

Julie's Weekly Rotary E-Newsletter – Mini-Spoke, March 3, 2026

Read Across America Week: Get involved! Dr. Seuss's Birthday is a nationwide reading celebration that takes place annually on **March 2 — Dr. Seuss's birthday!** Across the country, thousands of schools, libraries, and community centers participate by bringing together kids, teens, and books, and you can too! Here is how you can participate locally – **THIS WEEK:**

Spring Run Elementary School: Rotarian Jillian Fiora, Principal, would love to have Rotary members read at Spring Creek for Read Across America Week. See Google Sheet for potential readers to sign up with a day/time that works best for them. Email: JillianLF@LeeSchools.net, Phone: 239.947.0001

[CLICK HERE FOR GOOGLE SHEET](#)

Bonita Springs Elementary School: Rotarian Cynthia Hernandez, Principal, also has opportunities for you to read to children. Email: CynthiaMHe@LeeSchools.net, Phone: 239.992.0801.

Upcoming Programs (Steve Sims, March Speaker Chair)

- March 5: Bonita Springs and Estero HS Interact Clubs (Dr. Steve McIntosh)
- March 12: Lee County Schools K9 Program (Chris Riesen)
- March 19: FGCU President – Dr. Aysegul Timur (Dr. Steve McIntosh)
- March 26: Wheelchair Foundation - Regional Director (Chris Riesen)

April Programs (Stefan Gehrold, Speaker Chair)

- April 2: Michael C. Maibach, Trustee & Managing Director, James Wilson Institute
- April 9: Dr. John Colman, Professor of Politics, Political Science Department, Ave Maria University
- April 16: Hon. Kyle S. Cohen, Judge, Unified Family Court in Collier County
- April 23: Club Assembly (with Strategic Planning presentation by Lynda Waterhouse and Education Update from Dr. Steve McIntosh)
- April 30: TBD

First Thursday Social Calendar:

- **March 5:** Location: Naples Print Source, 1404 Rail Head Blvd., Naples (just off Old 41, south of Bonita Beach Road). **Host:** Ruth Condit
- **April 2:** Location: Good Days Adolescent Development Center, 17640 S. Tamiami Trail, Suite 309, Ft. Myers, FL 33908. **Host:** Lisa Rozanski.
- **May 7:** Location: Vichino's, 25987 S. Tamiami Trl, Bonita Springs. **Host:** Bob Lombardo
- **June 4:** Location: Ceremony Brewing, 10441 Packinghouse Ln. Bonita Springs. Hosts: GT & Eileen Tasso

Fundraisers – We Need Support From Every Club Member

Everblades Hockey Game: Invite friends to join you for the next game **Wednesday, March 25**, with the Everblades vs. Savannah. Game starts at 7:30 pm. Use this link to buy tickets to the Rotary/Blades fundraiser games.

[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! Last game:

- Friday, April 10, 7:30 p.m. South Carolina

Rotary Raffle With a Twist – Saturday, March 21, 2026, at St. Leo’s Church: THIS THURSDAY: Return tickets and payments to Jim Horein. Bring in auction items and give them to Wendy. Bring in bottles of wine and booze and give them to Mike Poff. Questions: Mike: 989.330.1524; Wendy: 239.287.4545.

SAVE THE DATE: Celebrate Bonita, Saturday, March 28, at Riverside Park. Our Club has again been invited to serve beer at the event. Volunteers will be needed to check ID, sell tickets and pour beer.

Community Service/Outreach:

Still NEED for old/used backpacks, reusable grocery bags and other bags: Bags are needed for those who bicycle or walk to the Meals of Hope distribution at St. Mary’s on Monday afternoons. Please give to Angela.

Upcoming District Events:

Join a Rotary Mission Trip to Honduras: Former Club member Ken Lahey, now a member of the Sarasota Rotary Club, is leading a mission trip to Honduras from **March 22 to 25**. Other Rotarians are invited to join them. Cost: About \$700, including airfare. Meeting with a Rotary Club in Honduras and will be assisting on small projects, including a pedestrian bridge project, led by the Toledo Club. Contact Ken at klahey@aol.com or 231.740.3936.

The Rotary Club of Bonita Naples: Recently launched their second annual Pints With a Purpose fundraiser, which aims to support local businesses, give back to the community, and encourages socializing. Each year focuses on a different Area of Focus, with beneficiaries being organizations that work in that year’s focus. Last year’s theme was the Environment, and this year’s theme is Maternal & Child Health. With the purchase of one “Pints With a Purpose” glass, supporters receive one free pint of beer at each of the 6 participating breweries (exclusions may apply) and can be redeemed throughout 2026. Upcoming events run from 6:00-8:00 pm:

- 3/11 - Brass Tap in Bonita Springs
- 3/25 - Palm City Brewing Co. in Fort Myers Event

Details can be found at <https://www.bonitanaplesrotary.com/>

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.”

Julie

Julie Pedretti, President, Rotary Club of Bonita Springs