



The Villages - Evening  
**Rotary**  
Club



Evening Edition  
March 24, 2021

## Meetings

### March 17th

President Gay, dressed in her Irish Green & swanky hat, called the 34th meeting of the Rotary Club to order at 4:10pm. This was our 1st hybrid meeting on St Paddy's Day and lots of our members were wearin' the green! There were a few glitgez setting everything up but the meeting went very well. Thanks to Laddie Jimmy Bodenner, who purchased the equipment and set it up. All 20 Rotarians in attendance agreed that the meeting went very well and we should continue to meet.

President-Elect Julie gave the reflection, and since it was her birthday, born on the 15th of March, sometime in the 1900's, we all sang a rousing round of Happy Birthday to her.

President Gay talked about her meeting with our new members and what an outstanding group of members they are. She told the group that she had issued them a challenge to come up with some new fundraising ideas. WOW! Did they meet the challenge. They came up with about 20 ideas and we are going to investigate several of them and bring them back to you.

President Gay asked the group who was the least likely person in the room who had some Irish blood and several people said Yori and they were right! Everyone was so glad to have Yori back in our club. We introduced guests: Rich Tapia, Kay Butler and Bob Haas. Laddie Thomas Reed, who is 54% Irish, welcomed them with our special "Welcome Song."

#### IRISH BACKGROUNDS & STORIES & MEMORIES

1. Kate T – Related to Bing Crosby
2. Jim B - had to tell us how embarrassed he was. He always thought he was English & Swedish. Well DNA showed Jim to be 1/3 Irish after he had been telling Sue all these Irish jokes for years.
3. Pat C – Definitely take a trip to Ireland and be sure and see North & South and try those Irish coffees
4. Karen – On a trip to Ireland, stayed at a B&B, drove to dinner, forgot where the B&B was but found their way back.
5. Norm – Took a DNA kit and found out he was 95% Irish and he always thought he was French.

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## Meetings *(Continued from page 1)*

6. Martha – Lived in Boston for 8 years so she was Irish by association.
7. Cindy – Went hitchhiking in Ireland in 1968-69 and ended up in a town with a drunken brawl going on. Luckily a nice family gave her a ride.
8. Kay – Told us her Maiden name was Callahan.

The Red Sox Nation gave us 2 checks for \$100.00 each, one for Harbour View and one for St Theresa's. Yori O. asked about our lifestyle club and who could attend. President Gay clarified that on folks who lived in The Villages could attend in person. Folks who do not live in The Villages can always join us on zoom, or they can come to Lake Miona and sit in the lobby on their computer and join the meeting. Then they can go to dinner with us and join us for our projects.

Dusty & Jim and going to get together and see how soon we can move our meeting to 5:00pm. For the next 4 weeks we will meet at Lake Miona at 4:00pm. Gay D will have the Service Projects meeting next week at 2:00pm on zoom. Kate Tapia explained more about our upcoming Baby Shower and she asked everyone to please sign up to help with our baby shower.

### IRISH BLESSING

- Gay RS said "I am an Irish woman. I was born with my heart on my sleeve, afire in my soul and a mouth I can't always control!"
- Julie's reflection – "May the roard rise up to meet you, may the wind always be at your back, may the sun shine warm upon your face and rains fall soft upon your fields.
- Sue B Had one for Jim B – "As you slide down the bannister of life, may the splinters never be pointed in the wrong direction."
- Sue B had one for Karen – "May you never forget what is worth remembering nor remember what is best forgotten."
- Gay followed u with "Don't stumble over something behind ya."
- Sue led us out with – There are good ships and there are good ships and ships that sail the sea, but the bests hips are friendships and may they always be!

### March 24th

Our second hybrid meeting was much better than the first, last week. Thanks to Jim B., an IT guru friend of his along with some new equipment, those on ZOOM could interact with little difficulty. President Gay showed off a banner our club received for giving over \$250,000 since our club's inception. That's quite an accomplishment for such a small club in only eight years.

