

NEWSLETTER

Rotary
District 6980



UNITE FOR GOOD

January 2026

Serving Central Florida from Coast to Coast

Message From Dick Harris, 6980 District Governor



Rotary Vocational Service: Turning Work Into a Force for Good

Vocational Service is one of Rotary's most powerful ideas: that our professions are not only careers, but tools for improving lives. Every skill, every talent, every area of expertise can help build stronger communities and a brighter world.

[READ MORE](#)

Quick Glance IN THIS NEWSLETTER

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Rotary Goes Country

PRESENTED BY
THE ROTARY CLUB OF ORLANDO

MARCH 6, 2026, 7:00 P.M.
FOP Lodge 5505 Hansel Ave.

**LIVE COUNTRY MUSIC WITH
AWARD-WINNING NASHVILLE SONGWRITERS**

ANDY ALBERT
JACOB DAVIS

FULL CASH BAR - FREE PARKING

HIT SONGS INCLUDE:

- She's Got A Way With Words
- Bigger Houses
- Somewhere Over Lards
- If The Boot Fits
- Hometown Home
- Steal My Love
- Back Seat Driver
- Buy Dirt
- In Case You Missed It
- Take It From Me
- Young Man
- Singles You Up

BUY TICKETS HERE

TITLE SPONSORS:

ORLANDO HEALTH

SHUFFIELD LOWMAN

COUNTRY SPONSORS:

CONSENSUS COMMUNICATIONS

GATORLAND

**KICK OFF
2026
WITH YOUR ROTARY FRIENDS**

Join us for a New Year Social with Fellowship and Fun!
Date: Thursday January 8
Location: AC Hotel by Marriott
Orlando Lake Buena Vista
12799 S. Apopka Vineland Rd.
Orlando, FL 32836
Time: 5:30-7:30pm

Featuring 20% off all food and beverages in the AC Lounge, a voucher for each attendee to enjoy 20% off for the remainder of the year, complimentary appetizers and parking

RSVP via Ignite or DACDB

RYLA

**MARCH 4-8, 2026
ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP
ACADEMY (RYLA)**

Uncover Your True Leadership Potential

RYLA is a 4.5-day youth leadership camp designed to challenge students into developing their leadership ability. Whether it's to lead themselves or lead a team, the educational sessions and activities in this camp will help uncover skills they didn't know they had and provide support to sharpen the skills they already use.

Students can only attend through the paid sponsorship of a Rotary District 6980 Rotary Club. Reach out to a high-school Interact Club or local Rotary Club for more information.

You can also send questions to eddie.rotary@outlook.com

Learn Leadership Skills to Use Immediately

Fun, Safe Outdoor Camp Environment

Challenging Indoor and Outdoor Activities Designed To Sharpen Leadership Skills

Campfires, Games, Team Building, Physical Challenges

Because We Believe You're Worth It

HOSTED BY ROTARY DISTRICT 6980

Event Location:
Florida Elks Youth Camp
24175 SE Highway 459
Umatilla, FL 32784



From The Governors Desk

Rotary Vocational Service: Turning Work Into a Force for Good

Vocational Service is one of Rotary's most powerful ideas: that our professions are not only careers, but tools for improving lives. Every skill, every talent, every area of expertise can help build stronger communities and a brighter world. Whether you are an engineer designing safer systems, a teacher inspiring young minds, a business leader mentoring entrepreneurs, or a healthcare professional bringing comfort and healing, your vocation holds transformative power.

Rotary's commitment to high ethical standards reminds us that success is not measured only by profit, but by purpose. Vocational Service encourages Rotarians to lead with integrity, demonstrate excellence, and build trust in every transaction and relationship. It means modeling honesty, fairness, and respect in our workplaces and beyond. When we serve ethically, we don't just influence our organizations—we elevate the culture of entire communities. Our service isn't unique, but the high ethical standards by which we deliver service is unique! It is transformative.



From The Governors Desk

Just as importantly, Vocational Service challenges us to share what we know. By mentoring youth, guiding career seekers, supporting small businesses, and offering professional expertise to community projects, Rotarians multiply their impact. A single hour of guidance, a thoughtful conversation, or a donated skill can change someone's life direction and spark hope where it once seemed distant.

Today's world needs people who blend compassion with competence. Vocational Service reminds us that meaningful service doesn't always require grand gestures—it simply requires using what we already have to help others succeed. When Rotarians bring their best selves to their work, they prove that professionalism and humanitarian service are not separate paths, but one powerful journey. Through Rotary Business Networks, we support one another professionally while also using our skills to serve our communities.

Through Vocational Service, Rotary turns everyday work into extraordinary service. By uplifting others, we strengthen communities, honor our professions, and live out the Rotary ideal: Service Above Self—at work, in life, and in every opportunity to make a difference.

