



The Spoke

“Bonita Update”

“Mayor Nelson Offers Policy and Perspective”



Last week we heard from our good friend Bonita Springs Mayor Ben Nelson (joined above by **Carl Schwing**, City Manager and Lora Taylor, Communications Manager). Ben has a long history of public and community service, having served on the Bonita Springs City Council and as Director for Bonita Springs Utilities (three of them as President). He is a member of the Cypress Lodge and the Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce.

Mayor Nelson offered an interesting presentation and overview on issues relating to annexation, (a process which the Bonita Springs City website describes as an “official joining together of land and people that are already connected geographically but not politically”) especially within Pelican Landing community. His discussion was thoughtful, balanced, and informative. Thanks for a great presentation Ben—we are always glad to see you. Visit again soon.

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LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President Bobbi presided. **Chris Riesen** delivered the invocation; **Frank Liles** led the Pledge of Allegiance; and the FGCU Rotaractors the 4 Way Test. **Ron Anderson** led a rousing version of "Are You Sleeping?" We also happily welcomed Lawrence Byrnes, Area 3 Assistant Governor to our meeting.

President Bobbi commenced an action-packed agenda by presenting Mayor Nelson a

ceremonial check which represents our Club Foundation's contribution in the amount of \$900 supporting "Despicable Me" one of the Bonita Springs Special Events Movies in the Park which be shown in March.

We were delighted to welcome our FGCU Rotaractors who were making their monthly visit to our Club. **Tom Burgess** introduced Jazmin Williams current Club President, Rozzelle Santos, Aaliyah Pierre, and Paul Olivera. Thanks for visiting—we always enjoy your visit.

Gift of Life...special thanks go out to **Mark and Karen McCaw** for agreeing to host our Gift of Life child Anna Weins. If your schedule will permit you to offer some "logistical" assistance to **Mark and Karen** during Anna's stay, please contact Mark at mark.mccaw@ubs.com.



Having Heart...**Julie Pedretti** reported that so far we have collected 325 pounds of food and other donated service items to the Bonita Assistance Office in support of our *Rotary Has Heart* initiative. Next week our suggested donation items will vegetable oil and soap (bar or liquid.) We anticipate making our presentation on Friday, February 14. Details will be forthcoming.

It's A Wonderful Life
Producer Bob Lombardo stepped into "character" and updated us on our upcoming theatre production. Rehearsals for "It's A Wonderful Life" begin

this coming Sunday. While the pace of ticket sales is improving, it is time for us all to buy (or sell) tickets to the production to insure its financial success. You can purchase tickets on-line or by utilizing the ticket order form that has previously been distributed. Sponsorship opportunities are also available—see Bob for all the details. Your help and support is appreciated as we all look

forward to celebrating "It's A Wonderful Life" February 11-13.

And Finally...the first Team Party for this year's Relay for Life will take place Wednesday, January 29 at the Bonita Springs Community Center, 10520 Reynolds Street from 5:30-7:00 pm. It's an opportunity for you to learn about this year's Relay event, join the Rotary Rocks Relay team, have fun and enjoy the festivities.



From RI: 1.1 Million Gift To Help Eradicate Polio

Rotary member Terry Caster and his wife, Barbara, announced a \$1.1 million gift to Rotary to help eradicate polio. What's more, their gift will be matched two-for-one by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, resulting in \$3.3 million in new funding for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

The Casters' gift is one of the largest-ever individual contributions to Rotary for polio eradication. In addition to supporting our No. 1 goal of a polio-free world, the couple gave \$750,000 to the Rotary Peace Centers to fund a peace fellow's studies every other year. Both gifts were made to The Rotary Foundation in December.

"Barbara and I are blessed to be fruitful in our family business, A-1 Self Storage," said Terry, the company's founder and a member of the Rotary Club of La Mesa in California. "We've always felt it is important to give back and help others, so we are involved in numerous charities.

"But as a Rotarian, I can think of no cause more worthy than Rotary's work to end polio and promote peace," said Terry, who received Rotary's Service Above Self Award in 1993 for his humanitarian work.



Since the 1960s, the Casters have actively supported humanitarian efforts in San Diego and across the border in Tijuana, Mexico. They founded Serving Hands International in 1982 to help the poor in Baja

California. After meeting Mother Teresa, the couple were inspired to expand SHI's work in Mexico.

Rotary is a leading partner in the fight to end polio. Through our advocacy, fundraising, and public awareness efforts, Rotary has helped reduce polio cases by 99 percent worldwide. The End Polio Now, Make History Today fundraising campaign makes contributions work three times as hard with matching funds from the Gates Foundation.

The announcement of the Casters' gift was made in San Diego at Rotary's International Assembly, an annual training event for the incoming class of governors who represent Rotary's 537 districts worldwide.



Rotary Club of Bonita Springs, chartered November 3, 1978, meets every Wednesday at Bonita Bay Club. The Club may be contacted through its mailing address P.O. Box 474, Bonita Springs Florida 34133, or its websites www.bonitaspringsrotary.org. and www.facebook.com/myrotary. **The Spoke**, the Club's official newsletter, is published weekly throughout the year (except when the Club is in recess.) You can reach the Spoke through its email riverchip12-spoke@yahoo.com



**“The Fifty-Fifty”
This Week’s Big Prize- $\$1,587.50$**

Last week a jubilant Carl Nickel drew the Six of Clubs to win $\$5.00$.

As always,,we’re all winners as the “fifty-fifty” helps keep our Club strong and ready to serve.

**“Rotary Sings”
“Yellow Submarine”**

In the town where I was born
Lived a man who sailed to sea
And he told us of his life



In the land of submarines

So we sailed up to the sun
Till we found the sea of green
And we lived beneath the waves
In our yellow submarine

*We all live in a yellow submarine
Yellow submarine, yellow submarine
We all live in a yellow submarine
Yellow submarine, yellow submarine*

And our friends are all on board
Many more of them live next door
And the band begins to play

*We all live in a yellow submarine
Yellow submarine, yellow submarine
We all live in a yellow submarine
Yellow submarine, yellow submarine.*



***It’s A Birthday
Celebration!***

***Donna Marcotte,
February 2***



**Our
Upcoming
Speakers**

**This Morning,
Mike Scott,
Lee County Sheriff**

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

Is it the **TRUTH**?
Is its **FAIR** to all concerned?
Will it build **GOODWILL**
and **BETTER**
FRIENDSHIPS?
Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to
all concerned?

This Morning’s Invocation

Holy God, who has set before us high standards and expectations, we come prayerfully to you as men and women who seek to be diligent in meeting the expectations inherent in our identity as Rotarians.

In home and office, in stores and schools, and in all public places in which we are under scrutiny, help us not betray the moral and ethical standards we profess to hold. May our presence here today remind us of who we are. Help us to renew our commitments to the qualities we revere as Rotarians.

And now for the nourishing gift of food and the nurturing gift of our being together, we offer thanks. Amen.

