

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

Board of Directors

President:

Scott Smith

Vice-President:

Jan Pooley

Secretary:

Jason Clark

Treasurer:

Roger Peadro

Past President:

Al Stearns

Committee Chairs

Membership:

Julie Orr

Services Projects:

Roger Peadro

Rotary Foundation:

Jan Pooley

Public Relations:

Jamey Mattern

Club Administration:

Aaron Webber

Sergeant at Arms:

Mike Wright Reynolds

Programs:

Chad Hamilton

Scholarship, Inc.:

Natalie Simpson

Social Committee

Vacant

Bulletin

Aaron Webber

Executive Secretary

Nancy Robinson

Assistant

District Governor

Rick Stevens



Ben Anderson

Okaloosa County Tax Collector

In August of 2011, Ben Anderson was appointed as the Okaloosa County Tax Collector by Governor Rick Scott.

In his 16 weeks as Tax Collector, Ben has made marked improvements in the way the Tax Collector's Office does business. He has restructured the organization, including the pay of some upper level management. In doing so, he has cut expenditures and the cost of doing business, therefore passing on those savings to tax payers.

Recently Ben has focused on the "convenience fees" credit card companies pass on to customers. He is fighting to have that amount lowered so tax payers are not burdened beyond the taxes already owed. Ben has also put into motion eliminating the \$3.50 online check payment fee. All of which is in an effort to make doing business with the Tax Collector's Office quick and simple.

Prior to becoming the Tax Collector of Okaloosa County, Ben operated Anderson Realty USA. In his professional career, he became a State Certified General Real Estate Appraiser for both commercial and residential properties. He also earned a license as a Real Estate Broker and Real Estate Auctioneer. Having served on numerous committees of the Emerald Coast Association of Realtors, including President, he has also worked at the state level as the District Vice President of the Florida Association of Realtors which consists of 150,000 members. Furthermore, Ben was asked to serve as the Director for the National Association of Realtors which is one million members strong.

Ben graduated from Florida State University in 1973 with a double-major in International Affairs and Government. He served four years on the Public Service Commission Nominating Council and also acted as a Legislative Aide in the Florida Senate.

Over the years, Ben has faithfully served the community in a number of capacities, including the support of a variety of charitable organizations.

A lifelong resident of the Emerald Coast, he and his wife Karen have three grown sons, Justin, Jerrett, and Tucker ; and four grandchildren. The family is members of First United Methodist Church of Ft. Walton Beach.

HAITI TRIP

Rotary District 6940 is planning a humanitarian trip to Haiti to continue the earthquake recovery work that has been underway for almost two years. Details have not been finalized but tentative schedule is 1st or 2nd week in March. Let Scott know if you are interested in being a part of this vital mission.

UPCOMING SPEAKERS AND EVENTS

April 28-29 District 6940 Conference at Edgewater Beach Resort in Panama City Beach
May 4-5 Billy Bowlegs Amateur Golf Tournament at Fort Walton Beach Golf Club

Leap Year Fact

Leap Years are needed to keep our calendar in alignment with the Earth's revolutions around the sun. It takes the Earth approximately 365.242199 days - or 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 46 seconds (a tropical year)- to circle once around the Sun.

However, the Gregorian calendar has only 365 days in a year, so if we didn't add a day on February 29 nearly every 4 years, we would lose almost six hours off our calendar every year. After only 100 years, our calendar would be off by approximately 24 days!

Update: 2012 Billy Bowlegs Sponsorship Teams

(current totals not available at time of printing)

Team 1 - \$0.00	Team 2 - \$0.00	Team 3 - \$0.00	Team 4 - \$2,500.00
Team 5 - \$0.00	Team 6 - \$0.00	Team 7 - \$0.00	Team 8 - \$0.00
Team 9 - \$0.00	Team 10 - \$0.00		

Sponsorship Levels

If 80% of our club brought in at least one Platinum sponsor we would, at a minimum, raise \$35,000.00!

Titanium \$1000

The Titanium Sponsor will receive four player entries and recognition on the tournament board at Fort Walton Beach Golf Course, along with an Official Sponsor Sign on the tee box. The Titanium Sponsor will also be given four free practice rounds with complimentary cart and four 2012 Tournament Golf Shirts. Each Titanium Sponsor will receive four \$10 gift certificates from Edwin Watts Golf Shops.

Platinum \$500

The Platinum Sponsor will receive two player entries and recognition on the tournament board at Fort Walton Beach Golf Course, along with an Official Sponsor Sign on the tee box. The Platinum Sponsor will also be given two free practice rounds with complimentary cart and two 2012 Tournament Golf Shirts.

Silver \$250

The Silver Sponsor will receive one player entry and recognition on the tournament board at Fort Walton Beach Golf Course, along with an Official Sponsor Sign on the tee box. The Silver Sponsor will also be given one free practice round (cart fee not included) and one 2012 Tournament Golf Shirt.

Patron \$100

The Patron will receive recognition on the tournament board at Fort Walton Beach Golf Course. The Patron will also be given a 2012 Tournament Golf Shirt.

Individual \$150

The Individual Sponsor will receive one player entry along with one 2012 Tournament Golf Shirt.

India is no longer polio endemic

The World Health Organization has officially removed India from the list of polio-endemic countries. Ghulam Nabi Azad, India's minister of Health and Family Welfare, made the announcement at the Polio Summit 2012 in New Delhi on 25 February. Azad said that he had been informed of WHO's action by its director-general, Dr. Margaret Chan.

"It is a matter of satisfaction that we have completed one year without any single new case of polio being reported from anywhere in the country," said Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at the summit, which was organized by the government of India and Rotary International. "This gives us hope that we can finally eradicate polio not only from India but from the face of the entire mother earth. The success of our efforts shows that teamwork pays."

