

Tarpon Springs Rotary News

Volume 96, Number 5

Service Above Self

November 2022



Happy Holidays to all club members, families

Election to determine officers & directors



We will be electing 4 Officers and 5 Directors to serve on the 2023-2024 Board for our Club. The elections will be held December 1st during the Club's Assembly Meeting. If you have interest in serving please reach out to President Sue Carson so she can add you to the slate.



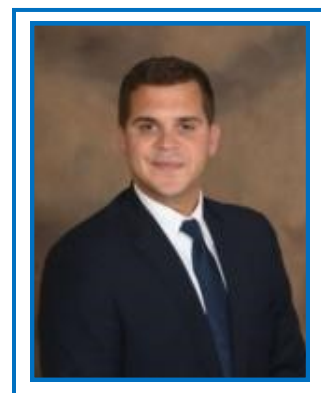
Milton Smith
President Elect



Julie Russell
Treasurer



Abigail Hoffman
Secretary

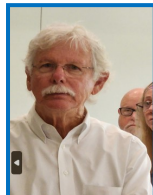


William Wikle
Sergaent-At-Arms

8 Rotarians up for 5 Director Positions



Tom Trask



Eddie Hoffman



Valerie Cullu



Nate Hatzie



John Estock



Chris Dufala



Jacqui Turner



Christina Davy



**Come to lunch December 1st
and participate in our election.**

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**Club holiday
Season
packed
with activities**

□ November 24
□ December 1
□ December 2
□ December 3
□ December 8
□ December 9
□ December 10
□ December 15
□ December 22
□ December 29

No Meeting HAPPY THANKSGIVING
Area Ministerial Recognition/Club Assembly
(Friday) Boat Parade
(Saturday) Bell Ringing for Salvation Army
Tarpon Springs HS Chorale Group
(Friday) Set up for Christmas Parade
(Saturday) Christmas Parade
Jasmine Scott, Recycling Pinellas County
Holiday Luncheon/Fellowship
Social

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



By Sue Carson

This is Disease Prevention and Treatment month. Rotary's top priority is eradication of polio, but our members take on far greater responsibilities to fight disease.

They set up health camps and training facilities in undeveloped countries and in communities struggling with HIV/AIDS and malaria.

They also design and build the infrastructure for doctors, nurses, governments, and partners to reach the one in six people in the world who cannot afford to pay for healthcare. There are numerous projects around the world supported by clubs and the Foundation.

The world relies on Rotary to tackle these global challenges, and to set an example for others to follow.

RCTS has collected \$1,000 for polio and have donated to that cause with coins and cash in the blue buckets.

The club has a busy month in December with the boat parade, Salvation Army Bell Ringing, Christmas parade.

Club growth continues, four new members added to club

Anthony Federico—Anthony and his wife live in New Port Rich-ey and own a new restaurant in Tarpon Springs called The Poke Company. He would like to work with Rotary on community outreach projects, and other business owners to support our community. Anthony is sponsored by Harry Malamatos

Preston Tagaras—Preston grew up in Tarpon Springs, and is a Sponger. He played youth sports and enjoyed the benefits of living in a small supportive community. Preston is a financial advisor for Raymond James. He has strong skills in planning and logistics and financial expertise. As a prospective Rotarian Preston can host and work fundraising event. He is sponsored by Harry Malamatos.

Andrea Rogers—Andrea and her husband recently moved back to Tarpon Springs. She is a realtor, and has been a small business owner for most of her life. Andrea would like the opportunity to give back to the community her time and resources. She believes Rotary's mission of Service above Self, and wants to promote integrity and advance world understanding. Sue Carson is her sponsor.

Chris Shield—Chris Shield is a retired software engineer. He lives in Tarpon Springs with his wife Alena. Chris looks forward to community outreaches where he can volunteer and work with his hands. He is a team leader, and enjoys people. He has already enjoyed working at the triathlon. Chris sponsor is Ed Knighton.

Board approves two new members

The board approved two new members to be inducted.

BOD also received PHF (Paul Harris Fellow) pins for Jean(+3) and Jerry Coleman (+4) at the Nov. 17 meeting.

The board voted to wave the four meetings to accept nominations from the floor due to hurricane *Nicole*, nominations were accepted at three meetings. The vote will be Dec. 1.

The 2023 Triathlon will possibly be held on 30. We are waiting or final approval from the city.

The club purchased a Rotary wheel inflatable. Donations are being accepted as this was not in the budget but needed for many activities. Please see Sue Carson if you would like to donate.