Richard Harris

District Governor 2025-2026

From The Governors Desk

Congratulations Are In Order

This morning (Dec 10) West Orange Chamber of Commerce announced that the four clubs in West Orange, Horizon West, MetroWest, Windermere, and Winter Garden, have been collectively nominated for the George Bailey Award for community service. Collectively the clubs are listed as “Rotary West Orange 6980.” Congratulations to you all. You are all worthy individually of the nomination; collectively you are an awesome group.

As you may know, George Bailey refers to the fictional character played by James Stewart in the 1946 movie It's a Wonderful Life. The fictional George Bailey is a man who sacrifices his own dreams to help his community. He is the epitome of “Service Above Self.”

We are delighted to receive this nomination. It is a true honor. We will know if “Rotary West Orange 6980” is selected as winner at the “Big Orange Awards” gala February 28 at the Disney Contemporary Resort. Until then, our group is an honored finalist. We will get more details as the event preparation progresses. Stay tuned!

Congratulations to each club and every individual who helped earn this nomination.

Well done, my friends!

Richard Harris, PhD
Rotary District 6980
District Governor 2025-2026

It is my great honor and distinct pleasure as chair of the District Governor selection committee to announce that our new Rotary District Governor Nominee-Designate for our fiscal year 2028-2029 is Rebecca Smith-Baines from the Rotary Club of Lake Nona!



Congratulations Rebecca and to the Rotary Club of Lake Nona!

Rebecca is currently leading efforts in Lake Nona on a District Global Grant focused on Human Trafficking, while also serving as president-elect.

She has been an active member of Rotary since 2003, beginning her service with the Rotary Club of Riverton, Wyoming. Throughout her membership, she assumed numerous leadership roles, including program chair, vice president, and club president. Her contributions include developing and implementing two global grants for water projects in Guatemala under the Future Vision Program, which she personally reviewed during two onsite visits. Rebecca was a member of the Riverton club until 2013 before relocating to Wesley Chapel, Florida, where she joined the Rotary Club of Wesley Chapel and served as Foundation Chair from 2013 to 2024.



In 2015, she sponsored a Rotary Youth Exchange Student from Italy, broadening her engagement with the international Rotary community. Their relationship continues through regular contact and occasional visits.

Rebecca has participated in numerous district conferences and educational seminars. She graduated from all three sessions of the Rotary Learning Institute, where, most significantly - she met her husband, PDG Richard Baines.

She is a major donor (Level II) and a Bequest Society Member Level 2. She has received multiple recognitions, including the Club Distinguished Service Award (2016, 2020), Club Service Above Self Award, (2013, 2018), Club President Award (2015, 2018), Club Rotarian of the Year Award (2008), Rotary Avenue of Service Award, and Foundation Chair Award.

At the district level, her roles have included Area Foundation Chair (2016), District Grant Chair (2015-2017), and Paul Harris Society Chair (2021-2024). Our fellow District 6950 is very proud of her and her accomplishments. Rebecca contributed significantly to fundraising efforts, helping raise \$500,000 for Bridging Freedom, a transitional facility in Pasco County, Florida, dedicated to supporting girls aged 12-17 who have experienced trafficking.

Rebecca has actively supported Polio Plus and, as a polio survivor, brings personal insight into the importance of vaccination in polio prevention.

She has attended three international conventions and has registered for the 2026 convention in Taipei, Taiwan.



Born in Brooklyn, New York, Rebecca earned her Bachelor of Science degree Cum Laude from Hunter College and a Master's degree in Instructional Design from the University of Wyoming. She has professionally held positions in education and healthcare, including business development and marketing director, physician recruiter, and owner of a physician recruiting company established in 2010. The company supports hospitals and clinics with staffing solutions.

In her personal life, Rebecca enjoys spending time with her husband, Rick, and their dog, Georgie. She also volunteers with local outreach programs, focusing on youth mentorship and support for underserved families.

Please extend your warm congratulations to Rebecca as she moves forward in her leadership journey with us.

Yours in Rotary Service,

Don

Donald A. Harris
Zone 34 Assistant Rotary Membership Coordinator
Florida PETS House of Friendship Chair
District 6980 | Central Florida
District Governor Selection Committee Chair FY 2028-2029
Past District Governor 2023-2024
District Youth Services Foundation Director
Zone 33/34 Emerging Leaders Zone Learning Facilitator
Rotary Club of Lake Mary
RotaryDon6980@gmail.com
417.848.7051

Home For The Holidays

District 6980 Foundation Information

Our Mandatory DDF Seminar will be in person on Saturday, January 24, 2026 at Healthy West Orange, 1200 E. Plant Street, Winter Garden - 9:00 a.m. until noon. There will NOT be an online option. If your club is not represented, you cannot apply for your club's DDF for 2026-2027. It is usually the responsibility of the PE to attend and the Foundation chair. However, every club must send a representative.

