

Monthly Newsletter



Message from Heidi:

As we wrap up the year and step into a new one, I want to say a heartfelt thank you to our amazing Rotary members. This year was filled with great energy, teamwork, and impact—from fun fundraisers like Oktoberfest and Pints for Purpose to meaningful service projects that truly make a difference. Together, we helped address food insecurity by supporting Café of Life and Bonita Springs Assistance Office; invested in our youth through Interact, Rotakids, YMCA Little Libraries, and Josh the Otter water safety; cared for our environment alongside Healthy Earth; changed lives through the Wheelchair and Gift of Life Foundations; and increased our support of the Rotary International Foundation—extending our impact locally and around the world. None of this happens without your time, generosity, and enthusiasm. As we look ahead, I'm excited about what we can accomplish together in the coming year. Thank you for showing up, pitching in, and living the spirit of Rotary. Let's continue to UNITE for GOOD in the year ahead.

Heidi

UNITE FOR GOOD

In this newsletter you can expect:

Other
Happenings

Member
Birthdays

Anniversaries

Speaker
Highlights

Upcoming
Events

Member
Spotlight



Other Happenings:

As we begin a new year, and get ready to launch our second annual Pints With a Purpose fundraiser, we wanted to share with you how the first year went and what changes we're making for 2026.

- Our net profit for 2025 was just over \$3,600. With the Area of Focus having been the Environment, our beneficiaries included Captains for Clean Water, Save the Manatee, and The Healthy Earth.
- We held a kick-off event and one social event at each of the five breweries, all of whom agreed to participate again in 2026. We've added an additional brewery, Kaleidoscope Beer Company (at their request), but decided to keep the price at \$25. That means supporters get 6 pints of beer during 2026 for \$25. Not a bad deal!
- Some people mentioned that they didn't want a glass, so we've added the option of a \$25 coozie, as well as a punchcard-only option for \$20.
- Our Area of Focus for 2026 is Maternal & Child Health. We realized that selecting our beneficiaries ahead of time would be mutually beneficial. We could share their information with the public during our sales events, and they could invite us to sell at their events. The 2026 beneficiaries include SWFL Healthy Start Baby, Fun Time Academy, and The Healthy Earth.
- We will begin the first of our six 2026 kick-offs on 1/7/2026 at Riptide Brewing Company. Invite your friends, family, neighbors and colleagues. Let's make 2026 twice as successful as 2025!



Wishing all the best to:

1/7 - Justin Braveman

1/7 - Cindy Hall

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



Thank you for your years of service:

1/5/22 - Steve Cannon

1/6/25 - Dan Martens

1/8/21 - Angel Cerritos (+ 2 prior years)

1/8/25 - Betty Jean Christensen

1/11/24 - Vickie Helbing (+33 prior years)*

*founding Bonita Naples President '92

"Rotary changes us and those we serve. I believe we can change the world one life at a time."

~ Paul Harris

Speaker Highlights



Klaus Helf

Presenting about the Rise & Fall of the Berlin Wall, Klaus shared interesting facts and personal stories that went beyond the typical high-level history book accounts.



Lynda Waterhouse

Lynda spoke about the importance of pausing to reset your life, moving from reactionary to designing your strategic plan for purpose, health, and making a lasting impact. Her business, RevitaHQ, offers a 12-week program to take you through the process.

Upcoming Speakers & Events

- **1/8** - Lee County Sheriff - Robot Dog
- **1/15** - Dr. Abul Sarah - International Village Clinic: Together We Can Stop Preventable Child Blindness
- **1/22** - Professor Keith Klugman - Pneumonia & Pandemic Preparedness Program - Gates Foundation
- **1/29** - Club Assembly

Holiday Party at The Stage

What a special gathering! During our last club meeting of the year, we had a wonderful holiday party with members and guests. We had delicious turkey, ham, sweet and white potatoes, green beans, and all the fixings. We had some special treats with Jim Mullen playing holiday classics on the bagpipe; Bob Bernstein led our group in Christmas songs; Campbell had a guitar player and singer on stage; and best of all, Santa Claus made a special appearance checking out who was naughty and nice (with treats for the latter). Check out additional photos on the last page.



2026 Pints with a Purpose Kick-Off

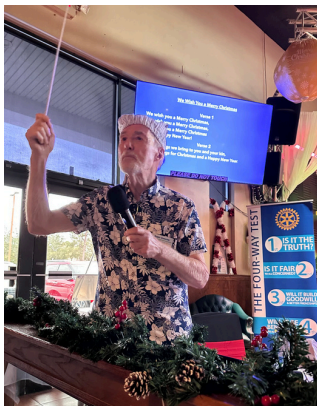
Join us as we kick off our second annual fundraising campaign. Our Area of Focus for 2026 will be Maternal & Child Health

WHEN: 1/7/26 ~ 6:00-8:00 pm

WHERE: Riptide Brewing Co.
28120 Hunters Ridge Blvd
Bonita Springs, FL

WHEN: 1/28/26 ~ 6:00-8:00 pm

WHERE: Kaleidoscope Beer Co.
987 3rd Avenue North
Naples, NJ 34102





Member Spotlight

Mike Prioletti's Rotary journey started back in 1994. He has been an active member of our club and board including holding the positions of club secretary and president. He has chaired major fundraisers and other committees, served as a non-voting advisor to our Club's foundation, and been active at the district level as Assistant Area Governor. He tries to help with whatever projects our members undertake. Mike says what he likes best about our club are the members, who he feels are some of the best people he knows. While he's explored involvement at the district level, the appeal of Rotary to him is engaging with fun, caring, big-hearted Bonita-Naples Rotarians as we try, in our small way, to make the world a better place.

Outside of Rotary, Mike is proud of his 35 year career as a Baird Financial Advisor. Baird is a large, wonderful, employee-owned company. His profession is lucrative, challenging and always changing - and the Bonita/Naples markets are among the best places in the world to be in.

He met his wife Kim when she was a member of our club, and has three adult daughters who are all successful and happy. Any other accolades, recognitions, or accomplishments pale in comparison to how he feels about them.

He grew up in Syracuse, the snowiest city in the continental US, and lived in the most populous city in the country for 11 years. He thinks there should be no doubt as to why he chose to live the majority of his life in Southwest Florida. When he decided to leave NY City, he wanted to sell his tiny (550 sq ft) apartment. This was not an easy task at the time, because NY real estate was not moving. Nonetheless, he put it on the market, fully recognizing that it might take a year or longer to sell. As it turned out, it sold in one day to singer and songwriter, Paul Simon. It happened so fast that he hadn't even determined what city to move to next. He took the profit on that home, bought a car, and began a 7-month journey around the US to decide where to live. That's how he picked Southwest Florida.

When he's not working, he's typically doing repairs or upgrades to his Naples home or his Blue Ridge, GA cabin. He says it's not all slavery though. He does like to travel and once in a while, get in his boat and enjoy the peaceful scenery of Lake Blue Ridge.

ROTARY CLUB OF BONITA NAPLES	MEETING THURSDAYS AT NOON
BonitaNaplesRotary.com Past newsletters: https://www.bonitanaplesrotary.com/newsletters-past	The Stage Restaurant 9144 Bonita Beach Rd Bonita Springs, FL 34135



Holiday Party at The Stage

