you are interested in joining this unique Zoom oppor-

tunity, please register for Club 27 on the Rotary Works website,

<https://rotaryshares.org/Club27>

The application will ask you to complete your name, Rotary Club or Rotaract Club name, contact information for your club [President or other Club Officer phone or email] and your email.

You must be in good standing with your club, and your club must be located in Zones 33 or 34. Once our team has verified your member status, we'll notify you and you'll receive the Zoom invite and login instructions.

We look forward to your active participation in this exciting new program.

Wrap Up, July 14

## Sponger, Rotarian helps club understand disease



**Tarpon Sunset Rotarian Foti Koulianos explains Alzheimer's to club members. Koulianos is a Sponger and St. Pete graduate.**

### Rtn. Sentella returns to club after absence

Rtn. Gene Sentella attended

this week, and Rtn. John Estock gave a happy dollar for his return.

Gene was Estock's Rotary sponsor.

The week's meeting was a reunion of sorts.

Foti Koulianos, USF Development Officer in the Health Neuroscience Institute was mentored by Rtn. Milton Smith when he became a Tarpon Springs firefighter.

Recently inducted into the Rotary Club of Tarpon Sunset, Foti is now a fellow Rotarian.

He's a Tarponite and former Sponger who graduated 2005, a St. Pete College alumnus, a retired firefighter/paramedic and a father to three girls.

He joined the RCTS 5K walk in May to raise funds for Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust (CART), and he talked this week about USF's efforts at the Byrd Alzheimer's Institute with studies around the prevention of Alzheimer's.

He also talked about the extensive caregiver resources provided by USF Health. (see attached information in case you want to use something).

Foti gave a happy dollar to Milton Smith, who mentored him in his early days as a firefighter.

Alzheimer's is associated with genetic, lifestyle and environmental factors that affect the brain cells. At the initial stage of the disease, forgetfulness and mild confusion is seen.

Over time, recent memories also start erasing. Advanced stage symptoms vary from person to person.

Current treatment approaches focus on maintaining the mental function, managing behavioral symptoms, and slow or delay the disease progression.

"It's always great when you see family succeed, and Foti has done just that with his job at USF. Foti has done such a great job at USF and I know this is just the beginning for him. I can't wait to see what the future holds for him, and I am very proud of his accomplishments."

### District grant promotes heavenly sleep

President Sue Carson has announced that our District Grant will be Sleep in Heavenly Peace. We will be making beds for children that are without beds. It is scheduled for November 5, 2022, at the Boys & Girls Club in Tarpon Springs.

District grants are awarded to clubs for local projects often combined with efforts from other clubs in the area.

Contributions to RI are held for three years and a portion is returned for districts to award to clubs locally.

## Local club gets new leader who knows town, club

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Suncoast is shaping leaders each day, and new Tarpon Springs club director, Andrew Nikiforakis, is a prime example of this.

Nikiforakis is a Tarpon Springs native and club alum. His knowledge of Tarpon Springs guides the work he does at the club.

He uses leadership and teamwork skills he developed here in his new role.

The club location has been a staple in the community since the 1960s.

Donated by the Rotary Club, the building has been utilized as a Boys & Girls Club location since the mid 1970s.



**Andrew Nikiforakis**

The club has undergone many great changes over the last few years. Support from local businesses and officials has transformed the club.

Murals by a local artist and donated external lighting brighten the area, making it appear even more warm, safe and inviting to all that pass by.

Nikiforakis recalls his time at the club as a child and how it shaped his future goals, leading him into nonprofit work.

He has worked in nonprofit for the last five years. "When I look back on my time at the club as a child, I remember how safe and fun the environment felt," he says.

While the club's main focus is to provide a safe and fun atmosphere to kids who need it most, the club now provides structure leading students to excel in their lives.

"The clubs focused heavily on being a safe, fun space for kids and was a place I looked forward to spending my days."

The close-knit community of Tarpon Springs provides a special opportunity for students to connect with one another and develop long-lasting friendships.

"As a very shy kid, the club really helped me break out of my shell," states Nikiforakis. "So many words shared with me at the club influenced my life today."

