



The Rotary Reader

Post Office Box 892

Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549

Presidential Citation Award Winner – 18th Consecutive Year

The Rotary Club of Fort Walton Beach

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Roger Peadro

Secretary:

Kathy Pritchard

Treasurer:

Debbie Bodensine

Past President:

Scott Smith

Committee Chair

Membership:

Julie Orr

Services Projects:

Aaron Webber

Rotary Foundation:

Jody Henderson

Public Relations:

Michele Nicholson

Club Administration:

Chuck Landers

New Generations:

Debbie Bodensine

Sergeant at Arms:

Ted Litschauer/Jack Yeiser

Bulletin

Aaron Webber

Scholarship, Inc.:

Natalie Simpson

Executive Secretary

Lorrageia Jackson

executivesecretary@fortwaltonrotary.org

Stan W. Connally Jr.

**President and Chief Executive Officer
Gulf Power Company**

Stan W. Connally Jr. is President and CEO of Gulf Power Company, a subsidiary of Southern Company – one of the largest producers of electricity in the United States. Gulf Power Company is headquartered in Pensacola and provides electricity and energy services to communities in Northwest Florida.



Stan began his career with Southern Company in 1989 as a co-op student at Georgia Power's Plant Yates and has held positions in various functional areas, including Customer Operations, Sales and Marketing, and Power Generation. In 1998, Stan was named Sales Manager for the company's Central Region in the Macon, Ga., area.

One year later, he returned to Georgia Power's corporate office as Assistant to the Vice President of Retail Sales and Service. He subsequently served as Group Leader of Engineering at Plant Wansley before being named Plant Manager of Mississippi Power's Plant Watson in 2003 and Plant Daniel in 2004.

Three years later, Stan became Plant Manager at Alabama Power, with responsibility for all electric generating units at Plant Barry, Theodore Co-Generation Plant, and Washington County Co-Generation Plant.

Most recently, Stan was Senior Vice President and Senior Production Officer for Georgia Power Company,

where he was responsible for coal, gas, and hydro-electric generation.

Stan graduated in 1993 with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology.

He completed the Goizueta Executive Education Program at Emory University in 2004 and the Southern Company Senior Leadership Development Program in 2009.

Stan serves on the Board of Directors of the Florida Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise Florida and James Madison Institute. He is a member of the Florida Council of 100 and serves on the Georgia Tech Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering External Advisory Board.





ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 6940 CONFERENCE

April 19 – 21, 2011

“Celebrating Peace Through Service”

Wyndham Bay Point Resort, Panama City, Florida



Scuba enthusiasts dive deep for adventure

by Paul Engleman
The Rotarian – December 2012

On a dive trip in 1991, members of the International Fellowship of Rotarian Scuba Divers decided to take a group photo – under water.

“We practiced our formation on deck, then dived in, organized our pyramid, and took the photo,” recalls Judith Kaufman, one of the original members of the fellowship. “I suggested the caption ‘Surface Above Self.’”

The motto stuck. Gordon Stevenson, a member of the Rotary Club of Taupo Expresso, New Zealand, had founded the fellowship a year earlier. In those days, membership totaled about 10 people, according to Robert Ewald, a member of the Rotary Club of Louisville, Kentucky, USA, and editor of the group’s newsletter. The fellowship has since grown to 117 members.

Under the sea

Kaufman enjoys seeing the unusual life-forms under the sea. “And best of all, these species are not in cages or tanks. You can interact with them, photograph them.” In addition to the sense of adventure that diving provides, she says, “the quiet and serenity are rejuvenating – a total absence of cell phones and traffic noises. The only sound you hear is your own breathing.”

Although you need to be a strong swimmer to be a diver, the process of diving is not physically demanding, Kaufman explains: “Very little ‘swimming’ is involved in scuba diving. Your goal is to achieve neutral buoyancy, and thus a relaxed flutter of the fins propels you to your desired location.”

“Once you get under water and get comfortable in the environment, nothing can be easier,” Ewald says. “You adjust your weight to be neutral, and it’s like flying. Effortless.” The most difficult part, he notes, is climbing back into the boat.

