



Chartered
November 3, 1978



President Kelli rang the bell and the group mixed and mingled!

Rotary Photo Dropbox

We have created a **Dropbox for all of our Rotary photos**, giving us one central place to store and share the memories we make throughout the years. I have already started uploading photos, and I encourage everyone to get their photos to the marketing team so we can add the Rotary pictures you have. Let's fill it up with all the great memories from our club!

☐☐ **Chili Cook-Off Showdown – February 27th** The **Chili Cook-Off Showdown** is officially in full throttle! We are working out all the details for this exciting fundraiser, which will be held on **February 27th at Riverside Park**. If you would like to enter your chili into the competition, **we will get an ap-**

plication to you. The entry fee is **\$60 per group**. Start perfecting those recipes because this is going to be a fun one! More details will be coming as we finalize everything.

☐ **Thanksgiving Service Project – November 24th**

Chris Riesen and I have put together a fun and meaningful Thanksgiving service project for our club. During our **November 24th club meeting**, we will be assembling **Thanksgiving baskets** filled with all the trimmings to help families in need in our community. Cailey from the **Bonita Springs Assistance Office (BSAO)** will be joining us, and after we assemble the baskets, she will take them back to BSAO with a few Rotarian volunteers. We will then help distribute the baskets to local families. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to come together as a club, build camaraderie, and participate in a service project **together**. More details will be coming as we get closer to the event, but I wanted everyone to have it on your radar now!

Florida Gulf Coast University is preparing a special week of events honoring our nation's Veterans during FGCU America 250 Military Commemoration Week — November 9–13, 2026. We are asking for the nomination of 250 Veterans from Fort Myers, Lee County, and the surrounding Southwest Florida community to be honored in a special recognition event on November 13th at FGCU. To nominate, scan the QR code or use link below and attached: https://fgcu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3O7pc3y4AKkjlFw In addition to the November 13th recognition event, we invite veterans, families, students, and community members to join us throughout the week for a series of activities celebrating our military heritage.

August Programs/Events:

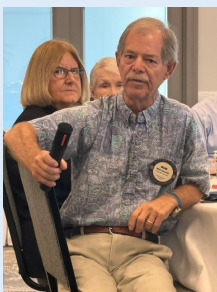
August 25: Sally Mulvena, President & CEO of The Wonder Gardens, recent enhancements and continuing growth of The Wonder Gardens.

September 3, First Thursday Social – Our next First Thursday Social will be held on **September 3rd**, hosted by Steve Sims at **Backwater Jacks** from **6:00–8:00 PM**. **27598 Marina Pointe Dr, Bonita Springs, FL 34134**

50/50
Lot's of Mullah!
Nope!



Club Shenanigans



Invocation: The Power of One
Sometimes the challenges around us can seem too large for one person to change. Today, remind us that every meaningful effort begins somewhere. One person can encourage another, solve a problem, meet a need, or inspire others to join in. May we never underestimate the difference we can make when we choose to act with purpose and compassion. Amen.



Birthdays

Joseph Murgalo, August 27

Anniversaries:

Angela Swanepoel, August 26

Kevin Swanepoel, August 26

Alyona Ushe, August 29

2026-2027 Rotary International and District Leadership



Rotary International President

Olayinka Babalola, The Rotary Club of Tras Amadi, Nigeria

District 6960 Governor

Dennis Wallace, Rotary Club of Harbor Heights—Peace River

Area 2 Assistant Governor

Cindy Cedeno, Rotary Club Bonita Beach Sunset

2024-2025 Club Officers

President— Kelli Groom

President-Elect Lynda Waterhouse

Secretary – Paul Fox

Treasurer—Jim Fitzpatrick

Sergeant-at-Arms - Jenifer McBride

Past President—Julie Pedretti

Members of the Board

Jim Fitzpatrick, Lynda Waterhouse, Julie Pedretti, Kelli Groom

2024—2027

Angela Swanepoel, Mike Poff,

2025-2028

Donna Marcotte, Steve McIntosh

2026—2029

John Spear, Chris Corrie, Len Eckhart

Trustees of The Foundation

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

Rotarians of The Month

May—Kelli Groom



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

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www.BonitaSpringsRotary.org