

Julie's Weekly Rotary E-Newsletter – Mini-Spoke, March 17, 2026

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Upcoming Programs (Steve Sims, March Speaker Chair)

- 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; Education Update from Dr. Steve McIntosh; DACdb Ignite training by Angela Swaepoel and Wendy Arsenault)
- April 30: TBD

First Thursday Social Calendar:

- **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

Rotary Club Board Approves Carl Nickel as Honorary Member

At its meeting on March 9, the Rotary Club of Bonita Springs Board voted to make Carl Nickel an **Honorary Member** of our Club.

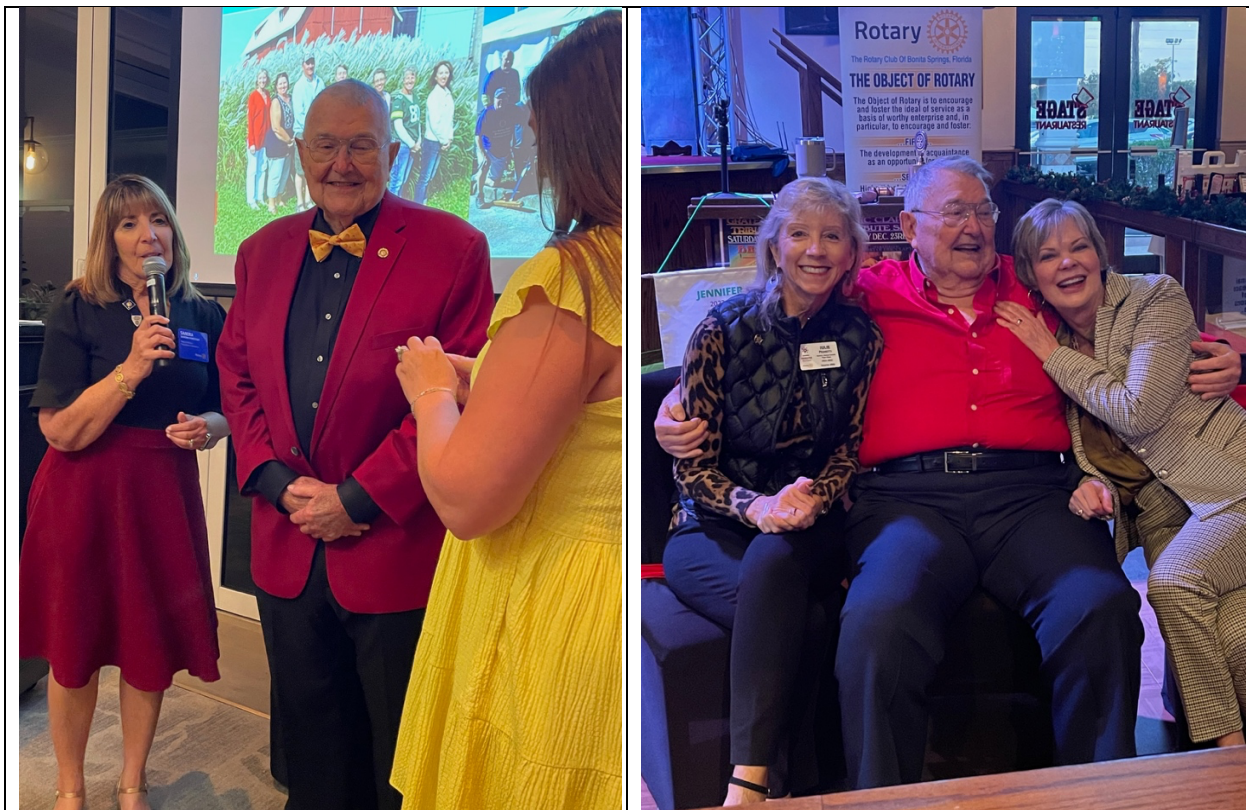
Carl Nickel became a Rotarian 46 years ago, in Wisconsin, and joined the Rotary Club of Bonita Springs on May 30, 2013. He is a Paul Harris Fellow and a Major Donor, and he received the Club's 4-Way test Award for 2021-22. His sponsor was Mark Generales. Carl is a CPA and he had clients in Wisconsin and Florida. As an active Rotarian, Carl capably staffed the registration table at Rotary for many years. He is an avid Wisconsin Badgers and Green Bay Packers fan and has been known to fill his trunk full of Spotted Cow beer on trips from the Dairy State back to Bonita Springs.