Divers with physical disabilities often find the feeling of weightlessness exhilarating. One of the best programs for these divers, Ewald says, is Diveheart, headed by Jim Elliott, a member of the Rotary Club of Downers Grove, Ill., USA, and a scuba fellowship member.

Bruce Solari, president of the scuba fellowship, says that he and his wife, Johrita, both members of the Rotary Club of Anaheim, California, USA, have been on 10 dive trips since joining the fellowship a decade ago. His list of destinations indicates a preference for the Caribbean – Curacao, Bonaire, Roatan, Little Cayman, British Virgin Islands – but the couple also have splashed down in the Indian Ocean.

“We love the freedom and adventure that diving brings,” Solari says. “We have seen wondrous creatures big and small – everything from whale sharks and manta rays in the Maldives to pygmy seahorses in Indonesia that are so small you need a magnifying glass to see them.”

Giving to charity

On each trip, Ewald says, the fellowship makes donations to charitable organizations in the area. “We usually select these charities by working through local Rotary clubs,” he says. That practice began with the group’s first trip in 1991, says Solari, who estimates that its donations have exceeded \$100,000 since then.

Most of the group’s members are from the United States, but it also draws people from Brazil, England, Germany, Italy, Spain, and New Zealand. The fellowship schedules two diving trips annually – one in which participants stay on land, and one in which they live aboard a boat. Each year, the divers on the current trip select the destination for the following year.

“The fellowship has given us the opportunity to go to places that we never would have traveled to on our own,” Solari says. “And we have developed strong friendships that have enriched our lives.”



UPCOMING SPEAKERS AND EVENTS

February 27

Representative Matt Gaetz

This week's joke provided by Rick Stevens

The Lamaze classroom was full of pregnant women with their husbands.

The instructor said, "Ladies, remember that exercise is good for you. Walking is especially beneficial. It strengthens the pelvic muscles and will make delivery of your baby that much easier. Just be sure to pace yourself, make plenty of stops and try to stay on a soft surface like grass or a path."

"Gentlemen, remember - you're in this together. It wouldn't hurt you to go walking with her. In fact, that shared experience would be good for both of you!"

The room became very quiet as all the men absorbed this information. After a few moments a man at the back of the room, tentatively raised his hand.

"Yes?" said the instructor.

"I was just wondering... Would it be all right if she carries a golf bag while we walk?"

This Day in History

On this day in 1633, Italian philosopher, astronomer and mathematician Galileo Galilei arrives in Rome to face charges of heresy for advocating Copernican theory, which holds that the Earth revolves around the Sun.

On this day in 1920, The League of Nations, the international organization formed at the peace conference at Versailles in the wake of World War I, recognizes the perpetual neutrality of Switzerland.

On this day in 1776, Patrick Henry becomes colonel of the First [Virginia](#) battalion in defense of the state's supply of gunpowder.

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?



Rotary Roster

Anderson, Robert SM
CPA

Arthur, Jack PHF SM
Insurance

Bass, James SM
Funeral Director

Beedie, Michael SM
Government Administration

Bennett, Nitsi (19) PHF X *
Non-Profit Administration

Bodenstine, Debbie PHF SM X
Economic Development

Brewster, Joseph PHF SM
Cable Television

Brutt, Frank PHF SM
County Planning

Butcher, Tom
Honorary Member

Cagle, Kevin SM
Office Machines

Chalker, Gerry (5) PHF SM *
Pension Administration

Clark, Jason (2) SM
Insurance

Corbin, Andy PHF SM X *
Electronics Mfg.

