



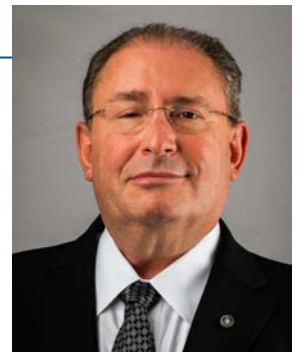
DISTRICT 6960 SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

September 2022

District 6960 Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT GOVERNOR NEIL SNYDER

Greetings District 6960 Rotarians and friends! I am enjoying my journey through Southwest Florida visiting clubs and spending time with all of the wonderful Rotarians in our district. From the arrival of our Rotary Youth Exchange students and new member inductions to fundraisers and grant projects that are underway, I can imagine all of the great things that will happen this Rotary year.



In September, we take time to celebrate basic education and literacy projects in which our Rotary clubs are participating. This is timely because according to the National Center for Education Statistics, about one in five U.S. adults (43 million adults) have low literacy skills.

We know that illiteracy traps people in a cycle of poverty with limited options of employment or income, raises their chances of turning to crime, increases dependence on welfare and even makes them more susceptible to poor health. It also has an estimated \$225 billion impact on the U.S. economy.

Our district and clubs are very involved in projects developed around education and literacy, including multiclub projects like Books For Kids, Josh The Otter, Dictionary Day and others. Your efforts will make a positive impact. Keep up the great work. To learn more about these projects or how to start your own, contact District Literacy Committee Chair Dee Fabry.

As Rotarians, we are used to challenges. Unfortunately, we are facing one now that is impacting literacy projects. Effective July 1, 2022, the State of Florida requires all books entering schools to be approved by review committees within each school district. This includes books we donate through our literacy projects. Most school districts are waiting for additional guidance from the state in order to establish the book review process, which is expected to occur after Jan. 1, 2023. Leaders and members of District 6960 are exploring ways to get approval of our books without waiting until 2023. Remember, Rotarians are problem solvers and People of Action. We come across challenges and we work toward solutions. This case is no exception.

I am so proud of our members who volunteer to read to and mentor our youth, deliver books, raise money for school supplies and scholarships, and provide additional support necessary for students in our district to get the education they need to be successful. I am looking forward to continuing Rotary service to our youth through our literacy programs and beyond!

Neil E. Snyder, Esq.
District Governor 2022-23
Rotary International District 6960



DISTRICT CONFERENCE 2023

June 15-18, 2023 | Hyatt Regency Coconut Point

Registration coming soon on DACdb.

To boldly go where no one has imagined before!

Save the date!

Doug Smoot, District 6960 Paul Harris & Every Rotarian Every Year Chair, invites you to support The Rotary Foundation

When was the last time you gave some serious consideration to WHY you joined Rotary? Maybe you're a new Rotarian and it's still fresh in your mind, or perhaps you're a seasoned veteran member who really hasn't thought about it in a while. Hopefully, at least some of your consideration was to be part of an international family committed to doing good in the world. Rotary, after all, has 1.4 million members worldwide working to better education and literacy, improve maternal and child health, aid peace and conflict resolution and focus on disease prevention – we are about to rid the world of polio! And there is so much more.

[Click here](#) to read more.

Erik Elsea, District 6960 Annual Program Fund Chair, invites you to support The Rotary Foundation.

The Rotary Foundation has been around since the Rotary International Convention in Atlanta in 1917 as the idea of Arch Klumph, and an initial contribution of \$26.50. This amazing organization started its mission of making the world a better place with that \$26.50. You, as a Rotarian, can contribute any amount of money to The Rotary Foundation's (TRF) annual program fund. Funds benefit communities both internationally and right here in our backyard. Three years after a contribution to the annual fund, District 6960 receives half of that money back for club grants in the form of District Designated Funds (DDF). Your generous contribution allows Rotary to do good locally and around the world. Consider giving to TRF and help make the world a better place.

FOUNDATION UPDATE

By Jim Hinck, District Rotary Foundation Chair

The District Rotary Foundation team has been busy and we have a lot of great things to share with you!

