

Gulf Beaches Rotary Newsletter

September, 2023



DG Casella's Theme for September –
Basic Education and Literacy Month

Take action: www.gulfbeachesrotary.com

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President Pam's Column

After the HOT month of August, including the outstanding “HOT” content of the speakers at August meetings--the St. Pete Free Clinic, All Childrens Hospital Foundation, local Author Seth Sjostrom and the LIFT Intervention Team, we then had to cancel our August 31st meeting, with Hurricane Idalia breaking down the door of the Gulf Coast. A number of our members are in mandatory evacuation zones, and a few returned home to water damage in their homes or businesses. They are in a cleanup mode this week, including our meeting home, the VFW Post at Johns Pass, who has said that they will be open for our next meeting of September 12th. The rest of us are putting back out the patio furniture and plants, while keeping a close eye on the topics over the next two months. DG-6950 Chris Casella's September DG newsletter has the

information and links to the various efforts underway. By now, we know that Rotary is a family and here in our club, some of us evacuated to off island Rotarians' homes. I am personally grateful to Rosemary Thompson who hosted me Tuesday night and the day of the Hurricane, before the bridges reopened for access to come back to Treasure Island.

~President Pam

Take Action – A special message from DG Chris Casella,

It's been five days since **Hurricane Idalia** made landfall, and I wanted to share an update on the remarkable efforts of our District Leadership Team, Assistant Governors, Club Presidents, and volunteers in response to the aftermath of the storm.

The Impact: Our district has experienced a significant amount of flooding, with the most severe cases affecting Northern Pasco, Hernando, and Citrus Counties, impacting thousands of families. In our true Rotary spirit, we've been working tirelessly to provide assistance where it's needed most.

Reaching Out: As far as we know, we've been in contact with every Rotarian in our district who has been affected by the hurricane to offer assistance. However, if by some chance we missed someone, please utilize the link below to let us know. This link serves three crucial purposes:

1. **I Need Support:** This tab allows those in need of assistance with their flooded homes to communicate with us. If you know of anyone who requires help, please encourage them to contact us through this link so we can begin the process of getting them back on their feet.
2. **Give Support:** This tab enables us to compile a list of volunteers. If you are willing to assist with administration, logistics, manual labor, or any other form of support, please let us know here. Your willingness to help is invaluable.
3. **Donate Funds Today:** Through our Charitable Foundation, this tab allows us to collect funds earmarked for Hurricane Relief. Your contributions will make a significant impact as we work together to rebuild lives.

Our Progress: Our District, in collaboration with Rotarians from District 6960, has already made an incredible difference by Muck & Gutting five homes (including those of a fellow Rotarian and a First Responder's parents) in the Crystal River area. These homes are now on their way to recovery. This remarkable achievement, just five days into our response, reflects the power of our Rotary community.

A Call to Action: As we continue to work diligently to meet every need, I urge you to click on the link below and consider volunteering or contributing to our Hurricane Relief efforts. Your support, whether through your time or donations, will help us rebuild lives and communities.

Link to Hurricane Relief <https://rotaryfl.org/rotary-district-6950-florida-disaster-relief/>

Please be patient with us as we strive to *Create Hope* where it's needed most. Together, we will navigate through these challenging times and emerge stronger than ever.

Thank you and always remember... ***Together, we will make a difference.***

Chris Casella

District 6950, District Governor

Speaker Bureau

- **September 5 – No meeting (Sept 4th-Labor Day)**
- September 12 – Kathleen Peters, Pinellas County Commissioner
- September 19 – Dylan Hubbard, Hubbard's Marina
- September 26 – Sonny Flynn, Madeira Beach Wildlife Center

Rotary in Service - Community Action

Positive Impact Day August 19th –
Thanks as always, Mitchell, for all
you do!





Mitch catches up with Wanda for Lunch

Gulf Beaches Rotary Recognized again for our contribution to Hero To A Child

2023 GRANTS & MAJOR DONORS

The life affirming work of Hero To A Child would not be possible without individual, corporate, and community partners who generously dedicate their time and dollars to children and youth in the child welfare system of Pinellas and Pasco Counties.

100 Women Who Care Pinellas

1350 Insurance

3 Daughters Brewing

Advanta IRA

Jackie Allen

Angelo's Recycled Materials

Angels Against Abuse

Anna Brumbaugh KW Gulfside Realty

Arian's Family Foundation

Charles Augello

Claire Grinley

Gulf Beaches Rotary Club

Hajek & Hajek CPA's P.A.

Hancock Whitney

Harr & Associates Insurance

Leigh Harting

Laura Heric

HOG New Port Richey (Post 1027)

Isla GirlFriends

Melinda Jagr

Pinellas Florida Assn Of Women Lawyers

Pinellas Prep

Pricewaterhouse Coopers

Publix

Raising Relief Foundation

Connie Ratcliffe

Raymond James Financial

Sherry Rehm

Beth Ronzo

Santa's Angels



Mary McKeown receives her
Paul Harris Fellowship
Three times recognition

Trouble On Treasure Island?
Not with these leaders in charge!



