



The Villages - Evening

Rotary
Club



Evening Edition

June 16, 2021

President Knaack's June Message



In January 2020, when I announced my presidential theme, *Rotary Opens Opportunities*, and spoke of the changes that Rotary needed to embrace, none of us had any idea how quickly change would arrive. But I am a longtime believer in seeing challenges as opportunities. This year, we seized new opportunities to reimagine what Rotary could be. For years, we had discussed ways to make Rotary flexible and adaptable, and we had tried a few experiments. This year, we all experimented — and succeeded! Online meetings are a regular fixture now as clubs invite guests from across the globe.

Susanne and I love to meet members of the family of Rotary around the world, and we've missed seeing you in person over the past year. But for me, it was a new way of experiencing Rotary. We traveled the world virtually. I definitely met thousands more of you than I would have otherwise. I never set foot in my office in Evanston as president, yet we found new ways to get the job done while cutting travel costs.

This is the Rotary we experienced in 2020-21: nimble, adaptable, and creative. The next step
(Continued on page 2)

Meeting

For the first time since we have been having hybrid meetings, your editor attended via ZOOM. When everybody was on ZOOM the experience was not too bad. However, this time was entirely different. I found it very difficult during the fellowship time because of the background noise and during the meeting most of what I heard was difficult to understand. Maybe my hearing was the problem.

So President Gay started the meeting and we had our normal pledge, reflection, introduction of guests and happy/sad.

Then after a few announcements, President Gay introduced our speaker. Jessica Gilbert from Kids Central. This organization that received donations from our Baby Shower.

Kids Central understands the importance of a family unit. When safely possible, we work to keep families together and strive to bring them back together through case management coordination and family support services. Their Mission statement is "to be the most effective and recognizable lead agency for community"
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Message (*Continued from page 1*)

is not to go back to the way things were before the pandemic. We must move forward. Let's apply what we have learned in order to offer new experiences and opportunities for our members, such as online attendance as a regular option.

We need a younger, more diverse Rotary at every level to keep our clubs strong. What diversity means is different from region to region, but I encourage you to welcome people from all backgrounds. Another step we can all take is to increase the number of women and amplify their role everywhere.

I am glad that many now see Rotary and Rotaract clubs as equals. Let's keep going in this direction by inviting Rotaract clubs to be a part of everything we do. Let's not squander any opportunity to reach young leaders, but partner with Rotaract and invest in our many new approaches.

I am very proud of the work Rotary is doing to fight COVID-19 by supporting vaccination campaigns through advocating for fair distribution and combating misinformation. But we must also continue to do everything we can to end polio. And we now have opportunities to work in a new area of focus: the environment.

The world is a different place today from when I first announced that *Rotary Opens Opportunities*. We can all be proud of how we updated what Rotary can be this year. Let's continue on this path, always taking care of our clubs and of our friends in those clubs. They are precious, and they keep Rotary alive and thriving.

Susanne and I are thankful for all the opportunities to serve the organization during this special year, a year of finding new meaning in Service Above Self. We see Rotary as a community of people who live their values by putting them into action. In these extraordinary times, there is no doubt that we must place increased emphasis on service. This is our opportunity to show the world what Service Above Self means for Rotarians.

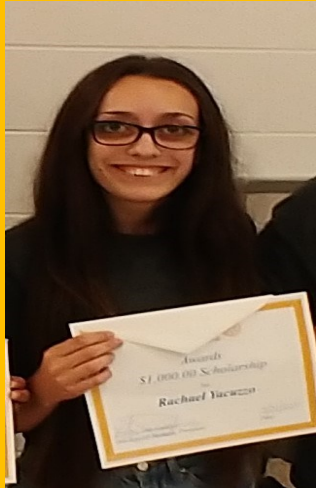
There are so many opportunities waiting for us that will help us change the world. Let's seize them together and get ready to open doors to achieving greater things. And as we open these doors to new ideas, our minds and our hearts also open. Remember that everything we do in Rotary opens another opportunity for someone, somewhere.



Thanks to the generous donation of Fred Robey, an Honorary Member of our club, our foundation was able to donate \$5,000 to St. Theresa's Benevolence Ministry toward the purchase of a van.



Scholarship Winners Rachael Yacuzzo



Rachael achieved a 3.9 GPA and graduated 4th in her class while taking several AP courses. She has applied to several Florida colleges, Harvard, and Notre Dame and plans to major in history and go onto law school.

Rachael served as the commander of the NJROTC, was an officer of the Student Council for four years and attended NJROTC leadership training classes.

Community service is an integral part of any student's school experience. She logged in 65 hours at a local Boys and Girls Club and 23 hours with volunteer work for the NJROTC.

Mrs. Danielle Stewart, a teacher At South Sumter High School, wrote, "She has a bright demeanor and a willingness to work with others and learn new things. She is the type of student teachers dream of having in their classroom. I have never known Rachael not to be prepared for assignments or tests."

Ms. Elizabeth Cofield, also a teacher, wrote, "Rachael had the opportunity to compete in the District AVID Speaker Contest, where she placed 1st in the high school category. It is no doubt Rachael is a well-rounded student and would be an asset to any institution. Racheal has spent what little personal time she has left volunteering."

Meeting (Con't from pg 1)

based care, providing child-centered practices that strengthen families and create, support, and maintain a safe environment for children."

Kids Central has six major areas of focus

Foster Care foster parents provide nurturing, temporary homes to children during their greatest moment of need. Foster parents provide.

Adoption Kids Central recruits, trains and licenses adoptive homes who are interested in adopting children from the child welfare system.



KIDS CENTRAL, INC.

A COMMUNITY APPROACH TO THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN

Building Better Lives

Kinship Care Kids Central's Kinship Care support services are part of multi-level prevention programming designed to keep children with family members in safe, nurturing homes.

Diversion Diversion services are intended to assist families in avoiding removal of the children into out-of-home placement by providing services in the home..

Independent Living Kids Central taps state, federal community, and donated resources to provide them with critical tools for a successful transition to adulthood. Once a youth ages-out of the foster care system.

Community Outreach As the lead community-based care organization, Kids Central is dedicated to building and sustaining relationships with local community groups, businesses, and residents.

Officers & Directors

Officers

- President
Gay Ratcliff-Seamens
- President Elect
Julie Schmied
- President Elect Nominee
Sue Bodenner
- Secretary
Sue Bodenner was sad because her
- 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

Guests

Jessica Gilbert

Notes and Announcement

Fellowship

Nest week's after meeting fellowship dinner will be held at Napolino's Route 301 at 7:00pm. If you want to go please contact Norm D. at 617-840-9279 or dpn4659@gmail.com



Several of our members traveled to Tavares this past Thursday to help pack food for LovExtension clients.

District Picnic

Our first annual District Family Picnic will be on Saturday, June 26, from 12:00 – 4:00 PM. We will also recognize individuals and clubs for their achievements and install our new governors. Thanks to the generosity of Sonya and Tony LaBosco, the picnic will be held at their Eagle Heart Ranch, 10741 Tyson Road, Lake Nona, Orlando, 32832. Families are encouraged to attend, and we will have events for children of all ages.

Currently we are conducting "hybrid" meetings every Wednesday **starting at 5:00pm**. You can attend in person at Lake Miona (face mask optional and Villages ID required), or join by ZOOM.

Meeting ID 826 152 7480 and Password 84594

Meetings

Jun 23rd Ed Beltram - National Retirees
Legislative Network

Committee Meetings

Jun 23rd Service Projects Committee

Event

Jun 12-16 International Conference
Jun 26th District Picnic
Jun 30th Installation Dinner
Mar 19th Tech Expo