Davis, James (33) PHF SM *
Public Utilities

Dorris, George PHF SM
Dentistry

Edwards, JT SM
Retail Owner

Ekedahl, Brian SM
Social Services

Empson, Dan
Honorary

Fallin, Ralph (31) PHF SM X *
Dairy Products

Foster, William PHF SM X *
Attorney

Fowner, Bob (2) PHF SM
Association Manager

Gilligan, Tony (17) PHF SM
Government Contractor

Grissom, Ron SM
Utilities

Grubbs, Haydon PHF SM
Education

Hamilton, Chad PHF SM
CPA

Hardy, Sallie PHF SM
Commercial Properties

Hayes, Tom PHF SM
Financial Services

Henderson, Jody PHF SM *
Accounting/Auditing

Henley, Mitzi (4) SM
Retail Shopping Center

Hooton, Jeff (5) SM
Commercial Lending

Howard, William PHF
Real Estate-General

Johnson, Chris PHF *
CPA Retired

Johnson, Johnny (40) PHF SM X *
Banking

Kedroski, Cristie SM
Foundation Development

Kunkel, Richard SM
Education

LaBlanc, Ross SM
CPA

Landers, Chuck PHF SM
CPA

Leonard, Tony PHF SM **
Retail/Musical Instruments

Linn, John PHF SM
Kitchens-Retail

Litschauer, Ted SM
Public Safety

Lowrey, Tom PHF *
Stockbroker

Mattern, Jamey PHF SM
Architect

Macdonald, David SM PHF **
Shopping Center Mgr

McDonald, J.R. SM
Aerospace Marketing

McNabb, Julie (1) SM
Developmental Disabilities

Meyer, Joe SM
Retail/Computers

Miller, David O. (10) PHF SM
Developmental Disabilities

Morgan, John PHF SM *
Computer Engineer

Morgan, Matthew SM
Electrical Engineer

Nelson, Dan PHF SM
Restaurant/Fast Food

Nicholson, Michele SM
Communications

Orr, Julie (1) SM
Personnel Staffing

Page, Brian SM
Tax Attorney

Page, Susan SM
Professional Counseling

Palmer, Charlie SM
Real Estate Development

Peadro, Roger PHF SM
Pastor

Plummer, Mary PHF SM
Real Estate Sales

Poff, Lyndon (3) PHF X SM
Paint & Body Shop

Pooley, Jan (6) PHF SM X
Department Store

Potts, Charlie PHF SM *
Jeweler

Pritchard, Kathy PHF SM
Commercial Banking

Pryor, Fred PHF SM *
Utility Service-Gas

Rahe, Ted (36) PHF SM *
Property Management

Ricketts, Dusty SM
News Media

Rollins, Joe SM
Compliance Services

Sharon, Katie SM
Commercial Banking

Shaw, Susan SM
Fund Raising

Shelley, Eulice PHF SM *
Moving & Storage

Simpson, Natalie SM
Legislative

Smith, Pete PHF SM *
Appraiser

Smith, Scott PHF SM *
Chiropractor

Smith, Whitney SM
Attorney

Stearns, Allan (21) PHF SM *
Travel Agent

Stevens, Rick (4) PHF SM X *
Surge Suppression Systems

Stokes, Randy PHF SM *
Architecture

Tibbetts, Alexis SM
Schools

Tinsley, Kent SM
Commercial Banking

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

Townsend, Forrest PHF SM X *
Veterinarian

Trigg, Brian SM
Program Analyst

Trum, Alex PHF SM
Orthodontist Retired

Turpin, Matt SM
CPA

Vaughan, John PHF SM
Past Service

Watson, Yonge (1) PHF SM *
Real Estate

Webber, Aaron (2) SM
Condo Management

West, Charles PHF SM
Investment Broker

Williamson, Ken PHF SM *
Retired

Woo, Jean PHF SM
Dentist

WrightReynolds, Mike (1) PHF SM
Photography

Yeiser, Jack PHF SM
Mortgage Broker

Youngblood, Russ PHF SM **
Psychologist

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

Members in purple are recognized as achieving perfect attendance as of the end of the previous year (June 30th)

Members in blue font are on a leave of absence.

Don't forget that you can make up a missed meeting at a neighboring club. They include:

Crestview: Wednesday noon, Ryan's

Destin: Tuesday 7:15 a.m. Rutherford's at Regatta Bay

DeFuniak Springs: Wednesday 12:00 p.m., McLain's Family Steakhouse

Mid-Bay: Wednesday 7 a.m., Bluewater Bay Golf Club

Navarre: Thursday noon, Tuscan Grill at Hidden Creek

Niceville: Thursday noon, OWC Bld. K

South Walton: Thursday 7:30 a.m., Embassy Suites