As previous Tarpon Springs Club Director, Mark Sofia passes the torch, Nikiforakis acknowledges the next steps in contributing to the legacy of this long-standing Club location. "The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Suncoast have welcomed me with open arms. I like to view myself as a steward of an environment that will be here long after me," says Nikiforakis.

"For as long as I can remember, this location has been a staple in our community, and I am working to keep it up to par for generations to come."



# Family boating event draws more than 90 kids



## Triathlon enters 36th year of service

Tarpon Springs has supported the Tarpon Springs Triathlon for the past 36 years.

It's the consistent support of local businesses local businesses that help make the Tarpon Springs Triathlon a safe successful sold out race year after year.

As a result of over 33 years of racing, Tarpon Rotary has invested all the proceeds, exceeding \$500,000, to support, among others:

- Tarpon school programs, including chorus, culinary and Future Farmers of America;
- Youth organizations, such as the Boys and Girls Club, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Little League and Youth Football/Cheerleading;
- College Scholarships to deserving high school seniors; Doorways Scholarships to middle school students (who are also mentored by Rotarians through school); and other club projects.

Many of the 140, four-year scholarship recipients are now grown and have shown their appreciation by returning to help with Rotary events, participating in the triathlon and joining local Rotary Clubs.

Tarpon Rotary is also involved with the Rotary grant process to leverage club fund raising with matches from Rotary International as well as from other Rotary clubs, other organizations and individuals to support scholarship and local and

international projects.

Every year RCTS receives positive feedback from athletes regarding its friendly volunteers, beautiful race venue and safe course, making the Tarpon Springs Triathlon one of the best and longest standing races in the area.

The Rotary Club of Tarpon Springs feels very strongly that it is more important than ever to offer the people of our community a healthy event like this they can participate in an effort to promote healthy living.

Much of the triathlon work is done by volunteers. Rotarians support the effort for the race, run the first Saturday after Labor Day.

Several hundred community members also turn out to help with the event.

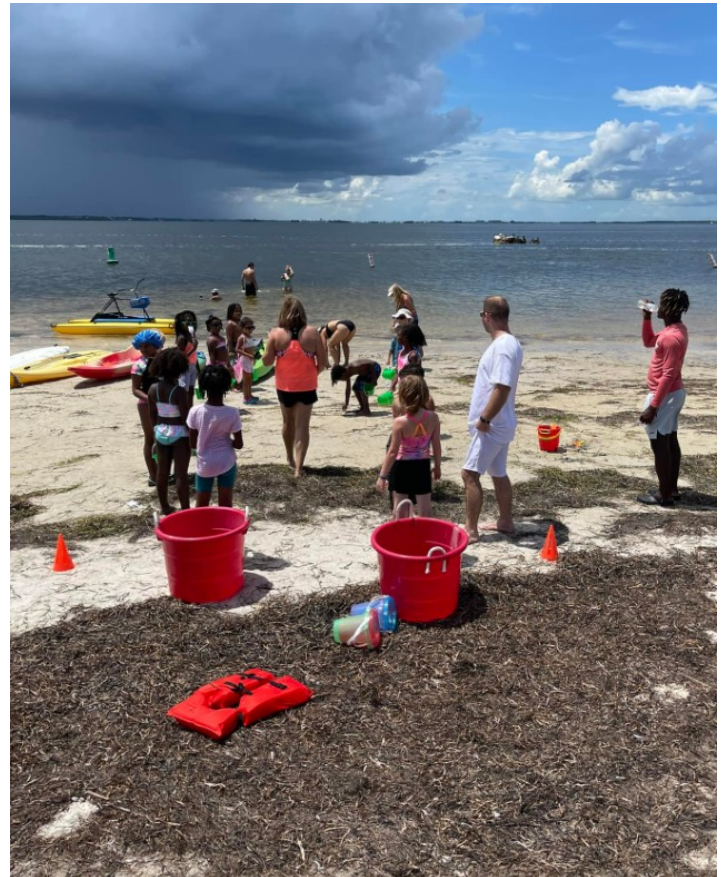
Anyone who would like to help can contact the race director, Celia Dubay. Her contact information is below.

