

ROTARY CLUB of SARASOTA



CHARTERED APRIL 12, 1926

CLUB NUMBER 4339

DISTRICT 6960

ZONE 34

PRESIDENT – JEFF MEYER

Classification: Vice President, Investments

October 23, 2019

SMILE, the weekly club newsletter

ROTARYCLUBOFSARASOTA.COM

MEMBERSHIP

ROTARY'S MEMBERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Why do people join Rotary? What makes them stay in their clubs, and what makes them leave? Rotary conducts the Membership Experience Feedback Survey every year to better understand the needs, interests, and engagement of our members. The most recent survey offers insights on prospective, current, and former members.

CURRENT MEMBERS

..... WHY THEY STAY

Participate in local service projects 46%

Enjoy friendship and fellowship 41%

Connect with people outside their work and social circles 29%

FORMER MEMBERS

..... WHY THEY LEAVE

Cost or time constraints 34%

Club environment and culture 32%

Unmet expectations 17%

GENDER



AGE



GENDER



AGE



.....WHAT YOU CAN DO.....

Display leadership in action
Be a vibrant club
Engage people at all stages of membership

.....WHAT YOU CAN DO.....

Assess your club
Work on building a diverse club
Practice flexibility and innovation



November 19 @ 6:30pm at Home of Carolyn Van Helden & Dick Rehmeier, 1905 Alta Vista Street Program, Swaziland, Young Heroes Foundation; Presenter: Ellen Palmer Marsey

Thanksgiving Pot Luck Dinner! 6 pm Friday, November 22. Jotham's Castle 5208 97th Street East, Bradenton (Rosedale).

RCS 2019 Holiday Party 6 PM Saturday, December 7 Sara Bay Country Club

PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIR - BOB GAGLIO

October Program Coordinator — Maarten Meckman

October 30 - Meg Gilbert, Carolyn Michelle, & Ariel Blue
Fla. Studio Theater' Suffragist Project

November Program Coordinator
Dick Rehmeier



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM



Richard Russell, executive director of the Sarasota Opera, started out as a tenor, and he can still sing. He sang in the opera's apprentice program before rising to studio artist and principal artist. Then he began having throat problems and wound up having surgery, which sent him out into the business world and ultimately an arts administrator. He says that everything pointed him to where he is now.

Richard believes that music training helped prepare him to think analytically about everything from computer coding to database management. He considers himself a problem solver. This helped him spend a bit more than a decade with New York at Citicorp, where he became a global web manager and vice president.

When Sarasota Opera was restructured, he decided to return to Florida as its marketing manager and helped Sarasota Opera become one of the most successful in the nation. It has extensive outreach programs, including School Programs that introduce opera to students. One of its more popular is the Sarasota Youth Opera, the most comprehensive training program designed for young people ages 8 to 18 currently in the United States. The program admits all who apply, regardless of skill level, and provides instruction in the musical and theatrical aspects of opera. The Youth Opera puts on matinees where up to 80 students perform operas utilizing professional lighting, sets, costumes, and chamber orchestra.

PREVIOUS MEETING (10/16/2019) BY JIM HENRY



Jennifer O. Rominiecki, President & CEO of Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, honored us with an update on Selby Gardens and its Master Plan, which has received a great deal of publicity, particularly since the planning team has had input from over twenty neighborhood meetings. It has been transparent with its plans and, as a result of the input from neighbors, the planning team has made many changes. But the design team has maintained the vision of the re-positioning of the institution as a *"Living Museum"* which has yielded a 47% increase in admissions, a 60% increase in membership, and a 59% increase in overall earned revenues in just three years.

Jennifer has overseen the creation and execution of the Garden's Strategic Plan for Selby Gardens, as well as the Master Plan, which included maintaining its present public access so downtown residents can enjoy walks while enjoying landscape consistent with its world class botanical gardens. Thank you, Jennifer, for giving us your time and sharing your thoughts about the future of Selby Gardens, a major Sarasota attraction and a world class botanical garden at the south end of Condo Canyon.



NEXT YEAR'S CONVENTION WILL BE IN HONOLULU, HAWAII!

Wouldn't it be wonderful if a number of members could attend and take some tours before and/or after guided by or with the advice of our own Garret Grace, past president of the Rotary Club of Honolulu?

JRH says it is not too early to make plans, and you should believe him. More than likely it would be an unforgettable experience.

Diamond Head—O'ahu



Volcano National Park—Hawaii



NOTICE

To stimulate public awareness and give the public an opportunity to participate in helping Sarasota County students achieve top place in the State's third grade reading level (in systems with over 2,000 students), an on-line campaign is underway. It would be helpful for Rotarians to help us lead the way by making others aware of this goal.

CLUB MEMBERS ARE NOT TO FEEL PRESSURED TO CONTRIBUTE MORE THAN THEY WISH TO.