On Nov. 5, there will be a Foundation educational workshop at Charlotte High School Performing Arts Center, 701 Carmalita St, Punta Gorda. Arrive from 8 to 9 a.m. for fellowship, networking and continental breakfast. At 9 a.m., we will dive into The Rotary Foundation. Lunch will be provided. There is no cost to participate, but we ask that you register on DACdb soon. All Rotarians are invited to attend; everyone will benefit.

In August, the Foundation Team announced a contest that involves tracking Annual Fund contributions from July 1 through Dec. 31, 2022, and rewarding the top six clubs in per capita giving. Each of the top clubs will earn \$1,000 in District Designated Funds (DDF) toward a grant to be used during the second half of this Rotary year.

Standings as of Sept. 11, 2022 in Annual Fund per capita giving are shown below. Keep up the great work, and remember not to hold on to funds. When members contribute to TRF through the club, send in the money timely.

Lakewood Ranch	\$137.86
Venice-Nokomis	\$110.99
Venice Suncoast	\$101.78
Fort Myers	\$92.48
Bonita Naples	\$89.71
North Port Central	\$85.13
Cape Coral Sunset	\$82.95
Naples	\$71.03

There has been a great response to the new Triple Crown Society giving level in District 6960. Remember, in order to qualify for the current Rotary year, you must meet one of these three criteria:

1. Major Donor Level
2. Bequest Society Level
3. Give \$1000+ to TRF this Rotary year.

Charter members of this new society giving level in District 6960 will be recognized at the District Foundation Dinner on Feb. 25, 2023. Details and registration are coming soon on DACdb.

Don't forget: World Polio Day on Oct. 24 is fast approaching. Many clubs have their own events planned to celebrate this day.



There are three Bowling to End Polio events happening Oct. 23. Sign up on DACdb. Non-bowlers also can participate! Those who are participating automatically qualify for the PolioPlus Society.

SHARE CONTEST

Look for scoreboard updates announcing clubs' progress on the district website and social media channels. For more details on the contest, visit rotarydistrict6960.org.

NOV. 5 FOUNDATION WORKSHOP
FEB. 25 FOUNDATION CELEBRATION

ROTARY MEMBERSHIP

By Gerard Sola, District Membership Chair



Selfie time! 🌟❤️👉😄

The year is off to a great start! District 6960 has welcomed 25 new Rotarians across the district and many clubs are preparing to induct new members in the coming weeks. Many thanks for all of the hard work and focus on both membership retention and development.

These clubs are leading the way in adding new members:

- Sanibel-Captiva (11)
- Venice Suncoast/Wellen Park (3)
- Cape Coral (2)
- Labelle (2)
- Marco Island (2)
- North Port Central (2)
- Sarasota Sunrise (2)

District Membership Chair Gerard has visited 11 clubs to lead in-person strategy presentations/sessions to start the new Rotary year. If any club would like to schedule a Zoom strategy session during an upcoming club assembly, or a presentation during a regular club meeting, contact Gerard at Gerard_Sola@Yahoo.com or 239-339-3489.

Photo on left: Members and guests of the Rotary Club of Bonita Beach Sunset participate in a panel discussion about membership.

Photo on right, from left: Rick Perry, Rotary Club of Bonita Beach Sunset Membership Chair; Darryl Keys, Zone 34 Assistant Rotary Coordinator; and Gerard Sola enjoying fellowship following a presentation focused on membership.

public image

Click on the links below to complete monthly tasks and stay on track to earn the Zone 34 public image citation.

JULY - Public Image Audit

www.rotaryshares.org/July2022

AUG. - Public Image Plan

www.rotaryshares.org/August2022

SEPT. - Content Calendar

www.rotaryshares.org/September2022

On Sept. 26 at 6 p.m., the Zone 34 Public Image Team is hosting a webinar on how to plan and promote a great event. It's free and open to anyone. [REGISTER HERE.](#)

Did you see "Canva Create 2022" on Sept. 13? If you missed it, [watch the recap](#) to see all the awesome new features that were released!



