

Julie's Weekly Rotary E-Newsletter – Mini-Spoke, June 29, 2026

It has been an honor to serve as President of the Rotary Club of Bonita Springs. Thank you for your support and guidance throughout the year.

Thank you to our board members for their dedication and especially thank you to Past-President Joe Murgalo, Stefan Gehrold, Wendy Arsenault and Bob Landy as they completed their terms.

I appreciate all of you – our Club Members — for helping our Rotary Club achieve several key goals in the 2025-2026 Rotary Year:

- **Enhance the Club Experience** – We found new ways to make our meetings, socials, fundraising activities, and service projects more appealing and engaging – for us and for prospective Members.
- **Grow Membership** – As a result of enhancing the Club Experience, we added 12 new **high-quality** members so far this year. We can be proud of our award-winning, large and growing FGCU Rotaract Club.
- **Provide Service** – We continued to “do good in the world” through our service projects and leverage this work to build awareness of Rotary’s impact and brand. A huge achievement was our signature project: \$30,000 invested by The Foundation of The Rotary Club of Bonita Springs to build and name the Rotary Club Chickee at the Wonder Gardens.

June Programs (Len Eckert, Speaker Chair)

- **June 30:** Victoria Scott, Lighthouse for Blindness & Vision Loss

July Programs (Rich Jacobs, Speaker Chair)

- **July 7: Club Assembly**
- **July 14: Valerie's House** - SW Florida's non-profit organization providing grief support for children who have lost a loved one.
- **July 21: AI (Artificial Intelligence) in Everyday Life & Work: Practical Applications, Emerging Trends and FGCU's AI Academy. Speaker:** Dr. Leandro Nunes de Castro, Professor of Artificial Intelligence and Data Science at Florida Gulf Coast University and Founding Director of the Dendritic Institute for Human-Centered AI and Data Science.
- **July 28: SW Florida Proton Center** (Advanced Cancer treatment facility recently opened in Estero). **Speaker:** Dr. Shannon MacDonald, Senior Medical Director at Southwest Florida Proton and is considered a pioneer internationally in the field of proton therapy.

August Programs (Julie Pedretti, Speaker Chair)

- **August 4:** Tom Doerr, President of the Press Club of SWFL; Retired News Director; FGCU Journalism Instructor: “How Do We Decide What is True?”
- **August 11:** Annie Campbell, Director of Development, Heights Foundation; Rotary District 6960 District Governor Nominee; member of the Rotary Club of Sanibel/Captiva & Read Sawczyn, Private Wealth Advisor, Finemark Bank; member of the Rotary Club of Fort Myers South: “Medical Training Program in

Underserved Fort Myers Neighborhood Pursuing Critical Rotary International Global Grant” (NOW Approved by RI!)

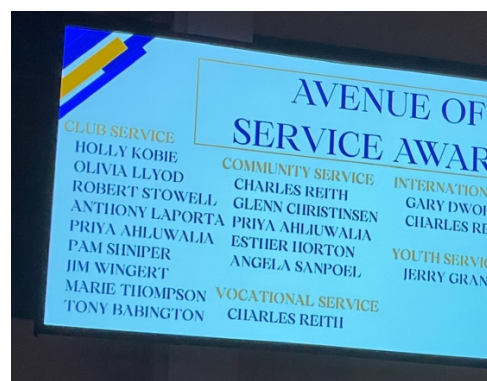
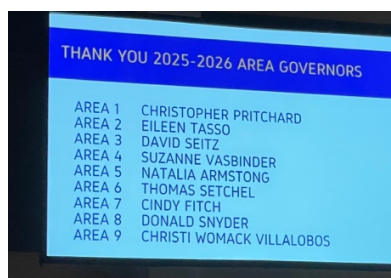
- **August 18:** Barb Kuesters, Rotary District 6960 Foundation Chair; member of the Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch & Janet DiBenidetto, District 69690 Global Grants Chair; member of the Rotary Club of Bonita Naples: “The Growing Impact of The Rotary Foundation and Global Grants Around the World”
- **August 25:** Chuck Stauffer, EVP of SWFL and Customer Success Leader & Wendi Fowler, Director of Residential Account Management | SWFL Hotwire Communications; member of the Rotary Club of Bonita Beach Sunset: “Trends in Telecommunications and Internet Services (ISP) Industry”

First Thursdays:

- Tentative: **Thursday, July 2** at Pelican’s SnoBalls (Original New Orleans Shaved Ice), 9030 Bonita Beach Road. Hosts: Steve Baptiste and Rachel Adams.
- Tentative: **Thursday, August 6**, at Craft Spirits Social, 2797 Old 41, Suite 207 (above the Bohemian – a speakeasy-style lounge featuring small batch distilled liquors). Host: John Spear (with owner Beth “Dutton” Hurwitz)

District 6960 Award Celebration Dinner:

Congratulations, Angela, on your Rotary District 6960 Service Award.



Club Service/Fundraiser:

July 4th Beer Sales Volunteers: If you have not done so, sign up on SignUp Genius to volunteer for one of our Club's largest fundraisers. Volunteers needed for the second shift.

Community Service:

Additional volunteers are still needed to pack and pass out food at **Meals of Hope food distributions from 12:30 – 5 p.m. every Monday** at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. You can volunteer for an hour or two – or for the entire afternoon. Contact Angela Swanepoel for more information.

School Open Houses:

Rotarians will once again assist with Open House events by volunteering, setting up, cooking, and serving families.

Volunteer Setup & Cooking: 3:00–4:00 p.m.

- **Spring Creek Elementary:** August 5, 2026 | 4:00–6:00 p.m.
- **Bonita Springs Elementary:** August 5, 2026 | 4:00–6:00 p.m.
- **Bonita Springs Middle Center for the Arts:** August 6, 2026 | 4:00–6:00 p.m.

Invocation | Greeter

Thank you to our Rotarians who serve as greeters and provide the invocation:
June 30: Julie Pedretti, Invocation; Chris Riesen, Greeter

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