There was a discussion about using the Harold Haftel money to improve the parking lot at the Boys & Girls Club and possibly also do a shed.

All members are invited to attend any board meeting. Meetings are held the third Thursday of every month.



Rtn. Ron thanks commission and mayor for their award of "Outstanding Citizens" to him and wife Patricia.

Member Spotlight

Mayor declares Haddad ambassador

With a roar of approval from the crowd, Mayor Costa Vatikiotis declared Rtn. Ron Haddad the "Swiss ambassador" of city hall.

Haddad and his wife Patricia were honored at the city commissioner's meeting for their more than 25 years of "selfless contributions" to the city and its people.

Mayor Costa read a long list of contributions the Haddads have made in their years of service.

The mayor then noted that Rtn. Ron is an "...integral part

of the community, earning the respect of the community through years of service...[earning] a reputation of always putting the good of the community first."

The Haddads were noted for their "selfless service" and recognized as an example for others to follow.

The commissioners noted the contributions the Haddads have made to the quality of life in town.

Of particular note was the Haddads' work "in helping to improve the quality

of life in our community."

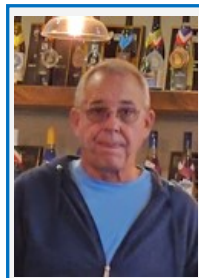
The mayor said in his remarks that he had never heard Rtn. Ron say a controversial word or anything bad about anyone.

Ron said he was "overwhelmed and totally surprised" by the recognition.

Ever modest, Patricia said it is "an honor to be the wife of Ron." She did not mention the hours volunteering as a library board member or other contributions she has made to the city over the years.

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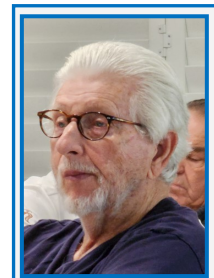
Rotary faces are happy faces



J. Coleman



M. Brock



J. Gallagher

City fetes Haddads for years of selfless contribution

Cont. from p.2

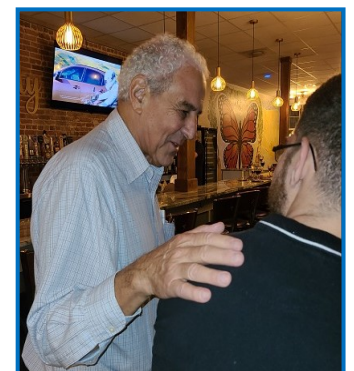
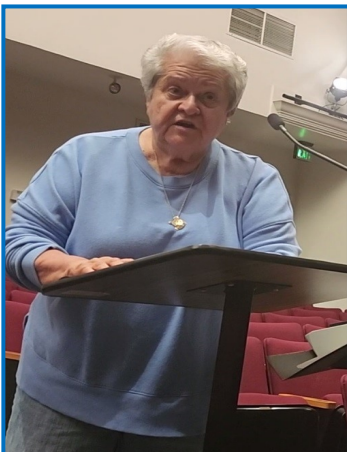
After the commissioners made the presentation, a group of RCTS members headed to the Wine Society to congratulate Ron and Patricia.

Rtn. Ron is a past president and has been club Rotarian of the year three times.

More than 20 Rotarians, friends and well wishers greeted the couple.

After the fete, Patricia Haddad announced she would apply for membership in RCTS.

ABOVE RIGHT: Flight commander Patricia samples
MIDDLE RIGHT: Commissioners make comments
LOWER RIGHT: Rtn. Ron greets Kyle Rees
LOWER MIDDLE: Patricia enjoys evening with Carl vom Egan
BELOW: Former mayor and Rotarian Anita Protus congratulates Ron
BOTTOM: IPP Tekoa shows Ron affection



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Bed Build



Turnout was high for the club's first day to build beds for kids with no real bed to sleep in.

Sleep in Heavenly peace has built 100s of beds for underprivileged kids.

The package includes the bed, pillow cases, pillow, blankets and sheets. Pres. Jim Bakers says it transforms lives.

TOP: Eighteen Rotarians worked to make life better for area kids.

RIGHT: No child in Pinellas County will sleep on the floor after more than 50 volunteers worked through a hat Saturday morning building beds for them.

FAR RIGHT: Pres. Jim Baker, Sleep in Heavenly Peace outlines day for volunteers.