India's last reported case was a two-year-old girl in West Bengal State on 13 January 2011. Before polio eradication can be certified in India, it must go two more years without another case of the disease. Polio remains endemic in only three countries: Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan.

Bivalent oral vaccine

Until 2009, India accounted for nearly half the number of the world's polio cases. A chief factor in the country's success has been the widespread use of the bivalent oral polio vaccine, which is effective against both remaining types of the poliovirus. Another has been rigorous monitoring, which has helped reduce the number of children missed by health workers during National Immunization Days to less than 1 percent, according to WHO.

Rotary International has played a major role in helping to stop the transmission of polio in India. Rotary has been a spearheading partner in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative since 1988, along with WHO, UNICEF, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is also a key supporter of the initiative.

Sporting their signature yellow vests and caps, the nearly 119,000 Rotarians in India have helped administer vaccine to children, organize free health camps and polio awareness rallies, and distribute banners, caps, comic books, and other items.

Entire Article at www.rotary.org

FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

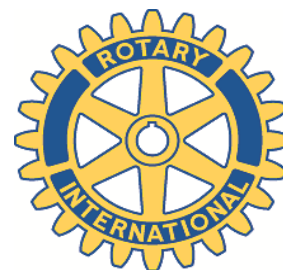
- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Rick Stephens (20) | Nitsi Bennett (19) | David Miller (19) | Tony Gilligan (17) |
| Mike WrightReynolds (12) | Jeff Hooton (6) | Alexis Tibbetts (4) | Natalie Simpson (4) |
| Cristie Kedroski (1) | Julie Orr (1) | | |



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

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

Bennett, Nitsi PHF X *

Non-Profit Administration

Bodenstine, Debbie PHF X SM

Economic Development

Brewster, Joseph PHF SM

Cable Television

Brutt, Frank PHF SM

County Planning

Butcher, Tom

Honorary Member

Cagle, Kevin SM

Office Machines

Calleri, Chris

Communications

Chalker, Gerry PHF SM *

Pension Administration

Clark, Jason SM

Insurance

Conner, Tom PHF SM

News Media

Corbin, Andy PHF SM X *

Electronics Mfg.

Curry, Jim PHF SM **

Government Management

Davis, James PHF SM *

Public Utilities

Dorris, George PHF SM

Dentistry

Duncan, Buddy SM

Chaplain

Ekedahl, Brian SM

Social Services

Empson, Dan

Honorary

Fallin, Ralph PHF SM X *

Dairy Products

Foster, William PHF SM * X

Attorney

Fowler, Bob PHF SM

Association Manager

Gavin, Clifton SM

Attorney

Gilligan, Tony PHF SM

Government Contractor

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 SM

Retail Shopping Center

Hipsh, Whitney SM

Attorney

Hooton, Jeff SM

Commercial Lending

Howard, William PHF

Real Estate-General

Johnson, Chris PHF *

CPA Retired

Johnson, Johnny PHF SM X *

Banking

Kedroski, Cristie SM

Foundation Development

Landers, Chuck PHF SM

CPA

Leonard, Tony PHF **

Retail/Musical Instruments

Linn, John PHF SM

Kitchens-Retail

Litschauer, Ted SM

Public Safety

Lowrey, Thomas PHF *

Stockbroker

Martin, Ralph PHF

Aircraft Equipment Mfg.

Mattern, Jamey PHF

Architect

McDonald, J.R. SM

Aerospace Marketing

McNabb, Julie SM

Developmental Disabilities

Meyer, Joe

Retail/Computers

Miller, David O. PHF

Developmental Disabilities

Monroe, Jason SM

Communications

Morgan, John PHF SM *

Computer Engineer

Morgan, Matthew SM

Electrical Engineer

Nelson, Dan PHF SM

Restaurant/Fast Food

Nicholson, Michele SM

Communications

O'Brien, Kevin SM

Financial Services

Orr, Julie SM

Personnel Staffing

Palmer, Charlie

Real Estate Development

Peadro, Roger PHF SM

Pastor

Plummer, Mary PHF SM

Real Estate Sales

Poff, Lyndon PHF X SM

Paint & Body Shop

Pooley, Jan 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 PHF SM *

Property Management

Richburg, Bob PHF SM X

College Administration

Rollins, Joe SM

Compliance Services

Shaw, Susan SM

Fund Raising

Shelley, Eulice PHF *

Moving & Storage

Simpson, Natalie SM

Legislative

Smith, Pete PHF * SM

Appraiser

Smith, Scott PHF SM

Chiropractor

Stearns, Allan PHF SM *

Travel Agent

Stevens, Rick PHF * X SM

Surge Suppression Systems

Stokes, Randy PHF SM *

Architecture

Tibbetts, Alexis SM

Schools

Tinsley, Kent SM

Commercial Banking

Tinsley, Herb PHF * X SM

Savings & Loan Mgmt.

Townsend, Forrest PHF * X SM

Veterinarian

Trigg, Brian SM

Program Analyst

Trum, Alex PHF SM

Orthodontist Retired

Turpin, Matt SM

CPA

Vaughan, John PHF SM

Past Service

Watson, Yonge PHF*SM

Real Estate

Weaver, John SM

Youth Organization Mgmt.

Webber, Aaron SM

Condo Management

West, Charles PHF

Investment Broker

Williamson, Ken PHF SM *

Retired

Woo, Jean PHF SM

Dentist

WrightReynolds, Mike PHF SM

Photography

Yeiser, Jack PHF

Mortgage Broker

Youngblood, Russ PHFSM**

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 have perfect attendance.

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