Big Check to All Children's
Hospital Guild

Steve and his Lakeland
childhood friend exchanging
banners



LIFT Board Members with
Treasure Island City Manager
Amy and a TI Officer

Free Clinic Update



Here are the stats: 39# of hygiene products, 57# of food. Next collection will be on October 24th.

Rosemary is hoping to drum up some interest before then! Please make every effort to support Rosemary and her work with this important cause.

Rosemary presents a
Big Check to Elicia Hinson –
St. Peter Free Clinic



How we can support the people of Maui –
An Important Message from DG District 5000, Mark Merriam

*To our DG Chris Casella,
Thanks for your care and concern for the people of Maui. The
devastating fires have directly impacted the 9 Rotary Clubs on the
island. Yet, these Rotarians are working in emergency shelters, moving
supplies, finding housing for the displaced and more.*

*Our Rotary District 5000 Foundation is the central point to receive
donations. The best way to donate is rotaryd5000.org.*

We are currently working with The Rotary Foundation to establish a relief fund. We have started a disaster relief grant. More info on that soon.

Mahalo for any help you can provide. You are helping to Create Hope for Maui.

*Aloha, DG Mark
District Governor Rotary District 5000*

[End Polio Now Update](#)



Mark your calendars for World Polio Day 2023

Join the global movement on 24 October as Rotary, Rotaract, and Interact clubs around the world take action to promote awareness of polio and raise funding for Rotary's polio eradication efforts. With poliovirus being reported in previously polio-free areas, the past few years have truly shown that polio anywhere is a threat to children everywhere.

In this critical year for polio eradication, **we need your help** to show the world the tenacity of Rotary members in accomplishing an audacious goal: a polio-free world. Visit our [World Polio Day](#) webpage for resources and tips on how you and your club can participate in promoting a polio-free world on 24 October.

Let's make polio history. Together, we end polio!

5 actions you can take to support #EndPolio

1. Follow End Polio Now on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), and share our content.
2. Help your club organize an activity for [World Polio Day](#) (and don't forget to [register](#) it)

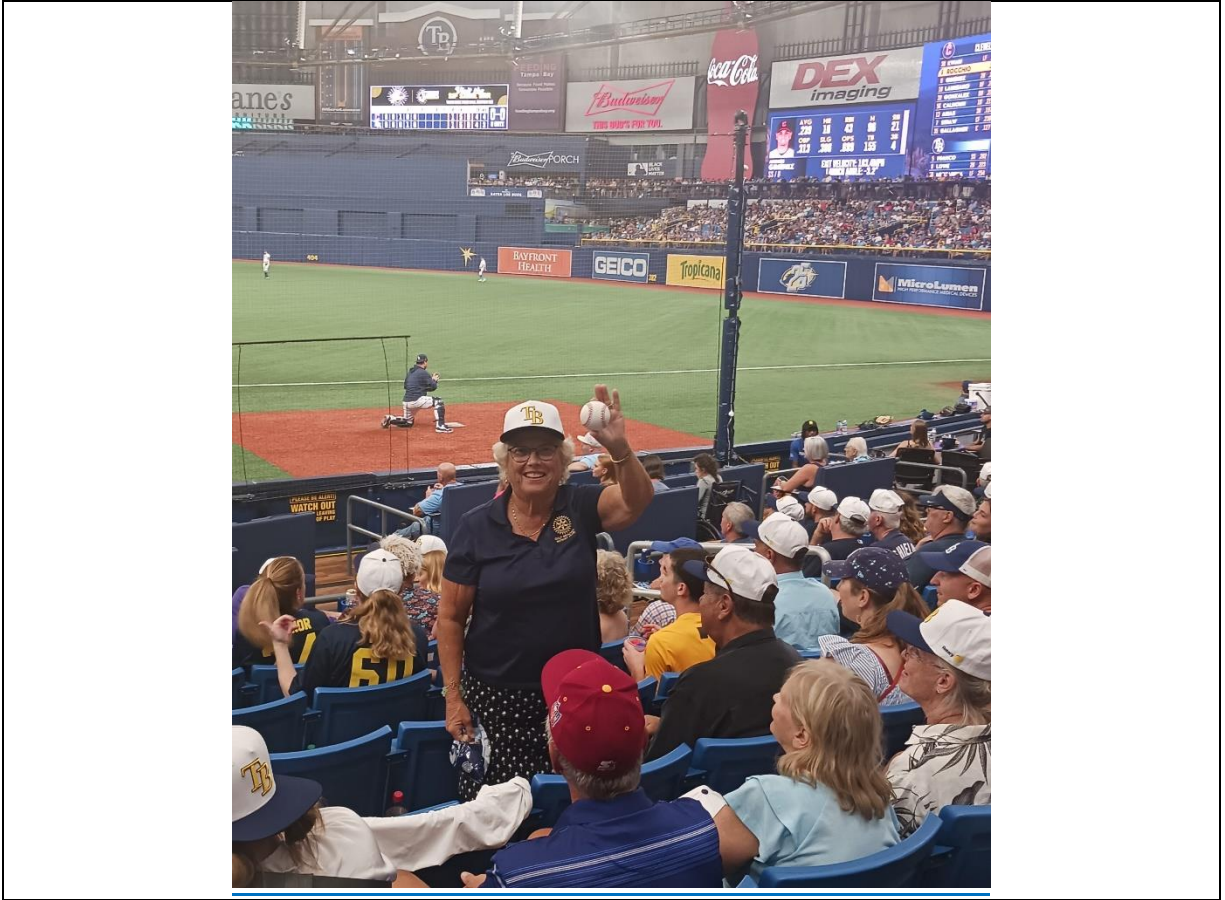
3. Promote World Polio Day on social media. Sample message: A polio-free world is possible, but we can only achieve it by acting together. On 24 October, join @Rotary for #WorldPolioDay and together, we #EndPolio. endpolio.io/wpd
4. Ask whether your district has a PolioPlus Society. If not, encourage your district governor to start one.
5. Encourage others to sign up for the End Polio Now newsletter. To sign up, visit endpolio.org, scroll to the bottom of the webpage, and enter your email address.

