

# Monthly Newsletter



## Message from Heidi:

Hi Everyone,

As we welcome the fresh energy of spring—a season of renewal, growth, and new beginnings—we're reminded of the incredible impact we can have when we come together with purpose. The Rotary International Foundation continues to be a powerful force for good around the world, turning our shared commitment into meaningful, measurable impact. Through the generosity of Rotarians and supporters, the Foundation funds life-changing initiatives—from providing clean water and improving sanitation, to supporting education, promoting peace, and strengthening communities in need.

One of Rotary's most remarkable achievements is its leadership in the global fight to eradicate polio. What once affected hundreds of thousands of children each year has now been reduced to just a handful of cases worldwide. This progress is a testament to decades of dedication, partnership, and unwavering belief that together, we can end polio for good. Every contribution we make brings us one step closer to that goal and reflects the true spirit of Rotary—uniting for good and creating lasting change across the globe.

*Heidi*



### In this newsletter you can expect:

---

Other  
Happenings

---

Member  
Birthdays &  
Anniversaries

---

Speaker  
Highlights

---

Upcoming  
Events

---

Member  
Spotlight

---

Rotary  
International  
Foundation

---




## Other Happenings:

- Our 2026 Pints With a Purpose fundraiser events have come to an end. A special thanks to all who supported the kick-offs at our six sponsoring breweries, as well as Oktoberfest, Bonita Springs Brew Fest, and the VW Holiday Bazaar, especially the people who helped Anke Tracey “man the booth”: Joerg Meyer, Justine Braveman, Barbara Meyer and Al Rigoni. Watch for announcements for our summer socials at the breweries.
- On March 13<sup>th</sup>, several Club members helped Brad Robinson celebrate his special Grateful Dead birthday. Our Club was able to raise \$585 by selling 50/50 raffle tickets that night.
- Due to work conflicts, Justin Braveman, Dave Lockard, and Paul Udouj have decided to step down from Rotary, but said they'd still help out when they can. They will be missed.
- Beginning this month, our weekly club meetings will now be available via Zoom. You can log on at 11:45 am. If there is no one logged onto the Zoom meeting at 12:10PM, we will end the Zoom portion. To join via Zoom, use the following link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82664139672?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82664139672?pwd=Wpxhnc8Y60GMVQ2ASAnN4UK3r2GJNd.1)

[pwd=Wpxhnc8Y60GMVQ2ASAnN4UK3r2GJNd.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82664139672?pwd=Wpxhnc8Y60GMVQ2ASAnN4UK3r2GJNd.1)




**Happy Birthday**

Wishing all the best to:

4/15 - Mitchell Hakoum

4/17 - Brian Alosi

“The more you praise and celebrate your life, the more there is in life to celebrate” ~ Oprah Winfrey



**Happy Anniversary**

4/2 - Gary Dworkin

4/11 - Robert Grady

4/14 - Mike Rusk

“Rotary changes us and those we server. I believe we can change the world one life at a time.”  
~ Paul Harris

---

## Speaker Highlights



Dr. Dawn Belamarich

Dr. Dawn Belamarich, President & CEO of **Collaboratory**, presented on how their regional community foundation is committed to bringing Southwest Florida together to solve all of our major social problems by 2040. Find out more here: [Collaboratory.org](https://www.collaboratory.org)



Dr. Kelly Davis

Dr. Davis, VP of R&D North America for **Curium Pharma** (and daughter of Kim Anderson), gave a very interesting presentation about **Radiopharmaceutical Therapy**. This emerging tool to fight cancer was fascinating and will have a big impact on how we treat cancer in the future.



Lisa Koutny

**Save the Manatee** - Lisa Koutny, a volunteer for the organization, gave a very interesting and informative presentation about manatees, the challenges they are facing, and how their organization is helping them. You can find out more by visiting [SaveTheManatee.org](https://www.savethemanatee.org)

## Interact

**Have you heard of Interact?** Rotary Interact is a youth service program designed for students ages 12–18. Interact clubs empower young people to develop leadership skills, build friendships, and take meaningful action in their communities. Through locally organized service projects and global initiatives, Interactors address issues such as education, health, the environment, and social equity.

**Did you know that our club supports Interact clubs at local schools?** As a part of our club's continued pledge of supporting Youth Services, we collaborate with the Bonita Sunset Rotary Club and support Interact clubs at the Gulf Coast High School as well as the Bonita Springs Charter School.

**How do we support these clubs?** A key component of a successful Interact club is the Rotary mentor/advisor. This individual provides guidance, continuity, and support. The mentor works with the faculty advisor and helps students plan and execute projects, ensures alignment with Rotary values, and offers leadership coaching without taking over decision-making.

