



The Spoke

“Participate...Life is not a spectator sport”

This is the mantra of our speaker **Kim Berghs**, United Way Volunteer Center Manager. She was introduced by **Sara McCallum** who noted that, at the Bonita Community Health Center, the United Way services are often used.

Kim joined the United Way in 2008. Prior to that she was Director of Community Engagement with Senior Friendship Centers and held several positions with AMIKids, which operates programs for troubled teens. She is currently an officer with the Metro-McGregor Kiwanis Club and a board member for the Florida Association of Volunteer Resource Management.

Kim pointed out the U.W. raised \$9 million last year, **91% of the funds went to agencies and initiatives**. She says the great volunteers help to keep the administration and fund raising expenses low.

She told us that United Way 211, a 24-hour non-emergency helpline for referral to health and social services had fielded 52,000 calls last year. **“We pride ourselves on replying to calls within 24 hours and everyone of the calls gets a follow-up by phone or mail, if necessary.”** The services requested most frequently are help with rent, electric bills,

food, transportation, and health problems. The U.W. is not the money exchanger. Their role is to help determine what services are available for the client and help them get connected.



There are a couple of new opportunities for volunteering.

Just started in January is a **Family Mentoring program**. This is in conjunction with the Childrens’ Network and is designed to help reunify children with their parents, children that have been removed from the home and now it’s time to get them back together. Volunteers help mentor the family on budgeting, parenting skills, landlord, and assistance

issues.

The latest program just announced, is **readingPals**, underwritten by Publix. Volunteers will be going into the schools to read to kids. What is unique about this program is that the volunteer will read to the same child each week and the child is going to get to take home some books. **Two hundred volunteers are needed** for the start of the school year.

Kim said, **“We wouldn’t be where we are today with you and without your service. Our community just gets stronger because of what you do.”**

LAST WEEK'S MEETING



President **Sandy Hemstead** presided. She started the meeting by calling **Walter Restrepo** of the staff to the podium. "Walter has been like an ex-officio member of the club. He has been with us for many years. Today is his last day. He has prepared a thank-you

note to us for including him as part of our Rotary family. Walter has some medical issues and is going back home. We wish him a good trip and good luck with the medical problems and we will welcome him back any time for breakfast."

Mark Generales presented the invocation; **Adam Botana** led the Pledge of Allegiance; and **Jim Winemiller** (rr) recited the Four Way Test. **Ron Anderson** led the "no-royalty" version of *You're a Grand Old Flag*.

Florist shop owner **Rex Sims** told us that his 66th wedding anniversary is coming up and he is going to give his wife flowers as a present. **Ron** and **Ruth Anderson** will be celebrating their 50th anniversary. Flowers, Ron?

Joy or Concern? **Kenny King** has a grandson coming to live with him for a year while attending school here.

Our club has been selected as one of the pilot clubs for RI's two year **Innovative and Flexible** pilot program. Please contact Sandy if you are interested in being on the committee working on and implementing new ideas.

Sandy also described one scheme, of "**partner**" memberships. Spouses or domestic partners would join and attendance

requirements would be met if one or the other partner attended. Details later. Please let Sandy know if you are interested in becoming "partner" members.

Bobbie Bird announced the **YMCA "bed race"** will be held 4th of July at 5 pm. The club will pay the entry fee, but we need a good, fast bed. Bobbie drafted **Mary Saunders** to be the "driver" of the bed.



All-Girl bed race team Derry, NH

Nurse Bobbie's **prescription** for the 4th is: 6:30 am traffic control at the StarSpangled 5K; next watch the parade; nap in the afternoon; bed race at 5 pm afterwards selling beer while waiting for the fireworks.

Our representative to the S4TL is **Evelyn Pancheco** a junior at EHS. We need a volunteer to drive her to Brandon on Sunday, June 21st and a club representative to attend a session in Brandon on Tuesday, June 23rd. Please contact **Kae Moore** for details.

A group sponsored by the Fort Myers South R.C. is forming a **new club, Fort Myers Sunset**. The new club meets at Sheraton Four Points, Daniels and Treeline, Mondays at 5:15 pm. They would like to have other Rotarians come for support during the start up period.



Mark McCaw, dressed in his winter clothes, told us about the first alternative meeting, Thursday, June 18th at the Miramar Lakes Beach & Golf Club. There are opportunities for a group lesson, luncheon (alternative meeting), and golf. Choose one or all. Please contact Mark McCaw by Tuesday if

you are planning to attend.

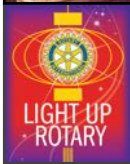
There is a District seminar in Sarasota Saturday, June 20th, covering **Rotary Foundation, Membership, and Public Relations**. Please check on the District web site or contact Sandy.

Bob Lombardo announced he has received

checks for 30 wheelchairs. The Wheelchair Foundation matches the \$100 with \$50 to make up the cost of a chair (\$150). Please make your **checks payable to the Wheelchair Foundation** and send or give them to Bob.

Roger Brunswick was substitute Sergeant-at-arms. Roger lectured on his pet peeve, table talking during the meeting. "It is really rude to be having individual conversations while the meeting is going on." He introduced **Jim O'Leary's** guest, discovered he was in the Wine & Spirits business, and conducted a straw poll that would have voted the guest into membership.

Roger ran out of monolog ideas, "I have nothing else to offer." Finally, Sandy suggested checking for Rotary pins. He then asked "Who was late?". An anonymous voice asked, "What time does the meeting start?". Answer, "That's a \$5 fine, \$10 if you want the answer."



Rotary Club of Bonita Springs, chartered November 3, 1978. The Club may be contacted through its mailing address P.O. Box 474, Bonita Springs Florida 34133. You can reach **The Spoke** through its email BonitaSpoke@aol.com. **Scott Gerrish** issue editor.

President	Sandra Hemstead
President-Elect	Thomas B. Briers
Secretary	Gregory T. Holtz
Treasurer	Bob Lombardo
Sergeant-at-Arms	George M. Cohan III

Last Week: A Smiling Mike Poff drew 7♥ to win \$5.



The 50/50 is \$789

Rotary Sings: Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound!
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.!

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

The 4-Way Test
of things we think, say or do.

Is it the **TRUTH**?

Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?

Will it build **GOODWILL** and
BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all
concerned?

This Week:

Dan Barnett
Community Emergency
Response Team

Birthdays

Jay Berube June 15
Bill Oehler June 16
Don Thomson June 17

This Morning's Invocation

Good and gracious God, in our witness to others enable us to be steadfast in duties deeply felt and humbly accepted.

Help us to be thoroughly responsible in our stewardship of the opportunities we are given to be truthful and fair, to show a benevolent spirit toward others, and to rigorously uphold the high ethical and moral standards we espouse as Rotarians.

Bless now our gathering in this place, that our influence for good will be felt in this small corner of the world. To that end we offer gratitude for sustaining food, enriching fellowship and invigorating involvement in worthwhile endeavors. Amen.

Your finances. Your future. *Our focus.*

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