Chris Riesen recalls: When selling / pouring beer at beer fundraising events, Carl would often yell, "You can't drink all day if you don't start in the morning." He enjoyed inviting fellow women Rotary Club members to sing happy birthday to him. He would often bring in cheese curds for members to enjoy at weekly meetings. Finally, Carl took pleasure in stating "Welcome to Rotary" to everyone passing through the front desk. Carl is a Rotary brother and friend. We will miss him at our meetings!

Ray Faubion shares that he often arrived at Rotary breakfast meeting shortly after 6 a.m. and Carl would already be there with a cup of coffee setting up the front table. He would give me updates on his grandchildren's sporting endeavors, his travel plans, and the obligatory Packers update. And he always welcomed me to Rotary.

Please call, send a text, send an email or write a note to congratulate Carl on his Honorary Member recognition:

Carl Nickel
In Care of Terra Manor
1420 Terra Road
French Manor, Terra A2
Traverse City, MI 49686
M: 239.273.5078
Email: nickelcpa@aol.com



Fundraisers – We Need Support From Every Club Member

CART – Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust: On Thursday, bring in your jars with coins (or just your coins you've collected) and give them to Angela. She will distribute jars to some of our newer Club members. Let's make a big push in March to

demonstrate our Rotary Club's support of Alzheimer's research initiatives. See link: <https://www.cartfund.org/>

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 Spinzio](#)

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:

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Celebrate Bonita, Saturday, March 28, at Riverside Park. Our Club has again been invited to serve beer at the event. Sign up today to volunteer to set up, check IDs, sell tickets, pour beer and clean up/tear down.

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.

Baked Goods for Raffle with a Twist: If you signed up to make sure Rotarians and guests would have sweet treats after our sumptuous buffet dinner on Saturday night, please bake (or buy) cookies and brownies and bring them to St. Leo's. The doors open at 5 p.m. Questions? Contact Angela at 203.925.4275.

Club Service:

Thank you to Jerry Pelak and Tom Snyder for staffing the registration table each Thursday morning. We also thank Rotarians who serve as greeters and provide the invocation:

March 19: Eileen Tasso, Invocation; Jules Inman, Greeter

March 26: Chris Corrie, Invocation; Liz Shanks, Greeter

April 2: Lisa Rozanski, Invocation; Jim Burger, Greeter

April 9: Jamison Ford, Invocation; Paul Fox, Greeter

April 16: Paul Fox, Invocation; Jason Olson, Greeter

April 23: Jim Burger, Invocation; Marcus Moody, Greeter

April 30: Kelli Groom, Invocation; Lisa Portnoy-Hurm, Greeter

May 7: Donna Marcotte, Invocation; Abbe Guddal, Greeter

May 14: OPEN, Invocation; Scott Stryker, Greeter

May 21: Marcus Moody, Invocation; OPEN, Greeter

May 28: OPEN, Invocation; OPEN, Greeter

June 4: OPEN, Invocation; OPEN, Greeter

June 11: OPEN, Invocation; OPEN, Greeter

June 18: OPEN, Invocation; OPEN, Greeter

June 25: Julie Pedretti, Invocation; OPEN, Greeter

Upcoming District Events:

The Rotary Club of Bonita Naples: The second annual Pints With a Purpose fundraiser aims to support local businesses, give back to the community, and encourage socializing. This year's theme is Maternal & Child Health. The final event run from 6:00-8:00 pm on March 25 at 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