Please register on the DACdb or use this link.

<https://www.dacdb.com/index.html?EventID=77879426>

Wrapping up the 1st half of 2025-2026 Rotary year is done! Are you on track with your club's goals for The Rotary Foundation?

Our District is #3 in Zone in member donation participation in Annual Fund

See you on Saturday, January 24, 2025 at Healthy West Orange.

Happy New Year!

PDG Cindi

DRFC 2025-2028

Home For The Holidays



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Marshals Service
Middle District of Florida

December 15, 2025

RE: Rotary District 6980
Governor Richard Harris, PhD
Asst. Governor Mary Ellen Kerber

Dear United Abolitionists Partner,

The **Operation HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS** Team is grateful for your advocacy, donations, and volunteer efforts in support of our recent initiative. Your partnership was instrumental in helping us bring home **122 children**.

This outcome was not achieved by law enforcement alone. Our success was largely made possible by a community that chose to show up—through your time, resources, and unwavering belief that every child deserves safety, dignity, and a path home. Your contributions helped strengthen the coordinated efforts that allowed our teams and allied service providers to respond quickly, carefully, and effectively.

Whether you provided financial support, in-kind donations, professional expertise, logistics assistance, meals or volunteer service, you played a meaningful role in helping ensure these children were located, protected, and connected to appropriate care. We recognize the compassion and commitment behind your involvement, and we are deeply thankful.

Initiatives like **Operation HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS** remind us that public safety and child protection are shared responsibilities. Your continued engagement helps build a safer environment where exploitation is challenged, victims are supported, and offenders are held accountable.

Thank you, Rotary District 6980, for standing with us and with the children and families we serve. We value this partnership and look forward to working alongside you in future efforts to protect our communities.

Regards,

Mario Price

Senior Inspector Mario Price
Coordinator – Operation HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS
United States Marshals Service

Disaster Relief for Jamiaca



The poster features a background image of palm trees being blown by a hurricane. In the top right corner is the Rotary District 7020 logo, which includes a green bird and the text 'Rotary District 7020 Jamaica 2023-2026'. The main title 'HURRICANE MELISSA RELIEF' is in large, bold, blue capital letters. To the left of the title are the Rotary District 7020 logo, a yellow gear logo, a pink flower logo, the Disaster Network of Assistance logo (a blue globe), and the Rotary Action Group logo (a blue globe). Below the title, the text 'How You Can Help' is in large, bold, orange capital letters. Under this heading, there are two columns of text. The left column is headed 'Donate Directly to Rotary in Jamaica for Immediate Needs' and includes a QR code. The right column is headed 'Donate via the Disaster Assistance Network, a Rotary Action Group' and includes the website 'www.dna-rag.com'. At the bottom, there is a large orange button with the text 'YOUR SUPPORT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE' and the website 'www.7020.org'. The bottom of the poster has a dark green background with the text 'UNITE FOR GOOD' in white capital letters.

Rotary District 7020

HURRICANE MELISSA RELIEF

How You Can Help

✓ **Donate Directly to Rotary in Jamaica for Immediate Needs**

This account with the Rotary Club of New Kingston is ring-fenced and will be managed by a local subcommittee to assist the most urgent needs.



✓ **Donate via the Disaster Assistance Network, a Rotary Action Group**

DNA-RAG is a USA 501(c)(3) organisation that manages disaster aid funding & has extensive relief experience. Funds may be used in Jamaica, Haiti, the Bahamas & Turks & Caicos for properly vetted and accountable relief projects.

www.dna-rag.com

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE

www.7020.org

UNITE FOR GOOD

Update: Disaster Relief for Jamiaca

Rotary District 6980 recently completed a key phase of its international relief efforts in Jamaica, focused on immediate response, coordination, and partnership-building following widespread need across multiple parishes.

A district representative traveled to Montego Bay to support on-the-ground coordination and strengthen relationships with Rotary leaders, government officials, and community partners supporting relief and recovery efforts.

District Impact Highlights

Through the collective efforts of District 6980 clubs and partners, the district successfully:

- Provided \$10,000+ in financial support toward relief and recovery
- Coordinated the delivery of 15,000 meals for families in need
- Shipped multiple pallets of critical relief supplies
- Deployed Starlink satellite systems to restore communication across affected areas
- Secured laptops and technology resources to assist in rebuilding community and resource centers
- Coordinated both air and maritime logistics into Jamaica

These outcomes were made possible through collaboration across clubs, partners, and humanitarian organizations.