## Triathlon offers sponsor info

*Sponsors are welcome and needed. We ask you please make your check payable to: The Rotary Club of Tarpon Springs and mail to:*

*The Rotary Club of Tarpon Springs, P.O. Box #234, Tarpon Springs, FL 34688*

*For more information about the event please contact Celia Dubay, Rotarian Volunteer Race Director, (813) 690- 8989 CoachCeliDubay@gmail.com*





Wrap up July 7

## Pres. Sue outlines activities for upcoming year



Pres. Sue outlines the many club and district activities members may be involved with in the upcoming year. Members

have always been active and the president encourages club members to remain so.



**ABOVE:** Rtn. Mike prepares club for kids' boating event. More than 40 volunteers will assist.

**RIGHT:** Rtns. Robin, Mike and Sherry get checked in by Ex-ec. Secy. Karen.



Submit newsletter information to: [newsletter4294@outlook.com](mailto:newsletter4294@outlook.com)

## International Wrap up

# Rotary International to get first woman president



By **Ryan Hyland**

Jennifer E. Jones, a member of the Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland, Ontario, Canada, has been nominated to become Rotary International's president for 2022-23, a groundbreaking selection that will make her the first woman to hold that office in the organization's 115-year history.

Jones will officially become president-nominee on 1 October if no other candidates challenge her.

Jones says she sees Rotary's Action Plan as a catalyst for increasing Rotary's impact.

"As we reflect upon our new strategic priorities, we could have never envisioned that *our ability to adapt* would become our North Star during what is inarguably the most profound time in recent history,"

Jones said in her vision statement. "Silver linings rise out of the most challenging circumstances. Using metric-driven goals, I will harness this historic landscape to innovate, educate, and communicate opportunities that reflect today's reality."

As the first woman to be nominated to be president, Jones understands how important it is to follow through on Rotary's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Statement.

"I believe that diversity, equity, and inclusion ... begins at the top and for us to realize growth in female membership and members under the age of 40 — these

demographics need to see their own reflection in leadership," Jones said. "I will champion double-digit growth in both categories while never losing sight of our entire family."

Jones is founder and president of Media Street Productions Inc., an award-winning media company in Windsor.

She was chair of the board of governors of the University of Windsor and chair of the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce.

She has been recognized for her service with the YMCA Peace Medallion, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, and Wayne State University's Peacemaker of the Year Award, a first for a Canadian. Jones holds a doctor of laws (LL.D.).

A current Rotary Foundation trustee, Jones has been a Rotary member since 1997 and has served Rotary as RI vice president, director, training leader, committee chair, moderator, and district governor.

She played a lead role in Rotary's re-branding effort by serving as chair of the Strengthening Rotary's Advisory Group.

She is the co-chair of the End Polio Now Countdown to History Campaign Committee, which aims to raise \$150 million for polio eradication efforts.

Jones recently led the successful #RotaryResponds telethon, which raised critical funds for COVID-19 relief and was

viewed by more than 65,000. Jones has also received Rotary International's Service Above Self Award and The Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service.

She and her husband, Nick Krayacich, are members of The Rotary Foundation's Arch Klumph Society, Paul Harris Society, and the Bequest Society.

The members of the Nominating Committee for the 2022-23 President of Rotary International are: Robert L. Hall, Dunwoody, Metro Atlanta, Georgia, USA; Bradford R. Howard Oakland Uptown, California, USA; Per Høyen, Aarup, Gelsted, Denmark; Peter Iblher, Nürnberg-Reichswald, Zirndorf, Germany; Ashok Mahajan, Mulund, Mah., India; Sam Okudzeto, Accra, Accra, Ghana; Eduardo San Martín Carreño, Majadahonda, Madrid, Spain; Takeshi Matsumiya, Chigasaki-Shonan, Chigasaki Kanagawa, Japan; Michael K. McGovern (secretary), Cape Elizabeth, Maine, USA; José Alfredo Pretoni, São Paulo-Sul, São Paulo, Brazil; Saowalak Rattanaich, Bang Rak, Bangkok, Thailand; Hendreen Dean Rohrs, Langley Central, Surrey, British Columbia, Canada; Kenneth M. Schuppert, Jr (chair), Decatur, Alabama, USA; Ravindra P. Sehgal, Belur, West Bengal, India; Noel Trevaskis, Merimbula, Tura Beach, Australia; Giuseppe Viale, Genova, Genova, Italy; and Chang-Gon Yim, Daegu-West, Daegu, Korea.