

March 2, 2016

Issue 28,884



The Rotary Reader

Presidential Citation Award Winner for 20 years

Board of Directors

President:

Charles West

President Elect:

Katie Sharon

Secretary:

Ron Grissom

Treasurer:

Aaron Webber

Past President:

Debbie Bodenstine

Committee Chairs:

Membership:

Laura Kirby & Andy Corbin

Services Projects:

Kevin Cagle & J.T. Edwards

Rotary Foundation:

Joe Brewster

Public Relations:

Dusty Ricketts & Jean Woo

Club Administration:

Mack Busbee

Sergeant at Arms:

Gerry Chalker & Roger Peadro

Programs:

Joe Meyer

Scholarship, Inc.:

Matt Turpin

Social Committee

Ross LeBlanc

Bulletin

Spencer Barnes

Executive Secretary

Lorrageia Jackson

The Rotary Club of Fort Walton Beach

www.fortwaltonrotary.org

Mack Busbee



Ron Grissom



Joe Meyer



Post Office Box 892 Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549

GOODWILL GAMES

The fierce July sun beat down on us as we approached the field where the match was to take place. It wasn't much of a soccer pitch, with its uneven terrain and rusty poles for goalposts, but the local teens we had met came ready to play. They guided us over the piles of bricks and broken tiles that separate their neighborhood community center from the field behind it and took their positions.

Much like any schoolyard competitors, incursions from grazing cows notwithstanding, players stretched and warmed up, took turns retrieving out-of-bounds balls, and, after the final goal, lined up to exchange high-fives. The Vietnamese contingent handily outscored our group of American Rotary volunteers, but the defeat was far from bitter. The five Rotarians, four Interactors, and two 20-something alumni of Rotary Youth Leadership Awards had already achieved what they had come to Vietnam to do: distribute durable soccer balls to promote play and to spread Rotary's message of service and goodwill.

The community center sits on the outskirts of Hoi An, a resort town on the South China Sea. Orange and fuchsia bougainvillea blossoms spill over stalls selling scarves and spices at one of Vietnam's oldest marketplaces, and along the banks of the Thu Bon River, food vendors serve aromatic *pho* (noodle soup) and *banh mi* (sandwiches). By night, tourists dine under glowing silk lanterns at the seaside restaurants and hotels.

The kids we met in Hoi An have a few soccer balls on hand, but are just as likely to kick around rocks or bundles of banana leaves. Tim Jahnigen first observed this phenomenon in 2006 as he watched news footage of a refugee camp in Darfur, Sudan. The children on the screen were playing soccer using a bundle of trash tied with twine. Struck by the evidently universal tendency of children to play no matter how difficult the circumstances, Jahnigen set out to develop a soccer ball tough enough to endure the harshest conditions.

Almost 10 years later, One World Play Project – the company Jahnigen founded with his wife, Lisa Tarver – has provided more than 1.5 million durable soccer balls in over 175 countries. The ball itself is made of a proprietary foamlike blend that bounces like a soccer ball but won't puncture, deflate, or otherwise fall apart.

“Play is vital for humans to thrive,” Tarver says, echoing recent research. “Play is one of the most effective therapies for any kind of trauma or hardship, whether in refugee camps or inner cities afflicted with gang violence – anywhere kids have suffered human rights abuses or the effects of poverty or natural disasters. Play is what allows them to recover and connect with their community.”

Our team of Rotary members and youth program participants from the San Francisco Bay Area brought to Vietnam 2,400 of these balls, bound for schools and community centers. We traveled south from the capital, Hanoi, through the mountains and along the scenic coastline to Ho Chi Minh City and the villages of the Mekong Delta. In each community we visited, we met with local officials, handed out balls, and challenged the recipients to a game – no translation required.

“Play is the universal language,” Tarver says. “You go somewhere and you may not be able to talk to the people, but if you pull out this ball, you'll be connected, because it's intuitive. The ball is the connector between the visitors and the community.”

There are no Rotary clubs in Vietnam; they were disbanded in the 1970s. Since 1994, however, when the U.S. government lifted the trade embargo that had been in effect since the Vietnam War ended, Rotary clubs have worked with government approval on several successful projects with local charities.

Sue McKinney, a member of the Rotary Club of Oakland Sunrise, has divided her time between Ho Chi Minh City and her native California since 1994. A lawyer by training and a serial entrepreneur in practice, McKinney has worked on 21 projects in Vietnam, coordinating Group Study Exchange trips, organizing wheelchair distributions and medical camps, hosting dozens of visiting U.S. Rotarians, and tapping into her extensive in-country network to promote Rotary's work.

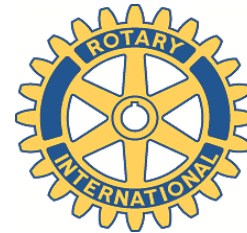
THE OBJECT OF ROTARY

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

- FIRST. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- SECOND. High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- THIRD. The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;
- FOURTH. The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

THE ROTARY FOUR WAY TEST

- 1) Is it the truth?
- 2) Is it fair to all concerned?
- 3) Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
- 4) Will it be beneficial to all concerned?



Upcoming Speakers

March 9th: Stan Walker— Immigration Reform

March 16th: Diane Winnenuller - NWF Daily News

March 23rd: Dr. Dani Fallin - John Hopkins Medical Center

ROTARIANS WITH BIRTHDAYS

Herb Tinsley - March 5th

Today in History

1836

[Texas](#) declared its independence from [Mexico](#).

1917

[Puerto Rico](#) became a U.S. territory and Puerto Ricans gained American citizenship.

