



# The Spoke



English-born Australian **Susanne Rea** has been doing her utmost to bring awareness and raise funds for this notable cause. Having had polio herself at the age of four, this is one initiative that is very close to Susanne's heart.

"I joined Rotary 21 years ago when my youngest child went off to university and I was looking to put something back into the community," she says. "I was given the job of district polio chair, which means you have to raise funds and awareness from amongst the clubs in your district. I thought what do people like to do, they like to eat!"

This led to the birth of Susanne's brain child – **"The World's Greatest Meal to Help End Polio"**.

"We were required to raise USD1,500 per club. I was very keen on Facebook (FB) and so I decided to create an FB fundraiser and then, being a little bit ambitious, I decided to involve a past district governor I knew in England," she explains.

"We developed a small group on FB and now there are 11,000 people in the group."

A child can be vaccinated against polio for

life for as little as US60 cents. The donation goes even further – from 2013 to 2018, every US dollar the Rotary commits to polio eradication becomes three dollars, thanks to 2-to-1 match funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

There have been 1,157 events registered in 59 countries and more than 65,400 participants worldwide.

\$1,171,000 has been raised, a total of \$3,512,000 with match funds, which translates to enough

money to buy more than 5,850,000 polio vaccinations!

Susanne travels to various parts of the world carrying a torch that was the project of the Rotary Club of Madras (Chennai), celebrating the fact that India became polio free.

With Susanne, the torch has travelled to Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Afghanistan to Dubai, Egypt and now Bahrain.

She has had 18 corrective surgeries to keep her moving and

there's no stopping her as she continues on her journey to raise awareness and funds for this worthy cause.



Sandy, Bobbi, Susanne Rea

# Bonita Springs Veterans Memorial Walkway Riverside Park

May 23rd, 2015





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## LAST WEEK'S MEETING



Future Rotarian **Brayden Eldridge** rang the bell for President **Sandy Hemstead**. Future DG **Bobbi Bird** presented the invocation; the Pledge of Allegiance was a group effort; and new member **Brad Piotrowski** read the Four Way Test without error.

**Scott Anderson** did the warm up try at an Australian Rules Football cheer. After the warm up, **Jon "everybody up" McLeod** was brought in from the bull pen to lead the recorded version. Side comments heard were, "We sing better than we cheer".



Sandy recognized **Jacob Hyre**, President of the FGCU Rotaract Club to accept an RI Presidential Citation for actively working to "Light Up Rotary". This was the first and only citation awarded to a Rotaract Club in the district. Congratulations to the Rotaracters and **Tom Burgess** who has been

their shepherd.

Sandy announced that the club has joined with the Noon Club and the City to put a "**Rotary**" clock in **Riverside Park**. This will be an impressive 7-8' clock that will serve

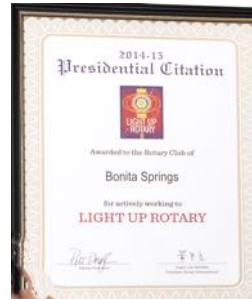
as a meeting place at the park. The installation is expected to be in the fall. **Bob Lombardo** is the club's representative in this effort.

The President reported that she is not certain on whether to be in awe of **Jay Berube** or whether Jay has lost his mind. Jay who has two small children has volunteered to host a Youth Exchange Student from Spain this year. **Mark** and **Karen McCaw** have volunteered to serve as the Youth Exchange Officer and counselor respectively. There are other hosting opportunities available. Please contact Sandy.



Sandy announced the club had received two awards at the District Conference. The **District Governor's Gold Award** for well

run club and the **RI Presidential Citation** for promoting Rotary, increasing membership, etc. "Congratulations to all of you, we've worked together as a club to earn these citations so please feel proud."



**Dues are going up.**

Increases from RI and the District are being passed on without markup. Quarterly dues will increase by \$1.25.

Sandy was instrumental in developing a grant to improve a children's library to an indigenous community near Cairns, Australia. She was awarded an RI Service Above Self award for this effort. The project was





reported on Australian TV news. The link is:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=rkqgaacnYAKU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rkqgaacnYAKU)

**Susanne Rea** told us that Cairns has about 60,000 people with 6 Rotary Clubs. Some people about two hours away have chosen “to live in some of the old ways. To reach out to these children you have done an amazing job.”

Sandy described the previous weekend’s District Conference as “Excellent, Fabulous”. World’s Greatest Meal founder **Susanne Rea** was present and was the speaker for the club sponsored Saturday luncheon. This was the **most successful yet WGM** raising \$79,500. When matched 2 for 1 by the Gates Foundation, this is enough to provide 400,000 immunizations.

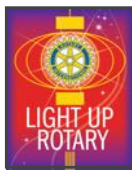
**Rex Sims** reported that Heaven Scent Flowers had its most successful Mother’s Day in 30 years and he thanked the members for their support.

**Marjorie Rubacky**, program chair, is

looking for 6 new monthly program chairs starting in August. Marjorie is taking care of the month of July and needs some help in other months.

**Mark McCaw** announced that the Saturday golf has started. It will be on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays, a fun outing for any skill level, open to anyone and 9 or 18 holes. On the third Thursday of the month, Mark is planning a program of group lesson at 11 am, lunch at 12, and 9 or 18 holes at 1 pm. The luncheon will be a possible pilot program activity and will include a speaker. You may attend the luncheon only or include one or both of the golf events.

**Roger Brunswick** was acting Sergeant-at-Arms. Earlier, Roger had said he was down 21 lbs this morning. Is it the truth? Roger recognized visitors, fumbled with a potential fine for a cell phone ring, chastised the editor for misspelling, and skipped birthdays since the celebrant was not here.



**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](mailto:BonitaSpoke@aol.com). **Scott Gerrish** issue editor.

<b>President</b>	<b>Sandra Hemstead</b>
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<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Gregory T. Holtz</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Bob Lombardo</b>
<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	<b>George M. Cohan III</b>

**Last Week: An unrewarded Jon McLeod drew 7 ♦ to win \$5.**



**The 50/50 is \$665**

## **Rotary Sings: America, The Beautiful**

O beautiful for spacious skies,  
For amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties  
Above the fruited plain.  
America! America!  
God shed his grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with  
brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea.

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:*

Major Jim von Rinteln  
US Army Ret.

***Birthdays***

***None this week***

## **This Morning's Invocation**

Good and gracious God, in this week of national and personal remembering of honored dead, we offer our gratitude for the benefits and blessings we have received from the work and influence of those whom we remember.

Revive in us an appreciation for our heritage, and a renewed awareness of our present responsibility as citizens and as Rotarians.

As we act with integrity, serve with love and strive for peace, grant that conflicts in society may be resolved and overtures of peace may be eagerly embraced. Through us may enmity and hatred give way to respect and loving concern.

Bless to our use today the food of which we partake, the fellowship in which we participate, and the purposes to which we give ourselves in service. Amen.

Your finances. Your future. *Our focus.*

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