Board Wrap Up, November 5

Volunteers turn our 22 beds so kids sleep in peace



LEFT: A cattle trough stains each bedframe as it comes off the highly organized production line

BELOW: A young face concentrates to make precision holes with one of several drill presses set up for the project at the Boys and Girls Club

BOTTOM LEFT: PDG Mike supports the motto "No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in My Town"

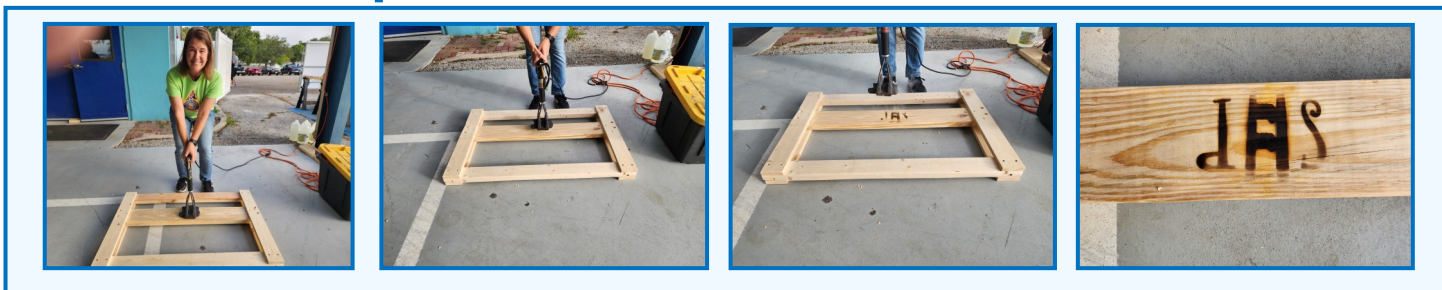
BOTTOM RIGHT: Radial arm saw makes short work of rail construction



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Board Wrap Up, November 5

No child sleeps on the floor as Rotarians build

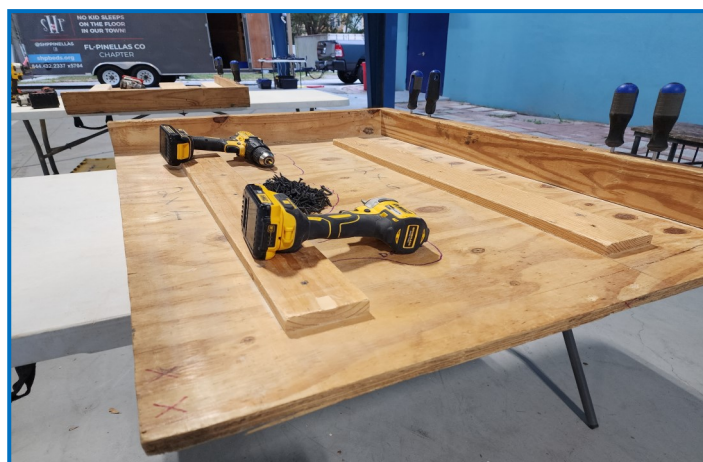


ABOVE: Brandin' Betty [AKA Rtn. Tekoa], fresh from the ranch in Wyoming, put the mark on another bed

RIGHT: Most carpenters only require one sander per board. Rtn. Ernie does double time.

BELOW: The system used to produce beds is highly organized

BELOW LEFT: Multiple chop saws cut pieces precisely
BELOW RIGHT: Jigs and forms meant each bed had the same configuration as every other bed made



Club recognizes sponsors, welcomes new members



Nearly 60 Rotarians, triathlon sponsors and guests fill the Tarpon Springs Yacht Club for the Nov. 17 meeting. Pres. Sue had a full agenda for the day with sponsor recognition, new member initiation and regular club business.



Sponsors Harry Malamatos, Sue Carson and Ed Knighton gather to pin the club's four newest members (see page 2 for coverage). Rtn. Harry sponsored two of the club's newest members. After hitting a high of more than 100 members, the club shrank during COVID but membership is coming back.



After a nearly three-year hiatus the club was back at the Yacht Club for its weekly meeting. Executive Secy. Karen signs members in for the event. Rtn. Al is closely watched by Rtn. George with a backdrop of birthday decorations for a later Yacht Club event. The club underwent re-decoration after a sale a couple of years ago.

Rtn. Nilsson visit nets \$133 for Alzheimer research

Where Rtn. Randi Nilsson's passion lies is not hard to spot.

She was at PETS right after her father's death from Alzheimer's and heard about the Center for Alzheimer's Research.

"I said I am in 150 percent," she remembered.

Rtn. Randi outlined the horror of Alzheimer's for families. When she asked members who had had friends or family diagnosed with dementia or Alzheimer's nearly every hand in the room went up.

