

Monthly Newsletter



Message from Mike:

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

Welcome to a brand-new Rotary year!

First, let me say what an honor it is to serve as your President for 2026–2027. I hope I have your trust, especially since you were all so good at looking down at your lunch when volunteers were being requested 😊. Either way, I'm in—and I couldn't be more excited.

Now, before anyone worries, let me reassure you: this isn't going to be a "let's reinvent Rotary" kind of year. We already have something special—great people, meaningful service, and a club that actually makes us appreciate showing up for lunch on Thursdays. What I would love to see is just a little more energy, a little more engagement, and a lot of pride in what we're doing together. Maybe that means coming a bit more often, bringing a guest, or volunteering for a project. No big overhaul...just more participation from our members.

My goal this year is simple: when someone asks you about our Rotary Club, I want your answer to come with a smile, a story, and maybe even a "you should join us next week."

Thank you again for the privilege of serving. I'm looking forward to a fun, meaningful, and (if we do it right) slightly louder and more engaged year ahead.

Mike

In this newsletter you can expect:

Other
Happenings

Member
Birthdays &
Anniversaries

Speaker
Highlights

Upcoming
Events

Member
Spotlight

CREATE LASTING IMPACT



Other Happenings:

- We had a special guest this month - Rodrigo Lezcano of the Rotary Club of Lambare Costa del Rio (Paraguay) joined our club meeting on 6/18 while vacationing in SWFL (pictured with Heidi Varsames and Joerg Meyer)
- Summer Socials - we had two of our six summer socials in June (Kaleidoscope and BoneHook). The owners were very appreciative for our support, as we are appreciative of their participation in our Pints With a Purpose. They all seemed to have a a tough season, which now is even worse, so they really appreciated our business.
 - At Kaleidoscope, we were not only able to support the brewery, but also Paulitas' Taqueria next door. Their food was delicious and they were appreciative of our business.
 - At Bone Hook, we had a fun evening, good food, great company and even got to watch the France-Sweden World Cup game.
- Congratulations to our Rotary Club of Bonita Naples on being awarded the District Governor's Platinum Award for 2025-2026.
- Recognizing that summer brings travel, family time, and the occasional well-earned change of pace, we'll once again move to a twice-monthly meeting schedule, gathering on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays during July, August, and September.



Wishing all the best to:

7/7 - 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

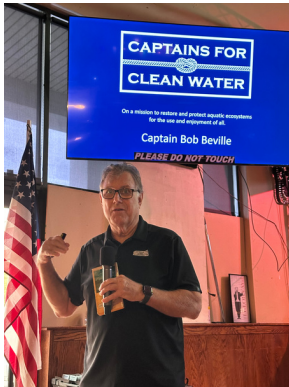


Happy Anniversary

7/1 - Janet DiBenedetto
 7/1 - Brad Robinson
 7/2 - Don Crost
 7/18 - Dee Fabry
 7/29 - Mitchell Hakoum
 7/29 - Allen Hausman

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

Speaker Highlights



Bob Beville

Bob, who's a a Board Member of **Captains for Clean Water**, gave an engaging presentation about the history, challenges and progress of SWFL's waterways. For more information, go to **CaptainsForCleanWater.org**



Scott Chartier

Scott, who is a board member of the **Collier Children's Advocacy Center**, presented about how the Center coordinates the investigation, prosecution, and recovery process for the most serious cases of child abuse in our community. He shared the Florida Abuse Hotline number: 1-800-962-2873. You can find more information at: <https://www.caccollier.org>

Upcoming Speakers & Events

- **7/2** - No Meeting
- **7/9** - tbd
- **7/16** - No Meeting
- **7/23** - Oktoberfest Planning
- **7/30** - No Meeting
- **July 4th** - Pints With a Purpose fundraiser at Bonita Springs **4th of July Celebration**
- **Pints Summer Socials:**
 - **7/22** - Riptide Brewing
 - **8/12** - Palm City Brewing
 - **9/2** - The Brass Tap



James Stewart

As a Twentieth Circuit Court Judge in Collier County, James was able to share what a **Day in the Life of a Judge** is like (pictured with Club President Heidi Varsames)



Alivia Crowl

As the Program Coordinator at **WellFit Girls**, Alivia gave an inspiring overview about how their organization supports teen girls by empowering them to believe they are capable of overcoming challenges, doing hard things, and changing the world. To find out more, go to: <https://wellfitgirls.org>



SAVE THE DATE

10/10/2026

We will need everyone's participation in our 2026 fundraiser.



Member Spotlight - Brad Robinson, PDG

From the trapeze to the boardroom, from Beverly Hills to the Gulf Coast of Florida, Brad has lived a life defined by passion, purpose, and a deep commitment to service. As a proud member of the Rotary Club of Bonita Naples, Brad brings decades of Rotary experience and an infectious enthusiasm that continues to inspire those around him.

Brad's Rotary journey began in 2000 when he joined the Beverly Hills Club — but the seeds were planted much earlier. As a teenager, his uncle, a Rotarian and District Governor, brought a 16-year-old Brad to his very first Rotary meeting. That early impression never faded. Years later, as a successful business owner in Los Angeles, Brad was invited to join and said yes, partly for the networking opportunities, but it wasn't long before Rotary's humanitarian mission captured his heart completely.

And what a journey it has been. Brad rose to serve as President of the Beverly Hills Club and went on to hold numerous District 5280 leadership roles, including Assistant Governor, District Conference Chair, Governor's Executive Aide, and ultimately District Governor in 2011-12. At the Zone level, he served several times as a Rotary Institute (Summit) Division Manager for Zones 26//27, the Rotary Coordinator for Zone 26, trainer for District Governors & Governors-Elect and he participated in and helped organize several Rotary conventions and events around the world. He is a Level 4 Major Donor and a Level 5 Bequest Society Member — a testament to his enduring commitment to the Rotary Foundation.

What does Brad treasure most about being a Rotarian? "I enjoy meeting and working with other Rotarians, particularly from other parts of our country and in other countries too." That spirit has taken him far — literally. Brad is especially proud of organizing multi-project grants and rallying fellow Rotarians to travel abroad and work hands-on in humanitarian projects around the world.

Before retiring in 2019, Brad spent over four decades in real estate, focusing on property management and acquisitions through his Beverly Hills-based firm, Brad Robinson Enterprises. He also gave back locally as a board member of the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce, CFO of the Maple Counseling Center, and Chair of the LA County MTA Governance Council, among other civic roles.

In 2020, Brad and his wife Catherine traded the California sunshine for the beautiful shores of Southwest Florida. Catherine, a Paul Harris Fellow and fellow Rotary enthusiast, shares Brad's love of travel and adventure — and adventure is something these two know well. They met at a trapeze school in Mexico, and flying trapeze remains one of their most beloved shared passions. When they're not soaring through the air, you'll find them biking, running, rollerblading, or at the gym. Included in this Spotlight are some good trapeze pictures and one with Dee and Jim Fabry from the 2021 Foundation celebration where they gave a \$5,000 RI Foundation check to Brenda Cressey, the past Chair of the Foundation's Board of Trustees (and first woman to serve as chair). Brenda is from the LA area and good friends with Brad and Catherine. It was great to have Dee and Jim present the check to her because it was the encouragement of Jim and Dee that helped convince Brad and Catherine to join our club.

Brad is proof that a life of service is also a life fully lived. We're so glad he's part of our club!

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