

ROTARY CLUB of SARASOTA



CHARTERED APRIL 12, 1926

CLUB NUMBER 4339

DISTRICT 6960

ZONE 34

PRESIDENT – JEFF MEYER

Classification: Vice President, Investments

February 5, 2020

SMILE, the weekly club newsletter

ROTARYCLUBOFSARASOTA.COM

Coming Attractions

Rotary Night @ The Circus
February 7, 2020
Sign up with Lee-En or Maarten



RCS 2020

Valentine's Day Party!

6 PM Saturday, February 8th

Don and Linda Bruns
37 Sunset Drive

What a Great Opportunity to Introduce Rotary to Potential Members!
Please Bring a Dish to Pass and Beverage of Your Choice. Your RCS
Social Committee Will Provide Chocolates and Wine Friendly Desserts.

DINING FOR WOMEN
February 21, 2020
Host to be announced.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIR
BOB GAGLIO

February Program Coordinator
Bob Stone

February 12 - Scouts
February 19 - Donna Leigh-Estes The
ABA Academy
February 26 - Stu Gilfillen US Sailing

PROPOSED NEW MEMBER

Name	Classification	Proposed by
Mark Smith	Museum Marketing	Lee En Chung

If no written objections are submitted to the Board of Directors by the end of the work day Feb 11, Mark will be invited to our club's next Rotary Information Meeting.



Earn Points as you support the Club's Local Projects

while making it easier on those who record your pledge manually.

Namely — ME — *Jim Henry*

Simply go to

<https://www.rotaryclubofsarasota.com/rcs-foundation/>

And select **ANNUAL FUND**. If you support local projects via your quarterly invoice, let Bonnie know to remove it from the billing.



LEAP INTO THE NEW YEAR
ON A ROTARY/GUEST
DINNER CRUISE

FEBRUARY 29

5:00 PM BOARDING ON THE
MARINA JACK II.
\$60 per ticket.

Make check Payable to Rotary Club of Sarasota Sunrise
And mail it to PO BOX 595 Sarasota FL 34230

You may also register and pay on Eventbrite

<https://tinyurl.com/u4jtkx8>



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

JIM DOOLEY - DEATH of the EVERGLADES



Jim, a 40-year Rotarian from Arcadia, is a native of Belle Glade. He has been a Rotarian in Belle Glade, Apopka, West Palm Beach, and now Arcadia. He has been married 59+ years (*to the same woman*), is a 40-gallon blood donor, and says he has never been in jail (*a worthwhile bragging right for a Florida cracker.*)

His Everglades roots are the basis for his perspective on Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades. Most people assume that the Florida sugar growers, or Big Sugar, are responsible for the widely documented condition of Lake Okeechobee and brown coastal waters. Those who do so, when they understand the development of Florida, are disappointed.

The Everglades system begins near Orlando with the Kissimmee River, which, after draining major areas of Central Florida's open range and cattle ranches, terminates into Lake Okeechobee. The lake's water then flows over a limestone shelf southward to Florida Bay. After some 2,500 deaths by hurricanes in 1926 and 1928, the Florida legislature created the Okeechobee Flood Control District. President Herbert Hoover visited the area in 1930, which resulted in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers designing and constructing channels, gates and levees around Lake Okeechobee. After World War I, development began and farmer's moved in. This included constructing the original Tamiami Trail. After WW II, major developers moved in. More dairy farmers moved in, and, because of the growing populations, more canals and roads have been dug and built.

Because the Lake can't drain as it originally did, it has become polluted, as has the water flowing through the cross Florida waterway. Jim says that developers, farmers, sugarcane growers, and the cattle/dairy ranchers—have all contributed. The Glade's sugarcane farmers have not back-pumped their fields into the lake since about 1981. Most of the pollution goes into the lake from the Kissimmee River, which comes via the river from the Orlando—Disney World area and the farm lands north of Lake Okeechobee.”

PREVIOUS MEETING (1/29/2020) BY RON RAYEVICH

Our quarterly **Club Assembly** focused on the **Rotary House** presented by **Garrett Grace**. The Club has approved this initiative which will entail raising about \$300,000 to sponsor a residential property for a homeless family in Sarasota County to provide safe and stable permanent supportive housing. A well thought out brochure was developed by the Rotary House committee which provided the business case for acquiring and maintaining the property, the project scope, a timeline and a fundraising plan. The property would be leased to an organization such as The Salvation Army who would provide the resident family and support these residents with a case worker. Rent is projected to be as little as \$630 per month plus utilities.



In addition committee reports on **Membership** (*currently 103 members*) were given by **Andrea Nierenberg**. **Pam Akins** explained that **The Rotary Foundation** plans to contribute \$50 million per year for 3 years for Polio Plus which will be matched on a 2 to 1 basis by the Gates Foundation. **Lois Schaper** discussed a number of projects and grants provided through the **International Committee** including the 320 vented stoves going strong in Guatemala. **Rotary Club of Sarasota Foundation** report was presented by president **Sarah Lodge**, who advised that the foundation had contributed \$75,000 toward the **Rotary Reading Project** for over 12,000 grade 1-4 books and kindergarten readiness bags. **Governance** and **Community Service** committees' reports were given by **Laura Randall**, who noted that **Ruth McLaren** had agreed to chair the Community Service committee and that those interested in serving as new club board members should contact her.

THE 2020 CONVENTION IS IN HONOLULU, HAWAII!

Saturday, June 6 through Wednesday, June 10. Consider attending and taking 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.

CRUISE HAWAII WITH OTHER ROTARIANS

Some members have already signed up with Rotarian Steve Briggs' agency — VIP World Travel.

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