Update: Disaster Relief for Jamiaca

District & Partner Acknowledgments

This work was supported by the leadership and service of District Governor Dick Harris, Rotary leadership, and clubs throughout District 6980, including:

- Rotary Club of Orlando
- St. Cloud Rotary Club
- Orlando Impact Club
- Christian Tech Center of Longwood
- The Villages Rotary Clubs
- PS Freight
- ROAR volunteers and community partners

On-the-Ground Leadership in Jamaica

Special recognition is extended to our partners in Jamaica whose leadership and coordination were essential:

- President Lemar James and the Rotary Club of Montego Bay
- Councillor Richard Vernon, Mayor of Montego Bay
- Joy Clarke, Director, Montego Bay Chamber of Commerce
- The Honorable Nekeisha Burchell, Member of Parliament for Southern St. James
- Superintendent Eron Samuels, Superintendent of Police for St. James
- Black River Hospital team, Savanna-la-Mar

Update: Disaster Relief for Jamiaca

Looking Ahead

While on-the-ground engagement for this phase has concluded, Phase 1 of relief remains active. District 6980 is now preparing to transition thoughtfully into Phase 2, focused on sustained support, rebuilding, and long-term impact — with continued engagement from clubs across the district.

This was more than relief.

This was collaboration.

This was compassion.

This was Rotary — uniting for good, locally and globally.

Dick Harris

Governor 2025-26 District 6980
E: rharrisrotary6980@gmail.com

Sasha Love Higgins

C: 407-969-6332
E: Rotariansasha@gmail.com

Update: Rotary Business Network

As we wrap up the 2025 season, the Rotary Business Network would like to extend a sincere thank you for your continued support, participation, and commitment throughout the year.

Because of your involvement, RBN continues to do what it was created to do: connect Rotarians in business, build meaningful relationships, and create opportunities to get to know one another professionally—while remaining grounded in Rotary values.

Being a Rotarian is more than a label. It represents a responsibility to uphold integrity, service, and ethical leadership in how we conduct business and serve our communities. The consistent turnout, engagement, and collaboration we've seen this year are a true reflection of that commitment.

Looking ahead to 2026, we are encouraged and excited. Thanks to the success of our 2025 events, we already have confirmed RBN events scheduled through May, with additional opportunities in development. Our goal is to continue building momentum, increase attendance, and create even more meaningful connections across the district. If you are considering hosting a Rotary Business Network event, we would love to hear from you.

Update: Rotary Business Network

In addition to planning ahead, we are also working to fill the remaining months of this year and welcome Rotarians who would like to support, host, or help shape upcoming events.

We are always looking for high-energy Rotarians with ideas and a desire to help RBN grow across the district. If you're interested in getting involved, please take a moment to reply to this message. We will be in touch in the coming weeks, after the holiday season, to discuss further.

If you haven't attended an RBN event recently—or if you're new—we invite you to join us. RBN is open, welcoming, and designed to help Rotarians build relationships that truly matter.

Thank you again for being part of this journey. We are grateful for your support and genuinely excited for what's ahead.

Warm regards,
Sasha Love Higgins
Chair, Rotary Business Network

Raymond Torres
Vice Chair, Rotary Business Network

Take care, and we hope to see you soon.

District 6980 Interact Summit 2025



On Saturday, December 6, 2025, Rotary District 6980 proudly hosted the Interact Summit 2025 at Topgolf Lake Mary, bringing together Interactors, advisors, and Rotary leaders for a high-energy day focused on leadership development, service, and connection. The Summit showcased the incredible impact of Interact across our district while inspiring the next generation of Rotary leaders.

They received an overview of Rotary Youth Service Programs, including pathways from Interact to RYLA, Rotaract, and beyond, helping students envision their continued journey within Rotary.

Attendees also celebrated excellence during Interact Club Showcases, featuring:

- St. Cloud High School – 2024–2025 Club of Excellence
- New Dimensions High School – 2024–2025 Club of Excellence

The 2025 Interact Summit was a resounding success, reflecting the passion, creativity, and leadership of our Interact students and the dedication of the Rotarians and advisors who support them. District 6980 looks forward to building on this energy as we continue empowering young leaders to make a difference in their schools, communities, and the world.

Events and Service Projects

Shannon and I (Jay Heckendorn-Telenda) helped to Eight Waves Christmas Day event at Crooked Can as they fulfilled the “wish lists” of 89 children, along with gifts for the parents.

The children played basketball, made arts & crafts, enjoyed yummy food and hot cocoa.....and then, beamed with smiles as they opened their presents - priceless moments to forever cherish, and all organized by Sara Meyer and her amazing team!



Rotary District 6980 at Fusion Fest 2025

Rotary District 6980 proudly showcased beautiful student artwork from Southwest Middle School, Dr. Phillips, created as part of Project SMILE—an initiative of the District Art Committee. This program encourages and inspires students from low-income communities to pursue their goals and envision a bright future.

In addition, Canvas of Hope, a powerful painting designed to raise awareness about human trafficking, was exhibited alongside artwork created by students from the Paving the Way Foundation.

