



The Spoke



“Meals of Hope”

“Steve Popper Offers Update, Hope, and Inspiration”



Last week we welcomed our friend Steve Popper, Executive Director of Meals of Hope to our podium. Starting in 2007, Meals of Hope has packaged over 23 million meals. Meals of Hope Food packages are distributed by accredited food bank partners providing recipients both nutrition and hope. Meals of Hope thus offers countless volunteer-minded individuals a way to make a positive impact by bringing food packing events to their local churches, schools and service organizations.

We have an opportunity once again to participate in this noble project during the “Holidays Without Hunger” packing event which will take place December 24 at the Harborside Event Center at 9 am. Last year’s event saw 2000 people pack over 506 thousand meals. The event was fun and a great way to welcome the Holiday Season. This year’s event promises to be even better—so make plans now to attend—and thanks Steve for all you do. Visit again soon.

Rotary International President
 Gary C. K. Huang
 Rotary Club of Tapei, Taiwan

District 6960 Governor
 Pete Doragh
 The Rotary Club of Fort Myers

Area 3 Assistant Governor
 Rick Perry
 The Rotary Club of Bonita Springs, Noon

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

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 Immediate Past President

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 Peter Zahner Jason Dolle

2013-2016
 Sara McCallum Tom Briers
 Gregory T. Holtz Steven Slachta

2014-2017
 Bob Lombardo Frank Mazzeo
 Peter O’Flinn Susan Schmitt

Trustees of The Foundation of The Rotary Club of Bonita Springs

Nancy Ross, President; Richard Garner, Treasurer; Jim Dati, Secretary
 Guy Quinn, Ray Faubion, Ed Houck, John Mathes, Trustees.

LASTWEEK'S MEETING

President-elect Tom presided. **Sara McCallum** delivered the invocation; **Susan Hill** led the Pledge of Allegiance; and **Jim Horein** the 4 Way Test. Musical Director **Ron Anderson** directed a rousing version of "O Christmas Tree."

Our Christmas Party

Our Club's Christmas Party will take place on December 12 at The Colony. If you have not already done so, please sign up now. Tickets are \$60 per person and you can pay by check or online. Plan on attending what shapes up to be a signature Holiday event.

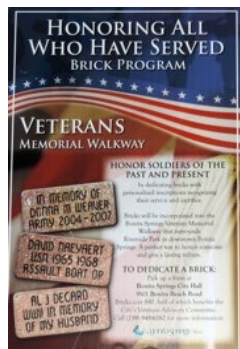


Adam Botana invited us to attend or participate in the 29th Annual Bonita Springs Boat Parade which will take place this coming Saturday December 13 at 5 p.m. For more

information see Adam, call 495-0455 or visit www.BonitaBoatParade.com.

President-elect Tom announced that last Wednesday was the final day for the nominating committee to accept applications for the open Board positions. New Board members will elected at our December 10 Club meeting.

Bob Lombardo announced that the deadline to participate in the Memorial Brick Program has been extended. He also reminded us of the changes in our By Laws which provides for the assessment of a late fee for unpaid dues. Please see Bob if you have any questions regarding your account.



Trustee Chair's December Message

John Kenny, RI 2014-2015 Trustee Chair, made the following observations in his December Message:

"In his inaugural address, U.S. President John F. Kennedy made this often quoted exhortation:

"Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country."



The same sentiments could be applied to the membership of Rotary.

Whether Rotary will survive or whether it will falter, whether our service will mean much to many or little to few, whether Rotary is known with respect or seen as a relic of days gone by, will be up to each and every Rotarian.

There is so much to be done in our world – to educate the illiterate, feed the hungry, provide shelter to the homeless. Our world is still ill divided, and the gap is not shrinking between the haves and the have-nots. But to whom much has been given, much is expected.

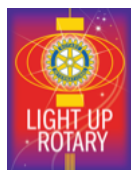
The most important people in Rotary are not the directors of the Board or the trustees of our Rotary Foundation, but the individual Rotarians working quietly in their clubs to assist those in communities who are less fortunate than themselves, for whom they know the need is great. This is Rotary at its finest: Rotarians identifying a need and responding to it.

For many, this is a special time of year. May it bring to each of you the blessings that it offers.

As we *Light Up Rotary*, let us remember that the future of our Foundation is in your hands."

“A Holiday Tradition Continues”

Once again during this Holiday Season our Christmas Tree Tent reminds us of so many things Rotarian. Our hard work, planning, and perseverance meld into the smiles, joy, and wonder families share as they select “their” Tree. “Peace, Goodwill to Men” abound day after day in our humble Tent—it is something of which we as a Club Family can always be most proud. (Thanks to **Tom Briers** and **Scott Gerrish** for contributing photos to this piece.)



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—\$2091.50**

Last week a delighted Adam Botana drew the Queen of Spades to win \$500. As always...we're all winners as the "fifty-fifty" helps keep our Club strong and ready to serve.



**"Rotary Sings"
"Jingle Bells"**

Dashing through the snow
In a one-horse open sleigh

O'er the fields we go
Laughing all the way

Bells on bobtail ring
Making spirits bright
What fun it is to ride and sing
A sleighing song tonight!

Jingle bells, jingle bells,
Jingle all the way.
Oh! what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh.

Jingle bells, jingle bells,
Jingle all the way;
Oh! what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh.



**It's A
Birthday
Celebration!**

John Mathes, December 10
Sandy Hemstead, December 11
Bob Andreasen (rr), December 12



**This
Morning's
Speaker**

Susan Acuna
President and CEO
"Literary Council Gulfcoast"

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

Dear God, as we pursue our commitments as Rotarians, help us not to be satisfied with mediocrity in what we do, nor with shallowness in what we are. In our culture where superficiality abounds, we pray for the will to demonstrate strong commitment to the rock solid values and virtues we espouse and embrace as persons and as a Club. Let our example to others be clear and compelling.

We offer thanks for food prepared for our use, and for those who serve us. Let our table conversations be uplifting, and our concern for others genuine. May the time we spend here today be productive for the purposes to which we subscribe. Thank you for all the favors from Your Hand. Amen.

Your finances. Your future. *Our focus.*

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