1949

Captain James Gallagher completed the first non-stop around the world flight. He completed the 23,452-mile journey in 94 hours, 1 minute.

1962

Philadelphia Warriors center [Wilt Chamberlain](#) scored an NBA-record 100 points in a basketball game.

2008

Dmitri A. Medvedev, a former aide to Russian president Vladimir Putin who has never held elected office, won the Russian presidential election in a landslide. Putin remained in a position of power, serving as Medvedev's prime minister.

Rotary Roster

Bill Alexson
Military Operations Commander

Robert Anderson, SM
CPA

Jack Arthur, PHF SM
Insurance

Spencer Barnes, SM
Employee Benefits

James Bass, SM
Funeral Director

Neal Bern SM
Insurance

Debbie Bodenshteyn, PHF SM RotY
Economic Development

Ann Boynton SM
Property Management

Joseph Brewster, PHF SM
Cable Television

Frank Brutt, PHF SM
County Planning

Mack Busbee
County Government

Tom Butcher
Honorary Member

Kevin Cagle, SM
Office Machines

Gerry Chalker, (8) PHF SM *
Pension Administration

Andy Corbin, PHF SM RotY *
Electronics Mfg.

George Dorris, PHF SM
Dentistry

Jeff Dunford
Banker

JT Edwards, PHF SM RotY
Landscaping Owner

Dan Empson
Honorary

Cliff Ennis
Business IT Management

Ralph Fallin, (34) PHF SM RotY
Dairy Products

Bob Fowner, PHF SM
Association Manager

Cindy Frakes, SM
Realtor

Tony Gilligan, PHF SM
Government Contractor

Ben Gordon
Attorney

Ron Grissom, SM
Utilities

Haydon Grubbs, PHF SM
Education

Chad Hamilton, PHF SM
CPA

Ross Hamilton
Education- College

Sallie Hardy, PHF SM
Commercial Properties

Tom Hayes, PHF SM
Financial Services

Jody Henderson, PHF SM *
Accounting/Auditing

Mitzi Henley, SM
Retail Shopping Center

Ken Hinrichs
Non-Profit Administration

Jeff Hooton, PHF SM
Commercial Lending

Stephanie Jones SM
Banking

Laura Kirby (2)
Business Development

Richard Kunkel, PHF SM
Education

Chuck Landers, PHF SM
Certified Public Accountant

Ross LeBlanc, SM
Certified Public Accountant

Tony Leonard, PHF SM **
Retail/Musical Instruments

John Linn, PHF SM
Kitchens-Retail

Ted Litschauer, PHF SM
Public Safety

Jamey Mattern, PHF SM
Architect

David Macdonald PHF SM **
Shopping Center Manager

Julie McNabb, SM
Developmental Disabilities

Joe Meyer, SM
Retail/Computers

David O. Miller, (13) PHF SM
Developmental Disabilities

John Morgan, PHF SM*
Computer Engineer

Matthew Morgan, SM
Electrical Engineer

Dan Nelson, PHF SM
Restaurant/Fast Food

Michelle Nicholson, SM
Communications

Susan Page, SM
Professional Counseling

Roger Peadro, PHF SM RotY*
Pastor

Mary Plummer, PHF SM
Real Estate Sales

Lyndon Poff, PHF SM RotY
Paint & Body Shop

Diane Poff
Paint & Body Shop

Jan Pooley, (9) PHF SM RotY*
Department Store

Charlie Potts, PHF SM*
Jeweler

Fred Pryor, PHF SM RotY*
Utility Service-Gas

Dusty Ricketts, SM
News Media

Katie Sharon, SM
Banking

Eulice Shelley, PHF SM*
Moving & Storage

Scott Smitt, PHF SM*
Chiropractor

Whitney Smith, SM
Attorney

Allan Stearns, PHF SM*
Travel Agent

Rick Stevens, PHF SM RotY*
Surge Suppression Systems

Randy Stokes, PHF SM*
Architecture

Kent Tinsley, SM
Commercial Banking

Herb Tinsley, PHF SM RotY*
Savings & Loan Mgmt.

Forrest Townsend, PHF SM RotY*
Veterinarian

Alex Trum, PHF SM
Orthodontist Retired

Matt Turpin, SM
Certified Public Accountant

John Vaughan, PHF SM
Consultant

Aaron Webber, SM
Condo Management

Charles West, PHF SM
Investment Broker

Lisa Williams
Utilities

Jean Woo, PHF SM
Dentist

Jack Yeiser, PHF SM
Mortgage Broker

Russ Youngblood PHF SM**
Psychologist

Interested in joining Rotary?
Please contact our Membership Chairs
Laura Kirby LKirby@Landrumcompanies.com
or
Andy Corbin ajc@tslinc.com

PH: Paul Harris Fellows
SM: PH Sustaining Members
* FWB Club Past Presidents
** Past President Other Clubs
RotY: FWB Rotarian of the Year

Members in purple have perfect attendance.

Don't forget that you can make up missed meetings at neighboring clubs. They include: Crestview: 12 p.m. Wednesday at Ryan's
Destin: 7:15 a.m. Tuesday at Rutherford's at Regatta Bay
DeFuniak Springs: 12 p.m. Wednesday at McLain's Family Steakhouse
Mid-Bay: 7 a.m. Wednesday at Bluewater Bay Golf Club
Navarre: 12 p.m. Thursday at Tuscan Grill at Hidden Creek
Niceville: 12 p.m. Thursday at Northwest Florida State College Building K
South Walton: 7:30 a.m. Thursday at Embassy Suites