Rotary District 6980 also presented Certificates of Achievement to students selected for their outstanding work in Project SMILE.

To further promote STEAM education, Origami Cranes were created and displayed by Arjun Bajpai, founder of DreamSteam Foundation Inc. Arjun is currently a junior at Windermere Preparatory School.



Events and Service Projects

Rotary Club of Kissimmee West just distributed over 300 dictionaries to third graders in three Osceola elementary schools the past couple of weeks, which I thought you might want to share with your readers. They include WestSide K-8th, Trinity School, and Pleasant Hill Elementary! We performed a little activity with the students, in which I have attached a series of questions that the students were asked when opening and using their Dictionary. Also, there was a label put into the Dictionary for them to write their name in it, and with the name of the Rotary Club of Kissimmee West.



Events and Service Projects

Maitland Rotarians grilled up barbeque dinners for the New Hope Holly Jolly Holiday Party for Kids on December 6.



Events and Service Projects

SCALING MOUNTAINS, CHANGING LIVES



Dr. Rajiv Patel



Dr. Sangiv Patel

Dentists, adventurers and humanitarians
challenge of sumitting Cotopaxi Volcano in Ecuador,
one of the highest active volcanos

YOUR IMPACT

100% OF DONATIONS GOES DIRECTLY TO CHARITIES
DONATIONS ARE MATCHED UP TO \$7,500 PER CHARITY

**TOGETHER WE
CLIMB HIGHER**



**SCAN TO
DONATE ONLINE**

Together, we can provide Shelter, fight human trafficking, support
education and research, feed hungry children and support vital community
projects locally and globally



Events and Service Projects



KICK OFF 2026

WITH YOUR ROTARY FRIENDS

Join us for a New Year Social with Fellowship and Fun!

Date: Thursday January 8

Location: AC Hotel by Marriott

Orlando Lake Buena Vista

12799 S. Apopka Vineland Rd.

Orlando, FL 32836

Time: 5:30-7:30pm

Featuring 20% off all food and beverages in the AC Lounge, a voucher for each attendee to enjoy 20% off for the remainder of the year, complimentary appetizers and parking

RSVP via Ignite or DACDB

Events and Service Projects



ROTARY BUSINESS NETWORKING

All are welcome to Network!

- ✓ Build valuable business relationships
- ✓ Share ideas and exchange insights
- ✓ Discover opportunities & collaborations



 **FIESTA AZUL TEQUILA HOUSE**
4037 13th St, Saint Cloud, FL 34769



JANUARY 22, 2025
6:00-8:00 PM

REGISTER NOW!

HOSTED BY **ROTARY OF ST. CLOUD**



**SCAN TO
REGISTER**

Location URL: www.fiestaazultequilahouse.com/st-cloud

Events and Service Projects

*Dearest Ladies of Rotary - It is with the
greatest delight that you are hereby
invited to High Tea*



Saturday Jan 24 | Time: 11am

Location: Best of British Pub

16909 High Grove Blvd

Clermont, Florida

Includes: Homemade Finger sandwiches, Home made scones
with clotted cream, Selection of cakes, Choice of teas

Deadline to register: Wednesday Jan 14

RSVP on Ignite or DACDB



\$29.95

per person,
gratuity not
included. Pay at
location.

Events and Service Projects

ALTAMONTE SPRINGS ROTARY FOUNDATION PRESENTS



DESIGNER BAG BINGO

Various Designer Bags | All 100% Genuine

BENEFITING
Altamonte Springs Rotary Foundation Charities

SAVE THE DATE February 27, 2026 Knights of Columbus 5727 Cornelia Ave, Orlando, FL 32807 DOORS OPEN AT 6PM BINGO BEGINS AT 7PM	ADVANCED TICKETS \$40 (non-refundable) DEADLINE FOR ADVANCED TICKETS Feb 26, 2026 TICKETS AT DOOR \$45
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- Ticket includes a Booklet of 8 Sheets (4 cards/sheet) | One Sheet for Each Game
- 50/50 and other Raffle Tickets for more chances to WIN!
- Daubers Available for \$1.00
- Food & Wine Available for Purchase
- Complimentary Water and Coffee
- Reserved seating for parties of 10 or more
- Must be 18 to attend

**PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE BY SCANNING THE QR CODE OR
VISIT [ALTAMONTEROTARY.ORG/EVENT](https://altamoterotary.org/event)**



Events and Service Projects

20th Annual

MARCH 30, 2026
5:30 - 8:00 PM



Presented By:

ORLANDO
HEALTH®

Known for its delicious culinary treats, delectable fine wines, and great fun, the Taste of Lake Mary has become one of the premier charity events of Central Florida.

An event that sells out every year!

Scan HERE
for Tickets!