President Gay asked Marvin I. why he joined Rotary. His response was that where he was working he was asked to join a service club and the only one was Lions. Not wanting to join them he became instrumental in starting a new Rotary club and helping to grow it. He remains in Rotary because of our service to others and the friends he has made.

Jim B. then introduced our guest Diane Scholfield founder and CEO of Hands of Mercy Everywhere in Belleview. This organization has been in existence for 16 years and grown from one house to 3 houses and a community center.

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## Service Projects Committee Meeting April 24th

Food Drive We have received permission to put food collection boxes in several rec centers starting March 1st. Sandra R. will send out an email requesting volunteers from 9am to 1pm. There will be a couple of Interactors there to help.

Rotary Rebaters They continue to purchase food utilizing coupons from various sources. If you would like to donate nonperishable food you can drop it off at Sue B.'s house. The HVES program will continue until mid March.

### Hands On.

- Clothing Collection - since most thrift stores are inundated with donations we are canceling this effort. If you have accumulated anything it can be dropped off at St. Timothy's on March 25th.
- Operation Christmas Child - they are now set up to collect all year. They would like flattened newspaper bags, clear label-free prescription bottles and small stuffed toys. You can drop them off at Martha F.'s or Pat R.'s house.
- ForwardPath is looking for donations of cases of water, laundry soap, dryer sheets and cleaning supplies. These can also be dropped off at Pat R.'s and Martha F.'s.
- Impact Fund our club has donated \$5,000 to St Theresa's through February.

DDF Grants Our District Grant for Langley Dental Program has been approved and we expect the grants for LovExtension and ForwardPaths to be approved shortly. The balance of our grant money will be used for an autistic sensory path for HVES.

Baby Shower Kate T. and Sue B. will be chairing this event which is scheduled for late April at Spanish Springs. More information to follow.

Thank You Party Julie S. suggested that the club host an event to thank neighborhoods that have donated to our food drives.

St. Theresa Warming Room Their application has been denied since they do not have water sprinklers. This is on hold awaiting decisions from the Diocese

## Interact Club

This past Saturday the South Sumter Interact Club held a car wash. Despite the overcast weather it was a success with several of our club members partaking of the chance to get a clean car.



## Smile for Veterans

This program, which started out to provide routine dental work for veterans who qualify financially has grown to include dentures. To date the program has provided 143 grants thanks to the Sunshine State Veteran Fund, Summer Glen Veterans Dental Fund and our club. We also received a donation from Fred Robey which will be used to match any donations to the Smile for Veterans Program. Thanks to the efforts of Jim B. who heads up this program, and Dusty R. who both have spoken to other organizations on behalf of this program we have received several pledges.

## After Meeting Dinner

Norm D. has made reservations at Bonifay on March 31st at 5:30. Call Norm at 352-751-4659 if you would like to attend.

**Officers & Directors**

Officers

- President  
Gay Ratcliff-Seamens
- President Elect  
Julie Schmied
- President Elect Nominee  
Sue Bodenner
- 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**

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| <u>March 17th</u> | <u>March 24th</u> |
| Chuck Bares       | Bob Haas          |
| Bob Hass          | Janet Haas        |
| Kay Butler        | Rich Tapia        |

**Notes and Announcement**

**Happy/Sad March 17th Meeting**

Julie S. because she had to give up her computer of 11 years and the new one is already in the shop.  
Martha F. was happy to see everybody and we have all had our vaccines. She is equally as glad to have a new process in place for St. Theresa grants.  
Jim B was happy that the morning club wrote a \$4,047.00 grant for Smiles for veterans.  
Pat C. was happy for the great group of new members.  
Bob Haas snowbird Rotarian spoke about his cancer treatment.  
Roy M. was happy to be at an in-person meeting.  
Karen J. thanked everyone for the cards and visits and is feeling better every day.  
Vinnie M. was glad to see everyone even though they were wearing masks.  
Kay Butler was happy her daughter was accepted to St. Andrews in Scotland.  
Tom R. was happy to have relocated 5 goldfish.  
Sue B. is happy to be Irish.  
Chuck Bares snowbird Rotarian was happy he went scuba diving.  
Kate T was happy her family is coming for Easter.  
Yuri O. was happy because he will be taking a trip around the world in October.  
President Gay commented on what a fantastic year it has been and thanked everybody.