Follow District 6960!



rotarydistrict6960.org

PEOPLE OF ACTION

*Your Foundation giving at work!
This story is a perfect example of
how far your giving can reach,
helping those around the world
who need it most.*



HELPING UKRAINE

The Rotary Clubs of Punta Gorda and Anna Maria Island show the world that Rotarians are People of Action.

The Rotary Clubs of Punta Gorda and Anna Maria Island worked with the Rotary Club of Czestochowa, Poland, to raise almost \$100,000 to be used to deliver food, medical supplies, surgical instruments and other aid to Ukrainian refugees inside Ukraine and in Poland. The Rotary Clubs of Naples-Pelican Bay, Sarasota Gulf Gate, Longboat Key, Sarasota Southside and Fort Myers South all contributed to this effort.

Rotary District 6960 was awarded a \$25,000 Disaster Response Grant to provide prepacked meals and personal water purification kits for this effort. As part of this grant, on Saturday, Sept. 17, 2022, the Rotary Club of Babcock Ranch held a "Meal Packing for Ukraine" event in Founder's Square from 9 to 11 a.m. Over 80 Rotarians and friends of Rotary came out to pack meals provided by Meals of Hope. Water One serving Southwest Florida is providing Pure2Go water purification kits to be delivered with the meals to Lublin, Poland, courtesy of Convoy of Hope

The need has not stopped, and the clubs continue to raise funds. For more information on the program and to donate, visit puntagordarotary.org.



Photo on left: RYE inbound students

Photo in middle: Leah Sola with a new friend in Germany

Photo on right: President Barry Denton and Stacy at the Rotary Club of Bonita Springs Sunset meeting

rotary
youth
exchange



RYE SPOTLIGHT

Outbound Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) student Leah Sola, daughter of Rotarian Gerard and Emily Sola, arrived safely last month in Stralsund, Germany. She is making new friends and has officially started high school. Leah is enjoying the culture in Germany and is intrigued by the architecture and food. Her first trip with the other exchange students will be going to Berlin on Sept. 23.

Inbound RYE student Stacy Achen is from Uganda, Africa. She says her first month has been amazing. She is doing fantastic at Gulf Coast High School. Stacy landed a role as Ariel's sister in the school production of "The Little Mermaid." She also asked to join a dance team and just completed her first dance lesson here. Stacy has already experienced some fun trips to places like Tampa, Dave & Busters, pool parties with friends, miniature golf and more!

IMAGINE LITERACY!

Do you know how many of the District Designated Fund (DDF) grants this year focused on increasing literacy? Keep reading. In District 6960, we have literacy programs that support reading in K-12 public schools, charter schools, YMCAs, preschool programs and literacy councils. We have programs for moms and tots, financial literacy, dictionaries, water safety and healthy living choices. This year's District Designated Grants can be found on DACdb and include the 15 grants directly related to literacy.



Photos above show the Family Reading Fiesta co-hosted by the Rotary Club of Bonita Naples and YMCA of Bonita Springs.

Clubs are encouraged to consider other partnerships for supporting literacy. What do these look like? The Bonita Springs YMCA has a new Early Learning Center as well as an after-school program for older students. The Marco Island YMCA has a YReads program. Big Brothers Big Sisters offers mentoring. Local libraries have story time and after school programs. The Literacy Council Gulf Coast offers programs for adult literacy, worksite literacy and family literacy (they really need tutors!). There are also like-minded service organizations such as Kiwanis, Lions and others focusing on literacy. Opportunities are everywhere! Imagine all the fun Rotarians and their partners will have while helping all kinds of people improve their literacy skills.

Need help imagining? Let the District Literacy Committee know. Contact Dee Fabry, committee chair, at deefabry@comcast.net.

CART FUND

The Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust Fund, commonly referred to as CART, was founded in 1996 by a Rotarian in Sumter, South Carolina, who believed collecting spare change in buckets at weekly Rotary meetings could make significant advancements toward a cure or treatment for Alzheimer's. More than 25 years later, CART has collected over \$11 million from Rotarians who believe this devastating disease must be eliminated; 100 percent of all donations go directly to research.