Park Place Courtyard: 1501
International Parkway,
Lake Mary, FL 32746
(Next to Orlando-Lake Mary Marriott)



www.tasteoflakemary.org



tasteoflakemary@gmail.com



(407) 603-1143

To benefit:

Rotary

Club of Lake Mary
Foundation



Events and Service Projects



The KUA '26 TEXAS HOLD'M CHARITY POKER TOURNAMENT

PRESENTED BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF KISSIMMEE



DATES

2026

Osceola Council on Aging:
Saturday, February 7

Hope: Saturday, March 7

Help Now: Saturday, April 4

Home: Saturday, May 2

**FINAL ROUND
CHAMPIONSHIP**
Saturday, June 6

TO BENEFIT THESE LOCAL CHARITIES



**HELP
NOW**

SAFETY... EMPOWERMENT... HEALING...



ALL THE ACTION TAKES PLACE AT

Sidelines Sports Grill
4060 13th St, St. Cloud FL 34769
Doors Open At 6 Pm
Play Begins At 7 Pm

COST

Sign up for the Series with a
\$200 donation for all 4 rounds
or donate \$60 per individual round of play.
Food & Drink available for purchase.

SIGN ME UP TO PLAY!

NAME _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE _____

☐ \$200 - I want to play in all 4 rounds!

Or choose individual rounds:

☐ \$60 - Round 1 • February 7

☐ \$60 - Round 2 • March 7

☐ \$60 - Round 3 • April 4

☐ \$60 - Round 4 • May 2

Rotary
Club of Kissimmee



To Register or Questions: Contact Marcy Theobald
marcysmiley333@gmail.com or call or text 407-908-4042

Events and Service Projects

Noon Villages
Rotary
Club



STONECREST
GOLF CLUB

5th Annual Charity Golf SCRAMBLE



SATURDAY APRIL 11, 2026
8:30 AM SHOTGUN START

ENTRY FEE:

\$400.00 PER FOURSOME
(INDIVIDUAL GOLFERS WELCOME)

ENTRY DEADLINE: FRIDAY, APRIL 3

FORMAT:

4 - PERSON 18 HOLE SCRAMBLE

CONTESTS:

- * HOLE IN ONE
- * CLOSEST TO PIN
- * LONGEST DRIVE (MEN & WOMEN)
- * PUTTING CONTEST



Also Featured:
Beat the LPGA Golf Pro!

LUNCH PROVIDED AFTER GOLF

TO REGISTER: ANDY COUCKUYT
Info@NoonVillagesRotaryClub.org

(503) 956-8533

**Proceeds for Various
Local Charities**



Events and Service Projects



2026 TEXAS HOLD'EM CHARITY POKER TOURNAMENT

Round 1
Feb. 7

Round 2
March 7

Round 3
April 4

Round 4
May 2

Final Round
Championship
June 6

Sidelines Sports Bar & Grill • 4060 13th Street • St. Cloud, FL 34769
Doors Open: 6 pm • Play Begins: 7 pm

Tournament will benefit:
these Local Non-Profits and
the Rotary International
Foundation



**HELP
NOW**
SAFETY. EMPOWERMENT. HEALING.



SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES

TITLE SPONSORSHIP - \$5000

Company Name In The Title Of Tournament: Your company name will be used in all advertising and references to the series.

Tournament Entries: 5 seats to each of the four preliminary events and 4 entries to the final championship.

Chips and Raffle Tickets: Extra 50,000 in chips and 10 raffle tickets for final seat.

GOLD EVENT SPONSORSHIP - \$1000 | Company name referenced in all advertising.

Tournament Entries: 4 seats to each of the four preliminary events and 1 entry to the final championship.

Chips and Raffle Tickets: Extra 20,000 in chips and 4 raffle tickets for final seat.

SILVER EVENT SPONSORSHIP - \$500 | Company name referenced in all advertising.

Tournament Entries: 2 seats to each of the four preliminary events.

Chips: Extra 10,000 in chips.

FINAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT - \$2000 | Company name referenced in all advertising.

Tournament Entries: 4 seats to each of the four preliminary events and 3 entries to the final championship.

Chips and Raffle Tickets: Extra 30,000 in chips and 4 raffle tickets for final seat.

TABLE SPONSORSHIP - \$200 | Company Name Referenced at the events and in all advertising.

Every Rotarian that pays for all 4 games receives an extra 1000 in chips

Everyone that pays for all 4 games receives an extra 500 in chips

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT Marcy Smiley Theobald 407-908-4042

TOTAL: \$ _____

PAYMENT:

☐ Check payable to: Rotary Club of Kissimmee, PO Box 422185, Kissimmee, FL 34742

☐ VISA/MasterCard/Discover:

Card # _____ Exp _____ CVV _____

☐ Send me an invoice:

Email Address: _____

Signature: _____

Sponsor Name: _____



Events and Service Projects



MARCH 4 – 8, 2026 **ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP** **ACADEMY (RYLA)**

Uncover Your True Leadership Potential

RYLA is a 4.5-day youth leadership camp designed to challenge students into developing their leadership ability. Whether it's to lead themselves or lead a team, the educational sessions and activities in this camp will help uncover skills they didn't know they had and provide support to sharpen the skills they already use.

