



The Villages - Evening

Rotary
Club



Evening Edition

February 17, 2021

2021-2022 Presential Message



Incoming Rotary International President **Shekhar Mehta** urged members to become more involved in service projects, saying that caring for and serving others is the best way to live because it changes not only other people's lives, but also our own.

Mehta, a member of the Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar, West Bengal, India, revealed the 2021-22 presidential theme, *Serve to Change Lives*, to incoming district governors on 1 February during the Rotary International Assembly. The assembly, a yearly training event for district governors-elect, was originally set to take place in Orlando, Florida, USA, but was held virtually because of the COVID-19 pandemic

Mehta spoke about how participating in service projects through Rotary changed him as a person and made him empathize more with the needs of others. Soon after joining his club, he helped carry out projects that benefited rural communities in India.

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Meeting

This week's meeting started with the pledge by Dusty R. and we are getting worse with our timing. This was followed by Pat R.'s reflection in honor of Acts of Kindness Week. "You may not only see the results of your kindness but every bit of positive energy you contribute to the world makes it a better place for all of us. How will you put positive energy into the world today?"

After our usual happy/sad, which drew very few takers, President Gay asked several members to share why they joined Rotary. You can see the replies on page 3.

We then moved onto our speaker, Carla VandeWeerd, PhD, who is the Director of Research, The Villages Health Director UF Health Precision Health Research Center. Carla manages all of

the research projects in the Villages.

About 10 years ago UF sent out a health questionnaire to about 90,000 villagers and received about 35,000 back. For the results of that UF designed four research projects.

- **In-Home Sensor Project**
- **Hospitalist Evaluation**
- **Brain Mapping**

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Message (Continued from page 1)

Some of the poor conditions he saw in those communities strengthened his commitment to service. "I truly understood the plight of my brethren," he said.

Mehta participated in initiatives that brought artificial limbs to children, clean water and sanitation to homes, and better health care facilities to communities.

"Rotary kindled the spark within me to look beyond myself and embrace humanity," he said. "Service became a way of life for me and I, like many others, adopted the guiding philosophy that 'Service is the rent I pay for the space I occupy on this earth, and I want to be a good tenant of this earth.'" Mehta encouraged district governors-elect to lead by example during their term and inspire Rotary and Rotaract members to participate in projects that have measurable and sustainable impacts. He's

asking each club to conduct a Rotary Day of Service.

"At the end of your term as district governor, you should feel that because of your leadership, because of your inspiration to Rotarians and Rotaractors, the world has changed for the better because of the service done by them during the year," he said.



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

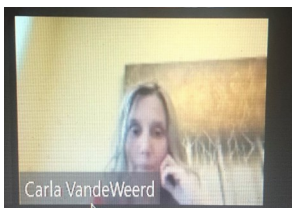
Focusing on diversity, membership

For the 2021-22 Rotary year, Mehta wants members to focus their efforts on empowering girls

and ensuring their access to education, resources, services, and opportunities so that future generations of women leaders will have the tools they need to succeed. Mehta asked members to use Rotary's belief that diversity, equity, and inclusion is critical in all we do as *(Continued on page 3)*

Meeting (Continued from page 1)

• COVID-19 Testing



Currently, the partnership between UF and The Vil-

lages is ramping up their efforts to improve healthcare. They have taken over all of the clinical at both the Villages and Lees-burg hospitals. As part of their expansion they have just opened the UF Health: Precision Health Research Center (PHRC) where, among other things, they will conduct their clinical trials.

The PHRC is

- Focused on advancing science that facilitates their ability to predict, prevent, and cure health problems.
- Combines high-tech and personal touch.
- Collaborates with a wide range of scientists from a diverse range of disciplines.
- Focused on bridging the gap between science and community.

The PHRC is starting up several clinical trials to improve healthcare in the Villages.

- COVID-19 (Activ 4) - study to see what drugs impact adverse effects from the virus
- Focus Groups - which bring together local groups to discuss what challenges we face.
- Casana - They will study a product that will be able to measure vital signs such as heart rate, blood pressure, etc. all while going to the bathroom.
- Autonomous Vehicles - Looking for input from older drivers on how they interface with these vehicles.

