



Happy New Year!

**STILL NEED 4 VOLUNTEERS - Arts Bonita Art Festival on Jan. 10:** Seeking four (4) additional Rotary Club members (and spouses) to join the Rotary Club of Bonita Springs Team to staff the gate on Saturday, Jan. 10, for the Arts Bonita **Arts Festival**. Volunteers should wear their "Rotarians at Work" shirt. **DATE:** Saturday, January 10, **TIME:** 8am-12pm, **ROLE:** Gate Attendant and Greeter (together with your Rotary colleagues)

**Upcoming Programs: Jan. 8:** Club Assembly, featuring Chris Riesen providing an update about our Rotary Club Foundation, Jim Fitzpatrick sharing our mid-year financial picture. In addition, new member Lisa Rozanski will talk about her new school for children with special needs – a life skills training center for neurodivergent adolescents in South Fort Myers. **BONUS:** We will be installing two new members (Jules Inman, Baywater Boat Club, and Tom Snyder, Contractor) and awarding a Blue Badge to Joshua Gutierrez. And **SUPER BONUS:** Joe Murgalo will lead the EZ-Cash drawing for January. Who wants to win \$100 or \$250 or \$500?!?

**Former Rotarian Robert R. Lorenz Passed Away at 95:** Bob Lorenz passed away on Christmas Day. A memorial service commemorating Bob's life will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 19, at First Presbyterian Church of Bonita Springs. Memorials to First Presbyterian, Bonita Senior Center or the Café of Life of Bonita Springs. <https://www.marconews.com/obituaries/psar1371882>

**Rotary Raffle With a Twist – Saturday, March 21, 2026, at St. Leo's Church:** Reach out to Mike Poff and Wendy Arsenault if you are able to assist in securing silent auction items, including gift certificates to restaurants, hotels, golf courses and retail stores. They are especially interested in "experiences," such as weekends or a week at your summer | second home, or the "Sicilian Dinner for Four" which Bob Lombardo will be offering at his beautiful Bonita Bay home. Even helping to secure two or three items/experiences will make a big difference in the funds we are able to raise to support our community. Mike: 989.330.1524; Wendy: 239.287.4545.

**Global Impact:**

**Gift of Life Gala:** Consider joining your Rotary friends in support of Gift of Life, an incredible international program providing life-saving surgeries for babies with congenital heart defects. 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7 in Venice. See attached flyer for details.



Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves. "Our projects bring together people of all races, religions, genders, ideologies and economic backgrounds, uniting us in a shared purpose to **do good in the world**. Let's build a Rotary that **unites for good** and ensures a brighter future for all."

**Service Projects**

Every Monday: Food distributions with Meals of Hope at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Bonita Beach Road, 1 - 5 p.m.  
Rotary Raffle with a Twist: Saturday, March 21, 2026

**Opportunities for Service**

**Be a Greeter:** Take a week to greet members, speakers and guests at the Welcome Desk to help everyone feel welcome and engaged. Only four (4) spots remain through the end of the year!  
**Provide an Invocation:** Sign up today!

**First Thursdays**

**First (Second) Thursday:** Our host Steve Sims will welcome us at 6 p.m. Thursday, January 8, at Fernandez the Bull, Cuban Restaurant, 3250 Bonita Beach Road, SW, Unit 207 (NW corner of Bonita Beach Road and Hwy 41, just east of Synovus Bank, southeast of Publix.)



**50/50**  
**\$100**  
**Winner**



### Upcoming Programs

**January Speaker Chair Gary Price** has lined up these programs: **Jan. 15:** Frank Kinsey to talk about the Storm Surge Threat and how we can protect our community. **Jan. 22:** Jacob Winge will present a history of 250 years in Southwest Florida. **Jan. 29:** Caily Martin, Director of Operations, will provide an update about the Bonita Springs Assistance Office.

### **Fundraisers – We Need Support From Every Club Member**

**Everblades Hockey Game:** Now that the strike issue appears to have been resolved, order your tickets today for the **Wednesday, January 14** game with the Everblades (1st Place in South Division) vs. Jacksonville. Game starts at 7:30 pm. **Buy Your Tickets Now:** Use this link to buy tickets to the Rotary/Blades fundraiser games. Hope to see you Jan. 14 at Hertz Arena! **Do you drive a Lexus?** If you own a Lexus and are one of the first 50 Lexus owners to show, you can park free!

[Florida Everblades - Powered by Spinzo](#)

**Only \$35/ticket** for premium seats. Some games offer special beer & hot dog prices. Invite family, friends and neighbors. Go Blades and Go Rotary! Upcoming Games:

Wednesday, Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m. vs. Maine  
Wednesday, March 25, 7:30 p.m. vs. Savannah  
Friday, April 10, 7:30 p.m. South Carolina

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### **Our 2025-2026 Rotary Club Goals**

1. **Grow membership** (to 81 members--net 4) As a Club, we can have a greater impact with additional quality members; together we will find ways to diversify our membership, increase participation and offer new opportunities for personal and professional connections.
2. **Enhance the Club Experience:** Find new ways to make our meetings, socials, fundraising activities and service projects more appealing and engaging – for us and for prospective Members.
3. **Provide Service:** Service to the Club, service to each other, and service to our community. We’ll continue to “do good in the world” through our service projects and leverage this work to build awareness of Rotary’s impact and brand.

### Birthdays

Jan. 8 - Ron Anderson  
Jan. 12 - Don Manley  
Jan. 15 - Donna Flammang  
Jan. 17 - Marjo White (Maria Anna)  
Jan. 19 - Bob (Richard) Rosier  
Jan. 19 - Marjorie Rubacky (97!)  
Jan. 25 - Mike Poff



### Anniversaries:

Jan. 7 - Mike Poff (11 years)  
Jan. 15 - Duke (Gary) Downey (6 years)  
Jan. 15 - Nanci Reid-Landy (22 years)  
Jan. 19 - Ruth Condit (4 years)  
Jan. 24 - Ray Faubion (25 years)

### Rotarians of The Month

July, Abbe Guddal  
August, Angela Swanepoel  
September, Jerry Pelak  
October, Paul Fox



### **2025-2026 Rotary International and District Leadership**

#### **Rotary International President**

Francesco Arezzo, Rotary Club of Ragusa Italy

#### **District 6960 Governor**

Gerard Sola, The Rotary Club of Bonita Sunset

#### **Area 2 Assistant Governor**

Eileen Tasso, Bonita Springs Rotary Club

#### **2024-2025 Club Officers**

President- Julie Pedretti  
President-Elect Kelli Groom  
Secretary – Lynda Waterhouse  
Treasurer—Jim Fitzpatrick  
Sergeant-at-Arms - Kelli Groom  
Past President—Joe Murgalo

#### **Members of the Board**

Jim Fitzpatrick, Lynda Waterhouse, Julie Pedretti, Joe Murgalo, Kelli Groom

#### **2023-2026**

Wendy Arsenault, Stefan Gerhold, Bob Landy,

#### **2024—2027**

Angela Swanepoel, Mike Poff,  
2025-2028

Donna Marcotte, Steve McIntosh

#### **Trustees of The Foundation**

Chris Riesen, President; Dave Shellenbarger, Secretary; Bob Lombardo, Treasurer; Jim Burger, Kae Moore, Eileen Tasso, Dave Langendorfer, Trustees

Rotary  **4 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?

**The Rotary Club of Bonita Springs,**  
chartered **November 3, 1978**

P.O. Box 474,  
Bonita Springs, Florida 34134

Contact **The Spoke** through it's email"

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