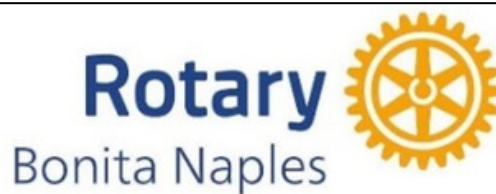


Monthly Newsletter



Message from Heidi:

Hi Everyone,

I'm honored and excited to welcome you to a new Rotary year as I begin my term as President. Thank you for your trust and support — it means so much to me. We are a club filled with caring, committed members, and I'm proud to serve alongside each of you. Together, we've already done great things, and I believe this year will be no different.

Our Rotary theme for 2025–26, UNITE FOR GOOD, reminds us that when we work together, we can create lasting impact. This year, let's build on our strengths, deepen our connections, and continue serving with purpose and passion. With teamwork, compassion, and a shared vision, I know we'll make it a year to remember.

Heidi

UNITE FOR GOOD

In this newsletter you can expect:

Other
Happenings

Member
Birthdays

New Members

Speaker
Highlights

Upcoming
Events

Member
Spotlight



Other Happenings:

To celebrate the installation of new officers for the 2025/2026 Rotary year, we gathered at Chubby Mermaid Brewing in May with family and friends to thank our 2024-2025 president, Campbell Gault, for a wonderful year, and to wish all the best to our 2025-2026 president, Heidi Varsames.

In June, we enjoyed each other's company at our second Rotary Social Event at Riptide Brewing where members from all the Bonita Springs, Estero, and Naples clubs were invited.

Joerg Meyer presented a proposal for our Oktoberfest fundraiser which, if we can meet the monthly milestones outlined in the presentation that he mailed out, would be October 4th from 3-8:00 pm at Riptide. Look for an email to sign up for volunteering, as well as identifying sponsors for the event. Your personal connections will help tremendously.



Wishing all the best to:

7/16 - Gary Dworkin

7/14 - Kim Anderson

7/14 - Steve Cannon

7/15 - Betty Jean Christensen

7/24 - Heidi Varsames

7/30 - Janet DiBenedetto

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



Newest Members:

Welcome to our newest members who joined our club in May. All three are from the Champion Legal Group, which specializes in insurance litigation, hurricane and storm damage, contract law, construction law, and admiralty & maritime law. Their offices are across the parking lot from The Stage.

Please welcome:

David Lockard - Managing Partner

Paul Udouj - Managing Partner

Justin Braveman - Sr Case Manager

Speaker Highlights



Caily Martin

Bonita Assistance Office -

Our mission is to provide temporary assistance to community members who have been affected by an unexpected crisis. Our goal is to provide the support services and bridge the financial needs of the recipients so they may gain independence and foster self-reliance.



Robyn DeZego

Major disasters can damage homes to the point where demolition feels like the only option. Robyn presented another option from a company that saves homes by raising them. It was amazing to watch a video of workers crawling under foundations and, little by little, lifting them about 18 feet off the ground.



Al Kinkle

Kimmie's Recovery Zone -

provides multiple pathways of recovery support, designing wellness plans, public education, advocacy policies, and resources to increase the quality of long-term recovery from mental health and substance use disorders. Al started this business after the heart-wrenching loss of his daughter Kimmie.



Nina Shaw

Wheelchairs 4 Kids -

dedicated to improving the lives of children with physical disabilities by providing wheelchairs, home and vehicle modifications as well as other assistive equipment at no charge. Nina's stories brought tears to many of our eyes.

Upcoming Speakers & Events

- **7/10** - John Varsames & Joe Pokorney - Hurricane Preparations , Emergency Management, & District Responses Mechanism
- Board Meeting Follows
- **7/24** - Cheryl Barrett - Golden PAWS Assistance Dogs
- No meeting 7/3, 7/17 & 7/31
- **8/6 @ 5:30-7:30** - join area Rotarians and their families for a fun Social Event at Bone Hook Brewing:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040F44AAAF2DAAFA7-57386689-rotary>

Oktoberfest 10/4

- save the date and ask how you can help





Member Spotlight

Our first spotlight is for someone who does so much for Rotary, but usually stays in the shadows. Jim Fabry was born in Sharon, PA and, with his wife Dee, has lived in 7 states before moving to Estero in 2017 from San Diego. Prior to retiring, Jim's career was in Sales and Marketing management for 23 years at Kellogg's Sales Company. The last 12 years was with Texture Technologies as Western Regional Sales Manager.

While in Denver, CO, he was on the Board of Directors of the US Association for Blind Athletes (a division of the US Olympic Committee) from 1989-1995. He and Dee attended the Paralympics in Barcelona, Spain as guides for blind athletes and participated in many of their fundraisers. This ignited his passion for service, and is the accomplishment that he is most proud of. He joined Rotary in 2017 and has had many accomplishments since then, including Club President, Rotarian of the Year, Member of the Rotary Int'l Foundation Bequest Society, Major Donor 2 Rotary Int'l Foundation, District 6960 Area 2 Governor, Co-chair for District 6960 Wheelchair Foundation, sponsoring a Tsering Fund child for complete education, writing a grant for and raising awareness for Advent Health's Cleft Palate program.

Jim has attended RLI 1, 2, 3, and graduate classes, and volunteers his time with Cafe of Life, Meals of Hope, Bonita Springs Assistance Office, Harry Chapin, and Interfaith Charities. And if that wasn't enough, he's always willing to help our club when he's asked. In his free time, Jim enjoys playing with their dog, Zekee, and playing golf with fellow Rotarians.

ROTARY CLUB OF BONITA NAPLES	MEETING THURSDAYS AT NOON
BonitaNaplesRotary.com	The Stage Restaurant 9144 Bonita Beach Rd Bonita Springs, FL 34135