The affliction is very wide-

spread.

More than 6 million Americans live with the disease, according to the Alzheimer's Association.

Age is the greatest of these three risk factors. The percentage of people with Alzheimer's dementia increases dramatically with age:

- 5 percent of people age 65 to 74
- 13.1 percent of people age 75 to 84
- 33.2 percent of people age 85 or older



Swedes return to visit after long COVID miss

COVID kept them home for nearly three years, but Rtns. Pia and Mikael Andreason finally got the opportunity to visit the club again.

Prior to the pandemic, the couple made frequent visits to their condo in Tarpon Springs.

Part of those visits involved attending RCTS weekly meetings. But, COVID stopped that.

Both presidents of their club in Lulea, Sweden, Pia and Mikael have been very active in Rotary.

They hope to continue their visits and have RCTS members visit them in Sweden. The northern lights are a particular draw recently.

"Now, I have a boat and can take visitors out in the summer," Mikael said.



Rtns. Pia and Mikael Andreason visit again after hiatus

Social kicks off holiday season with flair

Holiday cheer got off to a good start at the November Rotary social Nov. 2.

More than 20 RCTS members gathered at Blackbeard's for fellowship and discussion.

President Sue used the occasion as a fundraiser for Polio Plus. Some \$600 were collected for the continued fight against polio.



ABOVE: Rtn. Robin looks skeptical
LEFT: About 20 RCTS members enjoyed a convivial evening.

International



By Deepak Kapur

One in 200 polio infections can cause permanent paralysis, but thanks to the polio vaccine, 20 million people are walking today who would have otherwise been paralyzed by polio. Ultimately, it is through immunization that Rotary and its Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) partners will achieve a polio-free world.

Thanks to aggressive vaccination campaigns, developed regions, including the Americas, were certified wild polio-free in 1994, and Europe in 2002.

But it was an journey to eliminate the disease in India, a developing nation that was hyper-endemic with polio in the 1990s.

So, how did a country that once accounted for more than 60 percent of global polio cases reach and maintain a polio-free status?

India focused on maintaining herd immunity through immunization, and second, the country maintained surveillance practices to catch silent circulation

of the virus. Although India was certified

Earlier this year, the virus re-emerged in developed, polio-free regions, including the United States (New York) and the United Kingdom (London), underscoring the urgency of stopping.

Considering increased global trade, a return to international travel, population migration, and the contagious nature of polio, international polio outbreaks are concerning for India.

Despite India's success in eliminating polio, data from India's Ministry of Health and

Family Welfare 2019-2021 National Family Health Survey, (NFHS-5), 2019–21, shows that we cannot be complacent in regard to immunization. Before the survey was conducted, 77 percent of children aged 1-2 years received all basic vaccinations.

While 92 percent of children aged 1-2 years received the first dose of the polio vaccine, only 81 percent of that age group received a third dose.

Additionally, approximately 4 percent of this demographic received no vaccinations at all. Due to disruptions caused by

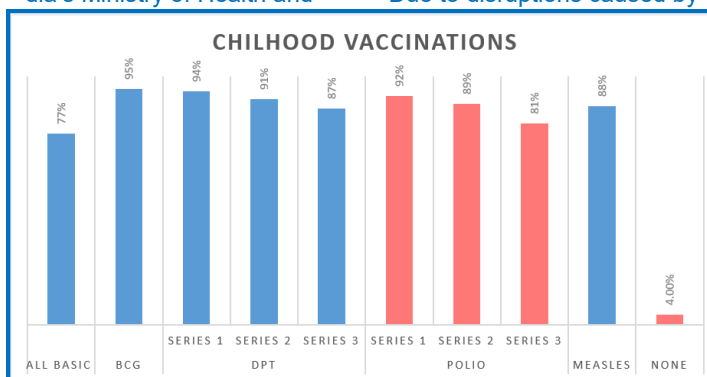
the pandemic, 25 million children worldwide missed vital immunizations in 2021.

Addressing declining immunization GPEI's 2022-2026 polio eradication strategy aims to further integrate polio activities with essential health services and routine immunization, among many adapted approaches and procedures.

Given that vaccinations cards were available for only 85 percent of children aged 1-2 years in the NFHS-5 survey, digital records will allow parents and health systems to keep better tabs on the immunization status of children in the country.

GPEI partners, and all sectors of society must ensure that polio eradication through continued immunization remains a global public health.

Deepak Kapur is the Chairman of the Rotary International's India National PolioPlus Committee and has been at the helm of India's Polio eradication campaign since 2002. Views expressed are personal.



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