Students can only attend through the paid sponsorship of a Rotary District 6980 Rotary Club. Reach out to a high-school Interact Club or local Rotary Club for more information.

You can also send questions to eddie.rotary@outlook.com

**Learn Leadership
Skills to Use
Immediately**

**Fun, Safe Outdoor
Camp Environment**

**Challenging Indoor
and Outdoor
Activities Designed
To Sharpen
Leadership Skills**

**Campfires, Games,
Team Building,
Physical Challenges**

**Because We Believe
You're Worth It**

**HOSTED BY ROTARY
DISTRICT 6980**

Event Location:

Florida Elks Youth Camp
24175 SE Highway 450
Umatilla, FL 32784

Events and Service Projects



PRESENTED BY

THE ROTARY CLUB OF ORLANDO

MARCH 6, 2026, 7:00 P.M.

FOP Lodge 5505 Hansel Ave.

★ ★ ★ **LIVE COUNTRY MUSIC WITH** ★ ★ ★
AWARD-WINNING NASHVILLE SONGWRITERS

ANDY ALBERT



JACOB DAVIS



FULL CASH BAR - FREE PARKING

HIT SONGS INCLUDE:

- She's Got A Way With Words
- Bigger Houses
- Somewhere Over Larde
- If The Boot Fits
- Hometown Home
- Steal My Love
- Back Seat Driver
- Buy Dirt
- In Case You Missed it
- Take It From Me
- Young Man
- Singles You Up

**BUY TICKETS
HERE**



TITLE SPONSORS:

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LOWMAN**
ATTORNEYS AND ADVISORS

COUNTRY SPONSORS:

CONSENSUS
COMMUNICATIONS

GATORLAND
ALLIGATOR CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

Events and Service Projects



**NORTH AMERICAN
CLUB CREATION TEAM**

Looking to Start an IMPACT Club?

Step 1

Conversation & Consultation

Connect with your step one specialist to explore your vision, ask questions, and select the ideal club model to get started.

Step 2

Cultivation & Construction

Cultivation & Construction

Lay the foundation by engaging other club members & leaders while building early support and preparing for growth.

Step 3

Creating & Coaching

Form your leadership team and receive hands-on guidance while learning how to shape your club's purpose, structure, and success.

Step 4

Charter & Celebration

We'll finalize paperwork, welcome your members, and celebrate the official launch of your new club!



Book your STEP 1 Call with me TODAY!

Calendly Link

<https://calendly.com/michelle-clubcreationteam/na-club-creation-step-1>



Events and Service Projects



Like to Travel? Make new Friends Around the World? Experience other cultures through the eyes of a local? Consider a Rotary Friendship Exchange

If both travel and Rotary are your passions, a Rotary Friendship Exchange may be just your ticket for exciting travel opportunities where you can experience the local cultures of other countries through the eyes of local Rotarians and give Rotarians from other countries the opportunity to do the same here in Central Florida.

So, what is a Rotary Friendship Exchange?

According to Rotary.org, Friendship Exchanges can broaden international understanding, foster peace and service, and give participants a chance to learn about a new culture and find partners for projects. Groups can include nonmembers as well as Rotarians and can be of any size but are typically 12-20 people. Friendship Exchanges involve two visits, with each country hosting participants from the other. Typically the airfare expense is paid by the members traveling. Stays are in local Rotarian homes so there are no hotel expenses. Many of the meals are also in Rotarian homes so many of those expenses are also minimized, however we would be expected to do the same with our Rotarian guests here. Want to get to know people from other countries but do not want to travel yourself. You can volunteer to host visiting Rotarians during a portion of their stay.

District 6980 is considering offering Friendship Exchanges for our members. Since Central Florida is a top travel destination for people all over the world, finding partner districts to exchange with in top worldwide locations should not be a problem, we just need to know how much interest there might be in the district.

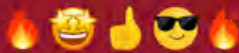
PDG Ron Janssen has offered to determine the level of interest that may exist for Friendship Exchanges. If you are interested, please let Ron know or if you just have questions contact him by email at raj32836@gmail.com or by phone/text at 407-616-9098. More information about Rotary Friendship Exchanges can also be found by Googling Rotary Friendship Exchanges.

Ron has already been contacted by a PDG from Sweden who has expressed interest in exchanging with us. Be sure to let Ron know if you have any interest in visiting Sweden possibly as early as this coming summer.

Ignite Your Membership

IT'S TIME TO **IGNITE** YOUR MEMBERSHIP

“ This app, my friends, is
an absolute game-changer!
It's like a digital supernova
of awesomeness that just
exploded onto my device!

