



Rotary Club of the Villages - Evening Evening Edition

Officers & Directors

Officers

President
Tim Treat
President Elect
Gay Ratcliff-Seamens
President Elect Nominee
Carole Iberer
Secretary
Pat Cronenberg
Treasurer
Cindy Ivy
Past President
Jamie Losito

Directors

Dusty Rhodes
Public Image
Martha Friedman
Service Projects
Mike Roth
New Generations
Dusty Rhodes
Club Service
Nancy Yerkey
Membership
Julie Schmied
Foundation

Club Positions

Sergeant-at-Arms
Rich Iberer
Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms
Dusty Rhodes
Assistant Treasurer
Tim Treat
Assistant Secretary
Kay Roth
Programs
Mike Roth



Food Collection

Gay Ratcliff-Seamens watches, amazed, as another car pulls up to donate groceries. It was the seventh car in less than half an hour and the lawn where they had pitched a tent for donations at St. Timothy Catholic Church in Lady Lake already was filling up. On Thursday, seven Rotary Clubs from the tri-county area came together to host a food drive using a drive-thru method in which donors could just pull up, have members unload the donations and leave without ever having to leave the car. In addition to canned and boxed goods received, an abundance of paper goods, personal toiletries and some money also were collected to help fill pantries. The items were divided amongst the groups before being delivered.

The drive lasted about four hours at each of the seven drop-off locations hosted by various churches throughout the community, including St. Timothy Catholic Church, Trinity Lutheran Church in Summerfield, Oxford Assembly of God in Oxford, Adamsville Baptist Church in Wildwood, and three other Leesburg churches.

The event brought in 19,800 pounds of food that was donated to food Pantries supported by the churches in addition to Village View Community Church, which benefits Harbour View Elementary School in
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Zoom Meeting

Wednesday was another well attended Zoom meeting with 22 members spending the first on their activities. pledge, reflection, Tim shared some announced the great job with the website. He to go onto the site formation about our to Facebook.

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few minutes catching up After starting with the and happy/sad President nouncements and dis-Sue Bodenner has done encouraged each member which provides lots of in-club. It also contains a link

Meeting (Con't from page 1)

We were also privileged to have DG Elect Mike Vernon join us.

Our speaker was Bob Hildreth, from the Dominican Republic, who, several members had met on their trip to that country, joined us to speak about



the conditions in the Dominican Republic during the pandemic.

They are facing the same problems that the United States is facing as the virus started to surface in late February. In mid-March the government imposed a mandatory curfew from 5:00pm to 5:am. They also banned foreigners from entering the country. Residents were required to wear masks, although they were all homemade since they had no access to real ones.

Bob's club called on three Rotary Community Corps to help with the one thing that was most needed, food. Through efforts by these volunteers, they were able to feed 250 families in 14 communities. Their biggest problem they faced was the distribution of the food. As a result of these efforts, they distributed 49,000 lbs. of rice, 11,000lbs. Of beans, and 900 gallons of oil, plus salt, vegetables, and bread at a cost of \$28,721.00. Our donation of \$800.00 was part of this.

The economy, like ours, has been severely effected by the shutdown and is just now starting to re-open, but the majority of microbusiness, the majority, are suffering greatly.

Drive (Con't from page 1)

Summerfield. It is estimated it will feed about 400 people a month. "We had no idea we would get so many donations so quickly," said Ratcliff Seamens, president-elect for the Rotary Club of the Villages-Evening. "It is absolutely amazing to see the amount of people who are contributing. After the churches that were used as drop-off points sent staff to collect food for the food pantries they sponsor, we still had enough to fill two cars of food to take to Village View Community Church."

Ratcliff-Seamens said they wanted to help Village View fill their pantry because they were in great need and the pantry helps feed students at Harbour View Elementary, where many club members volunteer. "We just want to help out where we can," the Village of Belle Aire resident said. It's lots of fun to be able to host this drive and the response has been amazing.

Tim Treat, president of the Rotary Club of the Villages-Evening, said he was thrilled at the response at the various sites, as he was worried there wouldn't be as many people donating due to earlier drives held throughout the community.

"We have collected so much and it's great to see The Villages community getting involved," the Village of Largo resident said. "I was a little concerned that the drive wouldn't collect as much as originally hoped, but the response has been so more that expected."

Wendy Weaver, who is in charge of public relations for The Rotary Club of the Villages, said while the drive was a success, the members of the various clubs also are thankful for the churches who allowed them to use their premises for the drop-off locations, as well as those who donated. "We are truly fortunate for the community's generosity," the Village Hacienda resident said. To keep the momentum going, the clubs are organizing another drive in the near future to assure food pantries' shelves stay stocked and those in need are fed.

Notes and Announcements

District Conference

Rotary International has announced that this years convention will be held online instead of in person in Hawaii. More details will follow. This is a great opportunity to participate in a convention without leaving your house.

Thank You

Mike Vernon District Governor Elect

After attending our recent Zoom meeting, Mike sent a note which included a check for happy/sad. “Thanks for letting me join you for your board meeting and club meeting. You have a great a great club and members. Please pass along my thanks and best wishes to your members.”, he wrote.

St. Theresa Roman Catholic Church

We also received a letter from the church for our recent \$1000 donation. The church’s food pantry averages over40 clients a day, serving about 125 family members. In addition, their soup kitchen averages 140 meals a day, 365 days a year. “Through the generosity of you, and so many others, we in Social Services are able to act as conduits to provide the assistance to so many necessary individuals and families.”, Jack Nettis wrote. “These are certainly very trying times. We could only serve those in need with donations such as yours.”, he added. Jack is a former Rotarian of 20 years.

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: 370-198-3239** and **Password 84594** for each meeting.

It is better to set up a Zoom account and not use the link provided. If you need help setting up your Zoom account contact either Mike Roth or Tim Treat.

Online Meeting Attendees

Rotarians

Sue Bodenner
Jim Bodenner
Pat Cronenberg
Gay Davidson
Norm Davis
Martha Friedman
Carole Iberer
Rich Iberer
Cindy Ivy
Marvin Ivy
Karen Jasniewski
Gay Ratcliff-Seamens
Tom Reed
Dusty Rhodes
Pat Roam
Kay Roth
Mike Roth
Julie Schmeid
Vern Sikora
Tim Treat
Nancy Yerkey
Sandy Zelnick

Guest

Mike Vernon District Governor Elect
Bob Murphy
David Newell

Schedule of Meetings & Events

All Meetings will be online via Zoom until further notice

Meeting

Jun 3rd Women’s Heart Support

Committee Meetings

Jun 10th Combined Board Meeting

Event

Jun 20th Awards & Guards
Jun 20th-26th Virtual RI Convention
Oct 17th Polo BBQ

Visit us on the Web

www.rotaryvillagesevening.com