Eldon Bohrofen, District 6960 CART Chair, explains his personal ties to CART. "My passion was enhanced with the death of my late wife four years ago, followed by the death of my sister this summer, both suffering from dementia," he said.

Eldon is committed to increasing public awareness and participation throughout the district for this wonderful program. He challenges each club to get involved in the following ways:

1. Identify a CART chair to receive regular communications and ideas.
2. Utilize the "little blue buckets" by placing them on tables at weekly meetings to collect donations.
3. Invite Eldon to share a program about CART at a club meeting.

He is seeking advocates for CART to help promote the cause, and welcomes anyone with a personal story to share their experience with Alzheimer's Disease. For more information about CART and to get involved, contact Eldon at ebohrofen@yahoo.com.



DISTRICT DISASTER COMMITTEE

By Mark Midyett

The District Disaster Committee is a group of Rotarians here to help Rotarians and their communities.

In Florida, the likelihood of a major disaster, mainly hurricanes, occurring is not a matter of if, but when. The District Disaster Committee was established to help clubs and members be prepared for a disaster. In addition, the committee is structured in a way that puts the district in a position to respond and help during a disaster, specifically with a fleet of vehicles and volunteers who can assist with cleanup after a disaster.

What should a club do to be prepared?

First, designate a Club Disaster Chair. Second, each club should create a phone tree that would be activated in the event of a disaster. The Club Disaster Chair can rely on the resources of the district to design a communication tree to be activated in the event of a disaster, create educational programs on disaster preparedness for club presentations and be a resource for the club regarding disaster preparedness.

[Click here](#) for a more detailed description of a phone tree.



Thanks to the efforts of the Rotary Club of Charlotte Harbor Sunset, District 6960 is rolling out a District Disaster Resource unit. Last year, the Charlotte Harbor Sunset club conceptualized the need for Rotarians to be able to respond to a local disaster within the district. The club authored a grant requesting District Designated Funds to match their fundraising and raised over \$100,000 from clubs within District 6960. With those funds, the club purchased four trailers to be used as a second responder resource. The trailers consist of two equipment trailers with everything needed to clear debris, muck houses and handle various other assistance needs. They also purchased a latrine trailer equipped with two restrooms, two showers and laundry facilities. Finally, a fourth trailer equipped with a portable reverse osmosis system is capable of producing 20,000 gallons of clean water a day. The trailers are nearly disaster ready and the district is in the process of developing operating procedures and training volunteers to help.

[ANYONE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING, PLEASE CLICK HERE.](#) ←



District 6960 and The Wheelchair Foundation partner to create an individual club member donation page.

District 6960 Wheelchair Foundation Committee Co-Chairs Gary Dworkin and Jim Fabry traveled to The Wheelchair Foundation headquarters in Danville, California, to become better informed about the organization and its logistics. They are making rounds to speak to clubs about the Wheelchair Foundation, its impact around the world and its partnership with Rotary. To schedule a presentation, contact either Gary or Jim and they promise to bring their passion and enthusiasm for the program that they inherited from the former chair and fellow District Rotarian, the late Steve Agius.

[Check out the member donation page](#) that ensures District 6960 gets credit for individual contributions.



Wheelchair
FOUNDATION

YOUTH PEACE ACTIONSM

Bring **YPA** to
your club

Interact Clubs
High school Students

LEARN MORE

Contact YPA Chair Ethan Wolfson
ethanwolfson72@gmail.com



Amazing BBQ Tropical Drinks Gift Baskets

Project Showcase Live Music & More!

See you at the Rotary Fun, Family & Friends Luau!

Put on your best tropical wear and bring your family and friends out for an afternoon of fun with the best pulled pork barbecue and fixings, vegetarian options, tropical drinks, bounce house, games and dancing under the canopy of trees to live music by Hit N Runn, a classic rock and blues band composed of Rotarians from Rotary District 6960. Rumor has it that there may be some hula dancers invited, too!

Clubs are invited to showcase their favorite project(s). Bring a tent, table, chair and display materials to share your mission and passion with other Rotarians from our district. You may find partner clubs that would like to help you.