**What type of time commitment is there?** Typically, each of the two interact clubs which we support meet once a month for about an hour. Realistically, an additional hour of your time is needed for prep and follow up with the student officers or the faculty advisor.

Are you interested in helping guide and mentor the youth in our community to become future leaders? Reach out to Joerg Meyer

## Upcoming Speakers & Events

- **4/2** - Donnie Keller - Wilson's Fit Futures
- **4/9** - tbd
- **4/16** - tbd
- **4/23** - Leah Mason, PhD - Literacy Council Gulf Coast
- **4/30** - Assembly





## Member Spotlight - Sam Black

When I moved here from St. Louis in 2010, I wanted to continue with the service/community work I had done in St. Louis. There I worked for 5 years helping Variety, The Children's Charity manage their annual telethon, and I managed the Phone Bank (since my career expertise is in Call Center management). Also, I didn't know anyone here in Naples and wanted to do Service and make friends. I'm so glad I joined this particular Rotary, which for a while was called the Noon group and I've made fabulous friends.

Over the years I've worked on some significant fundraising projects for our club. I was very involved and active in Taste of Bonita for about seven years, coordinating the vendors and working with the chair to make sure it ran smoothly. In recent years, I've also done the Literacy initiative reading to the third graders and food packing for Cafe of Life. My husband, Jon Pipkin, has worked with me on all 3 of those projects too.

We are approaching our 30th wedding anniversary and enjoying our life here in Florida. We love to travel and have been to wonderful places over the past 30 years - a few favorites recently were the tulips in Keukenhof and Iguazu Falls in Brazil/Argentina. We look forward to seeing many more destinations! In my travels, I always looked for a great bead store. I love to play tennis and for about 15 years, I created original glass beads - Lampwork- to make them into beautiful jewelry. For 10 years, I ran my Design-Your-Gift store here in Bonita Springs and held parties for customers to create/design their own beautiful jewelry.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ROTARY CLUB OF BONITA NAPLES</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MEETING THURSDAYS AT NOON</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">BonitaNaplesRotary.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Stage Restaurant 9144 Bonita Beach Rd Bonita Springs, FL 34135</p>



For anyone who's curious, we wanted to share information about two very important foundations in our club. This month, we'll tell you about the [Rotary International Foundation](#) and next month we'll cover [The Rotary Club of Bonita Naples Foundation](#).

**The Rotary International Foundation** transforms your gifts into service projects that change lives both close to home and around the world. The Rotary International Foundation helps Rotary members to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace by improving health, providing quality education, improving the environment, and alleviating poverty. Part of your quarterly dues (\$50/quarter) goes to the Rotary International Foundation. That money is invested by Rotary and 50% comes back to our District 3 years later as District Grants that clubs can apply for. The other 50% funds Global Grants applications. Types of Grants funded by Rotary International include District and Global grants:

**District grants** enable clubs and districts to address needs in their communities and abroad. Districts may request up to 50% of their District Designated Fund (DDF) for one grant annually to support district- and club-sponsored activities, such as vocational training teams, scholarships, service projects, and youth programs that align with the Foundation's mission. Currently, The Rotary Club of Bonita Naples uses our District Grants for Youth Services projects and Deaf and Hard of Hearing training. In the past we have used the District Grants for Meal packing projects, Disaster Relief projects, Books for Kids project, Community Literacy projects, Feeding the Hungry (refrigerated truck purchase), and Scholarships.

The total amount of money that we can request for District Grants, each year, is predicated by the amount of money in total that we contribute to Rotary International Foundation yearly. **For example, if we, as a club, contribute \$14,000 in the Rotary year 2025-2026, we can request a \$7,000 District Grant match 3 years later.** This year 2025-2026 we were allocated \$6,435 total DDF from the District based on our contributions to RI 3 years ago. We applied for and received a District Grant of \$13,700 for a Bonita Naples Youth Services Grant. We used \$6,200 from our District DDF account (total allocated to us was \$6,435) and the Bonita Naples Rotary Club is responsible for the additional \$7,500. We also joined a Deaf and Hard of Hearing training Grant that was authored by the Fort Meyers club. The total we contributed to this grant was the remainder of the allocated DDF, or \$235, and \$250 from the Bonita Naples club. The money that our club contributes (\$7,500 and \$250) to these District Grants comes from money that we raise at our fundraising events.

**Global grants** offer clubs and districts opportunities to participate in strategically focused, high-impact activities. These grants fund large-scale and international service projects, vocational training teams, and graduate and postgraduate scholarships that have sustainable, measurable outcomes in one or more of Rotary's areas of focus.

***Stay tune next month as we explain our Rotary Club of Bonita Naples Foundation.***

Let Anke Tracey know if there are other topics we should cover.