Why I Joined Rotary

At our meeting this week President Gay asked several members why they joined Rotary.

Kate T. “When I decided to retire...I knew that with the time I had here I wanted to help others and I had taught my son that that was what life was all about...”

Karen J. “It’s been a long time and to tell the truth 30 years ago I joined because I was told I could increase our business, which was not the reason to join... It took me about 5 years to find out what Rotary was really about.”

Tom R. “Because I was invited. I think that is what we have to keep in mind. That is how we attract members.”

Cindy I. “I joined Rotary years ago in Texas and it was primarily because it was a service club that emphasized international service...”

Kat Sizemore “I have two or three. The first was because I have got to do something with all that energy...The second was I attended two or three meetings and saw you were an awesome group of people and your program variety...”

Pat C. “I joined in 1988 the same month they let women in. I was invited by one of my clients and thought this was a great way to give back and create business.

Sue B. “I joined because after Jim joined... if I wanted to escape the building for lunch the Rotary club was a great place to go and the members were crazy...After attending meetings and following Jim around volunteering I didn’t want to be an honorary volunteer I wanted to be a member.

At every party there are two kinds of people—those who want to go home and those who don’t. The trouble is, they are usually married to each other

Message (Con’t from pg 2)

“There are many issues that girls face in different parts of the world, and you as leaders will ensure that we try and mitigate the disadvantage of the girl that they may have,” he said.

To be able to do more through service, Rotary needs to increase membership, Mehta said. Membership has hovered around 1.2 million for the past two decades. He challenged the incoming governors to be catalysts in their districts to help increase membership to 1.3 million by 1 July 2022. Mehta’s Each One, Bring One initiative asks every member to bring one person to join Rotary within the next 17 months.

Increasing membership while also continuing our commitment to eradicating polio, fighting COVID-19, and serving our communities is an ambitious goal. “And that should excite you,” Mehta said. “Rotarians love challenges.”

LovExtension Food Packing



Great to see some new faces helping out with one of our projects.

Officers & Directors

Officers

- President
Gay Ratcliff-Seamens
- President Elect
Julie Schmied
- President Elect Nominee
Open
- Secretary
Sue Bodenner
- Treasurer
Cindy Ivy
- Past President
Tim Treat

Directors

- Club Service
Dusty Rhodes
- Foundation
Julie Schmied
- Membership
Pat Cronenberg
- Public Image
Sue Bodenner
- Service Projects
Gay Davidson
- Youth Services
Karl Keri
- Club Positions
Sergeant-at-Arms
Dusty Rhodes
- Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms
Open
- Assistant Treasurer
Tim Treat
- Assistant Secretary
Open
- Programs
Jim Bodenner

Guests

- Shirley Weaver
- Rich Tapia

Notes and Announcements

Happy/Sad

Sue B. was happy that she was going to see her 7 month old grandbaby for the first time this weekend. Jim B. happy to be joining Sue to see their grandbaby but also to have the chance to wear his dinosaur costume.

Tim T and our club were chastised by is grandson Matt when visiting this past Saturday. He wanted to know why we didn't have any service events planned that he could participate in.

President Gay was happy to have received her first COVID-19 vaccine.

Face Masks Are In

You can pick up your mask from President Gay. Give her a call to work out when she will be available.

Rotary Rebaters

Hopefully, most of you are aware of our initiative at HVES to provide 6 families, with 3 to 11 members each, with food bags that would have ingredients for 3 meals until the end of the school year. Obviously that's a lot of food. But thanks to our Rebaters, especially new member Kate T., Sue B., President Gay, and the coupon queen, Debbie Blunk, they were able to purchase \$1,835 worth of food at \$ \$638.00.

Until the recreation centers reopen, and we decide to reinstitute in person meetings we will continue Zoom meetings each Wednesday night from 4:00pm to 5:00pm. To make it easier we will use the same **Meeting ID 826 152 7480 and Password 84594**

Meetings

Feb 24th Club Business

Committee Meetings

Feb 24th Service Projects Committee

Event

Mar 20th SSHS Interact Car Wash
 Mar 27th Food Drive (Tentative)
 Apr 27th District Assembly
 May15th District Conference