Currently we are conducting "hybrid" meetings every Wednesday starting at 4:00pm. You can attend in person at Lake Miona (face mask and Villages ID required), or join by ZOOM.  
**Meeting ID 826 152 7480 and Password 84594**

**Meetings**  
 Mar 31st Chad Christiano-CEO Ocala Regional

**Committee Meetings**  
 April 14th Board Meeting

**Event**  
 Mar 27th Food Drive 9am to 1pm  
 Apr 27th District Assembly  
 May 15th District Conference

### **Hands of Mercy (Continued)**

in the state of Florida, by age 19, nearly half of young women in the foster care have been pregnant, compared to a fifth of their peers who are not in foster care? Studies have shown time and time again that children who are exposed to adverse childhood experiences affect a wide range of things in a child's life. Poor education, poor health, mental sickness, drug addiction, and a life of crime can all result from adverse childhood experiences.

Hands Of Mercy, Inc. provides residential accommodations as well as psychological, physical, emotional, and spiritual care in a safe, secure, Christian environment for young women in the foster care system. These young women are between the ages of 13 and 17, may or may not be admitted with a sibling, may be pregnant and/or parenting and/or have a case plan goal to reunify with her child. Currently serving 20 clients they provide mental health programs, life style training, spiritual growth and educational opportunity including middle school, high school, GED, and Community College. These programs, along with all the other services provided at Hands Of Mercy Everywhere, Inc., are very important in aiding our young teen girls with their development as active and productive members of their community.

Hands of Mercy provides labor and delivery coaching to prepare moms for their upcoming delivery. Practitioners are on site to guide moms and babies from pregnancy- 2 years old. They focus on the parent-child relationship and contributing factors like the personal health of the mother, maternal role development life and education possibilities for the mother, infant's health and development and increasing the awareness of safety for mom and baby

### **Is this a great club or what?**

Hello Fellow Rotarians, Recently, I had a fabulous meeting with the New Members of our club, who are enrolled in our S.T.A.R.S Program, which stands for Special Training for Action in Rotary. We are so very lucky to have these new members join our club and I cannot wait for you to meet them. I conducted their Rotary Orientation, and I gave them a challenge. I asked them to come up with new ideas for "Fun Raising," and boy did they ever come through! Just in case you have not meet them except on zoom, they are Brent Mitchell, Darcie Furnier, Kate Sizemore, Kate Tapia and Shelia Rausch. I also invited Sandra Ricciardi and Francine Jackson to be part of this group since they are also fairly new to the club. These folks came up with about 20 or so new ideas and then they would add something to an idea or one idea would spawn another idea and so it went. These folks are charged up and ready to make something happen. I think we are going to have a "stimulating" idea for you very soon; one that will "stimulate" you to think about Rotary and our community projects. So, if you happen to be "stimulated" through the mail, be sure to not put all your eggs in one basket as we may have a

"stimulating" idea of how you can help The Rotary Club of The Villages Evening! Are you getting "stimulated???" I am sure that you will welcome our newest members and make them feel part of the greatest club in Central Florida! To answer the question, "Is This The Greatest Club or What?," the answer is Absolutely! Do you know why? Well, of course you do. We exemplify the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self." The new members asked me to provide them with a list of our service projects. Easy, right? Well, I think we all know them, and they are on our web site, and we talk about them at various times, but can you name all eight? We have so many wonderful things that we do, you might not be able to name everone. We did not have a list all in one place, so I decided to put one together for us. This will help us when we are asking new business' to help us with a project or when someone asks what our community projects are or when a new member wants to see how they might get involved and many other ways. So, for your viewing pleasure, here is why we are the greatest club! And by the way, thank you to every single one of you for your contributions in helping to make this club the best!