

R.I. PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

There is a story told in my Hindu tradition of two sages, Shaunaka and Abhipratari. They were worshippers of Prana, the wind god. One day, the two men were about to sit down to lunch when a poor student knocked on their door, asking for food.

"No, boy, do not bother us at this hour," was the reply. The student was surprised but very hungry, so he persisted.

"Tell me, honored sirs, which deity do you worship?"

"Prana, the wind god," they answered impatiently.

"Do you not know that the world begins and ends with wind, and that wind pervades the entire universe?"

The two sages were by now very irritated by their impertinent guest. "Of course we know it!" they replied.

"Well, then," continued the student, "if Prana pervades the universe, then he pervades me also, since I am but part of the universe. He is also in this hungry body, which stands before you begging for a bite to eat! **And so in denying food to me, you deny it to the very deity whom you say you serve.**"

The sages realized the student spoke the truth and invited him to enter and share

their meal. **For they understood, at that moment, that by opening the door to one who sought their help, they were not only serving that individual – but reaching toward a larger goal.**



Our experience of Rotary is, for the most part, based in our own communities. We meet every week in our clubs, in the same places, with the same familiar friends. While almost all of us are involved in some way or other in international service,

the Rotary we see and share from day to day feels very local. **It can be easy to lose sight of the larger picture – of what our service truly means.**

Every impact you have as a Rotarian, individually and through your club, **is multiplied by the power of our numbers.** When you feed one person who is hungry, when you educate one person who is illiterate, when you protect one child from disease, the impact may seem small. It is anything but. **For it is only through the power of numbers, through the power of our individual actions and gifts,** that we can have the impact we seek: to truly *Be a Gift to the World.*

LAST MEETING

President **Tom Briers** presided. Week 28. **Ray Faubion** presented the invocation; **George Cohan** led the Pledge of Allegiance; and **Don Manley** recited the Four Way Test flawlessly. **Ron Anderson** led the singing of *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*.

Tom noted that there was a good crowd and a nice turn out of Rotary Regulars. He announced there would be an **election of Directors** on February 3rd. **Steve Slachta** is chairman of the nominating committee. Please contact Steve if you are interested or want to nominate someone.

Tom Burgess is looking for members for the Rotaract Committee. Tom says, "This is a chance to spend 'community' time working with young people. They are an amazing group. I have turned my attitude about Millennials and Generation X's and Y's 180 degrees since I started Rotaract a few years back." There will be a Rotaract Committee meeting after the Jan 13th club meeting.

Stephanie Kissinger reminds us of the Wounded Warrior softball games on Friday, January 15th. WW vs. Lee County Sheriffs at 6pm and WW vs. the Fire Department at 8pm. We **need volunteers** to sell beer at the games. Please contact Stephanie if you can help.

Mark McCaw is going to participate in a charity bike ride for the Joe DiMaggio Hospital. The hospital has been an important contributor to the Gift of Life

children and this is an opportunity to return that support. Contact Mark if you are willing to sponsor him.

Sara McCallum asked that we put loose change or folding money in the Blue CART buckets on each table. She also reported that the Bonita Community Health Center (BCHC) will have a **Health Fair - Open House** Saturday, January 16th, 9am - 12noon. There will be opportunities to meet with physicians and get free health screenings. Sara also announced that BCHC now has the *SMARTLINE* app that provides for Urgent Care Online checkin.

Tom says he has to make a report on the club's progress at an upcoming District meeting. "When I review what we have already done and accomplished this year, I was amazed. **I'm really proud of the club and proud to be your president.**"

George Cohan was Sergeant-at-Arms. He introduced guests from Arkansas, North Carolina, Chicago, and Estero. **Vince Modarelli** belatedly made his birthday contribution, less than \$50, and asked for "special dispensation to get up and get coffee". **Don Manley** asked for his celebration to be postponed and further negotiated that next week's song would be Down by the *Old Mill Stream*. **Ron Anderson**, whose birthday check was more than \$50, got a special **Marilyn Monroe** (Bobbi Bird) birthday greeting.

VOCATIONAL SERVICE MOMENT



Mark McCaw is Senior Vice President - Wealth Management, Branch Manager, and Certified Investment Management Analyst at UBS. During his more than 20 year career in wealth management, Mark has found

he is happiest and works most effectively by developing personal relationships with his clients. He and his partners, share a philosophy of providing complete financial strategies that help clients live their dreams.

Mark and Karen have been married for 35 years. They have three grown children.

He has been a Rotarian for 23 years. He is a **Past President** and has held many other club offices. "My favorite is chairman of the Golf Committee". He has been active in the community and continues as a director of the Bonita Assistance Office.

Mark says, "My passion is swimming. I'm still working to support my swimming habit." Mark was recently Meet Referee for a FHSA regional championship meet in Fort Myers and has served as an official at national and international events.

As an Investment Advisor, he develops customized wealth plans for his clients emphasizing strong risk assessment, low fees and expenses and full transparency.

LAST WEEK SPEAKER



Carl Schwing introduced our speaker Chief **Joe Daigle** of the Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District. Joe has been a resident of Florida since 1976.

He is a Marine combat veteran having served in a tank unit during Dessert Storm.

Joe joined the fire service in 1993, thinking it was a good job for a man with no education. Since then he has studied and acquired Associates, Bachelors, and Masters degrees in subjects related to his profession.

In 1993, firemen were not qualified to help victims beyond CPR. They could only watch until qualified personnel arrived on scene. Now all fire engines have the same equipment as an ambulance and every fire truck will have a paramedic aboard. This is important because the fire truck arrives before the ambulance.

The BSFD is an independent organization of 100 with its own administrative staff including HR Department and Fire Prevention Division. There are 5 stations manned by 78 fire fighters, 45 are paramedics and 33 are EMTs. The district currently responds to more than 6,000 calls per year.



Be a gift to the world

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	Thomas B. Briers
President-Elect	Steven Slachta
Secretary	Jon McLeod
Treasurer	Bob Lombardo
Sergeant-at-Arms	George M. Cohan III

Jay Berube and toothful helper drew the 10 ♥



The 50/50 is \$2,472

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?

Your finances. Your future. *Our focus.*

McCaw Wealth Management Mark W. McCaw

Sr Vice President--Wealth Mgmt, Sr Portfolio Manager
8000 Health Center Blvd., Suite 150, Bonita Springs,
FL 34135-8175
239-495-4192 888-300-9001
mark.mccaw@ubs.com

ubs.com/fa/markmccaw



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Rotary Sings: Down by the Old Mill Stream

Down by the old mill stream where I
first met you,
With your eyes of blue, dressed in
gingham too,
It was there I knew that you loved me
true,
You were sixteen, my village queen,
down by the old mill stream.

Birthdays

Wayne Hemstead Jan 14
Domma Flammang Jan 15
Bill Jenks Jan 15
Gary Collecchio Jan 18
Bob Rosier Jan 19
Marjorie Rubacky Jan 19

This Week

Mark Weber Manager,
Florida Business Operations
Minnesota Twins

This Morning's Invocation

Loving and Gracious God, whose existence we humbly and gratefully acknowledge, within whose Providence we have been held since last we gathered here, and from whose beneficent Hand we have received bounties unnumbered, bless now this gathering with Your presence.

Be with us at these tables that our fellowship will be wholesome and meaningful, and that the noble purposes of our club will receive our renewed commitment.

To that end, bless the food prepared for us that strength will be sustained for tasks awaiting us.

As we return to our places of labor and leadership, or to moments of leisure, help us discern the difference between right and wrong, to have the will to follow the right. Amen.