In case you missed it, here is the link to the
September District Newsletter –
<https://dacdb.com/Ezbulletin2/preview2.cfm?ezBulletinID=81464>

Rotary Day with the Rays – and a good time was had by all!
(Especially Sue, who caught the ball!)







Upcoming Events

On **September 12th**, we are planning a joint service project with our local Lions club for **eye-glasses to be donated** that day by our Rotary Club members. Rotary International has requested that Rotary reach out to our local service clubs for joint activities in September.

On **October 10th**, we need to be in our “Sunday best” with lots of Rotarians in seats at the VFW for the meeting of the year, as we will be hosting Gulf District #6950 Governor, Chris Casella.

HOT DIGITY DOG!!!!

Time to Start Planning for



**This year's Barktoberfest will be held on Sunday, October 29, 2023,
from 11am-2pm**

**The event will take place at the
John Morroni Dog Park at Rosselli Park in Treasure Island
(11650 Capri Circle South)**

**Vendors have a paw-some opportunity to join us at no charge, just
provide a giveaway/prize**

**You could also be a sponsor of the event, or even just provide fun
giveaway items to promote your brand**

**We are working like dogs to create a convenient online registration this
year. In the meantime, email us if you are interested in joining us and
provide details of your involvement**

**Parks & Recreation
727-547-4575 Ext. 221
recreation@mytreasureisland.org**

Vendor Registration is OPEN!!

Register as a [VENDOR HERE](#)

Register as a [SPONSOR HERE](#)

Register your dog for the [COSTUME CONTEST HERE](#)

Nov 16 – Save the Date Evening with Stephanie Urchick RI President 2024-25

Please join our TWO Rotary Districts as we partner together to celebrate our incoming Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick. November 16 – **SAVE THE DATE** and watch for all the details to be announced very soon.

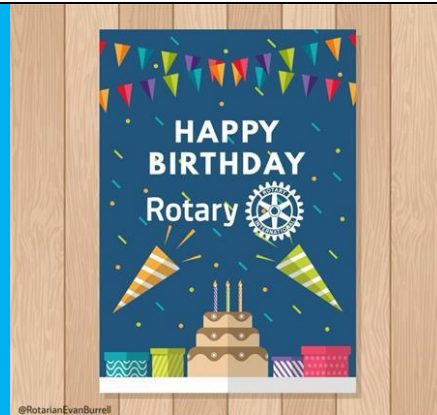
District 6950 = Citrus, Hernando, Pasco and Pinellas counties

District 6890 = Hardee, Highlands, Hillsborough and Polk counties

Upcoming:

September 4th – Happy Labor Day
September 5th - **No meeting**
September 12th – Eyeglasses
donation for Lions Club
September 28th - 8.30am GBR
Board Meeting, Madeira Beach City
Hall
October 29th - Barktoberfest

Coming Soon – The District
Governor visit, **October 10th**.
Mark your calendar now to make
sure you attend this important
Rotary Meeting.



September Birthdays

- Pam Brangaccio 9/7
- Mary McKeown 9/17
- Larry Brutlag 9/22

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Newsletter Contributors:

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Club Meeting Information Weekly:

Every Tuesday at 12 noon We meet in
person at VFW, Madeira Beach – John's Pass
All Rotary members are welcome to attend
our board meetings which take place on the
last Thursday of each month at 8:30am at
the Madeira Beach Community Center, 300
Municipal Dr., Madeira Beach