

## RI, District, Club Leaders

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**Governor**  
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Ron Anderson,  
Bob Lombardo,  
Steve McIntosh,  
Gary Price,  
Chris Riesen



### There is a meeting Wednesday, December 29th



#### Last Week Meeting

President **Kae Moore** asked, "Bill **Banfield**, please come forward". That led to a world class **Good Morning Rotarians** from Bill. He explained that there was a Christmas card on each table to be signed meant for **Susan Schmitt** who is in Alabama with her sister and would really enjoy a Christmas card from her fellow Rotarians.

**Kris Kringle Riesen** presented the invocation; **Joe Murgalo** led the *Pledge of Allegiance*; and **Gordon Costley** (rr) recited the *Four Way Test*.

**Little Saint Nick Generales** led singing of "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas". The group's effort gained a "Good singing" from Kae.

**Rob Cooper** got the microphone and said, "Words can not say how grateful I am to this club. Everybody came together and really, really took care of our school kids this year from the very first day at open house, campus beautification, now through Christmas Day. Every single child in our school is going to get a toy this year. It was just such an incredible experience to know that this club makes such a difference in our community."

**Jim Burger** reported that we sold 496 trees this year. His best estimate was that profit would be more than \$20k when all the bills and cash are in.

Two Rotarians stepped up to buy the remaining 25 trees on Sunday night. These were delivered by Jim, **GT Tasso**, and **Diane Ewing** to several local charity organizations and 25 more families will have a tree this year.

Jim also wanted to recognize several Rotarians who went above and beyond in working the Christmas Tree tent. They were **Larry Vars** (rr), **Kae Moore**, and

**GT Tasso**. Among them they put in about 40% of the hours at the tent.

Jim also recognized two young men, **Justin** and **Jason Meyer** who came to the tent to volunteer on two days. They are from Bishop Verot and FGCU.

**Eileen Tasso** reported that we had accumulated more than 900 volunteer hours on this project.

Kae said, "Jim, great job. It takes a lot of people, just a little bit here and there, and together we get it done. Everyone chips in. The value of the Christmas Tree project is not just the profit we make to give back to the community, it's also the camaraderie of Rotarians working together."



Eileen came forward and presented a Christmas Gift to our Bonita Bay servers, **Danny, Walter, and Raphael**. Thank you, guys.

Kae reported the directors had discussed "mingling". In general, everyone wants to get back to the old time "meet & greet". But, at this time, we want to be cautious and not start mingling just yet.

Kae said that one of the things we do is provide printed copies of The Spoke each week. **Mark McCaw** has been been printing the copies nearly continuously since 2007 at his own expense. Starting with the January 5th meeting, we are going to try doing without the printed copies. Kae says, "Let' try it for the month of January and see what happens just having the emailed Spoke."

**Mark Generales** reminded us that the Boat Show will be January 28, 29, and 30. **Bob Lombardo** deserves a lot of credit for having gotten most of the vendors and boat dealers in place. And we have all the permits required by the city, county, and state.

#### Joe Murgalo Time

After claiming to have 8 minutes and 12 seconds for his shtick, Joe told us that when he joined Rotary he was really impressed with the global projects. "But this year I

was reminded that the greatest joy is when you do things in your own neighborhood, to help people in need and our relationship with the school is just fantastic.”

Joe introduced a guest, allowed **Carl Nickel** to postpone his birthday celebration, and accepted a birthday check from **Scott Gerrish** in exchange for singing Happy Birthday to You.

**Steve McIntosh** rose to say, “First of all let me thank you for the generosity you show to our EHS Interact club. They do a project every month and you’ve been behind everyone and we have a thank you note from the club. ‘Thank you so much for giving supplies and money for the all the projects we do. It was greatly appreciated and we couldn't have done it without your help. Sincerely Interact Officers and Sponsors.’”

**Last Week Program**



**Eileen Tasso** introduced our speaker, club member Dr. **Alan White** PhD. Alan had been the chief of investigations, for the United Nations backed Special Court for Sierra Leone. He is a retired federal law enforcement executive and a member of the senior executive service. Currently, he provides consultancy work as an international

criminal justice expert in Washington DC.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone, an independent tribunal set up jointly by the Government of Sierra Leone and the UN, was mandated to try those who bear the greatest responsibility for serious violations of international humanitarian law and Sierra Leonean law committed in the country since 1996.

Based in the capital city of Freetown, the Special Court carried out numerous trials since its establishment in 2002, including those of various leaders in the country as well as of former Liberian President Charles Taylor. The trials saw first-ever convictions for attacks against UN peacekeepers, forced marriage as a crime against humanity, and for the use of child soldiers.

**Birthdays (Dec 26-Jan 1)**

**Jan Hildebrandt (rr) Dec 16\***

**Carl Nickel Dec 22\***

**Wendy Spivy Dec 27**

**Andy Frech (rr) Dec 28**

**Bob Langhans (rr) Dec 29**

**The Rotary Club of Bonita Springs**

Chartered November 3, 1978

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Scott Gerrish issue editor

**50/50 is \$875±**



Brian Olitsky  
showed off his six  
pack of the special  
Wisconsin Beer



Eileen Tasso could  
smile even though  
she drew the 7♣

**This Morning’s Invocation**

Loving Lord, in this special holiday season we are grateful for spiritual realities to which to cling in the midst of secular things which hold no ultimate value for the soul. We are stirred by the joyful music of the season and for the universal message of peace and hope.

In the face of all that is pessimistic, give us an unrelenting focus on the positive. Help us to hold firmly to the assurance that though the lights go out, they can be relit.

As Rotarians, help us to add substance to hope by courageous citizenship, selfless service, and unswerving dedication in life and work to the values we know to be true and worthy of our commitment.

With grateful hearts we acknowledge the gift of food and the opportunity for fellowship. Keep us in your loving care until we meet again. Amen.

**This Week Program**

**Giancarlo Tasso**

**The Circular Economy**

**The Four Way Test**

Of the 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?



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