Donate a gift basket for the silent auction. Advertise a business or create a basket around a theme like camping or the beach. Don't forget to bring some dollars for the 50/50 raffle.

The event will be at the Rotary Club of Englewood's youth campground, a private 9-acre garden spot on the Myakka River. It's perfect for fishing, so bring your gear, bait and chairs.

The cost is \$30 per person; children age 15 and younger eat free. The event is from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; food will be served at 1 p.m. The address is 3989 S. Moon Drive, Venice, FL 34292. Enter using the driveway shared with Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat Center – Venice Catholic Diocese.

The Learning Center is mobile



Sign in to my.rotary.org to use the Learning Center on any mobile device. Learn more with Rotary's guide to the Learning Center mobile app. Visit the Rotary Learning Center Facebook page for the latest course updates, then share them with other members.

Courses range from club officers and committee chair training to understanding DEI, public image basics and membership best practices. [Click here](#) to download a course catalogue

**END
POLIO
NOW**



Join District 6960 for **THREE** great events to support PolioPlus!

Bowling to End Polio

SARASOTA

Oct. 23, 2022

11:45 a.m.

AMF Gulf Gate Lanes

\$140 per person

\$100 goes to Polio

CAPE CORAL

Oct. 23, 2022

12:30 p.m.

Headpinz

\$50 per person + \$50

donation to PolioPlus

NAPLES

Oct. 23, 2022

11:45 a.m.

Bowland Beacon

\$160 per person

\$100 goes to Polio

Funds support PolioPlus and count toward the PolioPlus Society; includes bowling, shoes and unlimited wings, pizza and soda.

Special prizes for high scores!

Registration and more details on DACdb. Contact Teresa Taft 941-586-0707 for info.

Rotary
District 6960



1st Annual Rotonda West

OKTOBERFEST

Meet & Greet

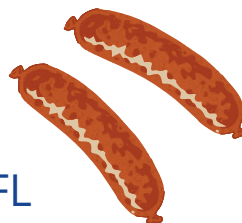


BRATS, BEERS & MORE!

Oct. 8, 5-8 p.m.

Rotonda Golf & Country Club

100 Rotonda Circle Rotonda West, FL



Tell your friends to come and discover what *they* can do with the Rotary Club of Rotonda!

ROTARY EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SEPTEMBER

20TH

6 PM Projects of Impact webinar hosted by the Regional Rotary Foundation Team from Zone 34. Register on DACdb.

21ST

6:30 PM So you want to be a District Governor Zoom meeting and Q&A session.

OCTOBER

10TH

5:45 PM Membership Action Plan on Meaningful Onboarding, webinar hosted by Zone 33-34.

15TH

8:30 AM RC of Manatee River Clay Shoot at Sarasota Trap, Skeet & Clays. \$125/person \$400/team

2 PM RC of Englewood Wine Down in the Plaza at Lemon Bay Plaza. Fundraiser for the Englewood Youth Foundation. \$65 entry

6 PM RC of Bonita Beach Sunset Boots & Bling Round-Up: whiskey, wine & western fundraiser. \$75pp

22ND

8:30 AM Rotary Leadership Institute Gulf Coast Division courses 1,2,3 & discussion leader training offered in north and south areas of the district.

26TH

6 PM RC of Naples Gulf Shore Halloween in Naples. [Click here](#) for tickets and details.



Check out the calendar on DACdb for event info and registrations, and more exciting activities.

Save the date for PETS 2023!

March 3 @1pm through March 5 @12 pm, President Elect Training Seminar required for all President-Elects and AGEs. Located at the Doubletree Sea World in Orlando.

ROTARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

*This is where
you come to
learn about
Rotary, build
connections
and enhance
your experience
as a Rotarian.*



ROTARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
GULF COAST FLORIDA DIVISION

OCT. 22, 2022

RLI courses offered in two convenient locations in the northern and southern parts of District 6960.

Register on DACdb.com

**PARTS 1, 2, 3
& GRADUATE
COURSES**