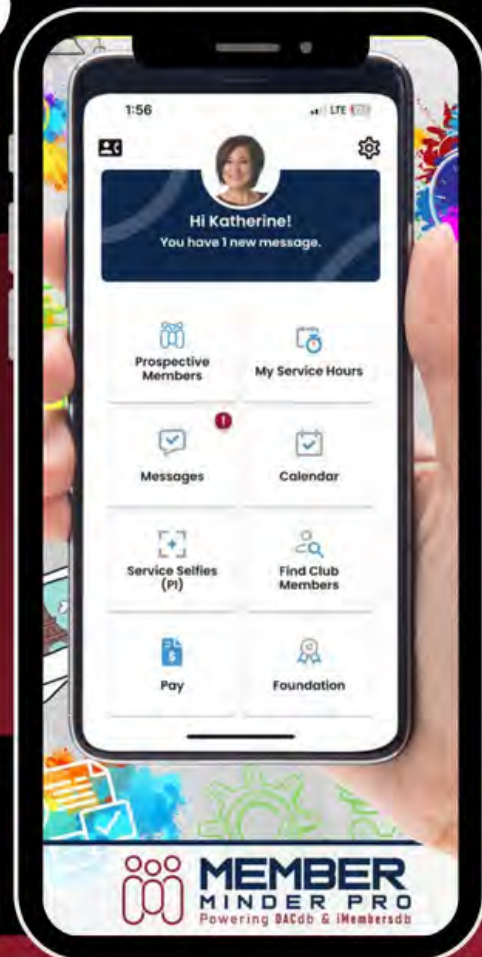


~ New IGNITE User

THE NEW
IGNITE MOBILE
APP WILL CHANGE
THE WAY YOUR
MEMBERS SERVE.



SCAN TO BOOK A
MEETING OR
CALL TO LEARN
MORE!
<<< (803) 999-6670



Events and Service Projects



BREAKING BARRIERS, BUILDING BRIDGES

Conflict Resolution for a Thriving Workplace



EMPOWER YOUR LEADERSHIP. STRENGTHEN YOUR TEAM. TRANSFORM WORKPLACE CONFLICT.

Conflict in the workplace is unavoidable, but how you handle it determines team success, morale, and productivity. Whether you're a first-line leader, supervisor, or experienced manager, mastering conflict resolution is essential to fostering a positive and high-performing work environment.

The workshop is offered monthly from March through October at 9 - 11 a.m. Choose one month to attend and your preferred location.

- Third Wednesday of each month at Southeast Orange Career Center located at 5784 S. Semoran Boulevard, Orlando, FL 32822
- First Friday of each month at West Orange Career Center located at West Oaks Mall, 9401 W. Colonial Drive, Ocoee, FL 34761

You'll learn practical strategies to break down communication barriers, mediate disputes with confidence, and build stronger workplace relationships. Through real-world examples, interactive discussions, and expert-led techniques, you will gain the skills to:

- Recognize and address conflict early before it escalates
- Communicate effectively and navigate difficult conversations
- Encourage collaboration and trust within your team
- Turn challenges into opportunities for growth and innovation

REGISTER



This workshop is designed to equip first-line leaders with the tools to manage team dynamics effectively and create a culture of open dialogue and mutual respect.

Who Should Attend:

- Supervisors & team leads
- Managers & HR professionals
- Emerging leaders looking to strengthen their conflict resolution skills

Don't let workplace tensions hold your team back—lead with confidence and build a thriving workplace!

1.800.747.4598 | CareerSourceCF.info/ConflictResolution

Feed Hunger Now

Does Your Nonprofit Need FREE Fresh Produce?

PARTNER/
VOLUNTEER
WITH



**FEED
HUNGER
NOW**

Free, fresh-from-the-ground, locally grown produce is available including lettuce, kale, tomatoes, collard greens, and more

Contact Pardeep Vedi at
FeedHunger2012@gmail.com
to partner or volunteer



F E E D H U N G E R N O W . O R G

Rotary Business Network (RBN)



The graphic features a background of a business networking event with people at a table. A large blue wave graphic separates the top text from the bottom text. The top right corner includes the Rotary International logo and the text "Rotary District 6980". The center text reads "ROTARY BUSINESS NETWORK". A circular inset on the right shows a group of people toasting. The bottom left features the text "THE MAGIC OF ROTARY" with a colorful star logo.

Rotary
District 6980

**ROTARY
BUSINESS
NETWORK**

RBN Season

WE ARE CURRENTLY INVITING ROTARY CLUBS TO PARTICIPATE IN COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS FOR THE 2024-2025 ROTARY BUSINESS NETWORKING SEASON, WHERE WE CAN EXPLORE SYNERGIES, SHARE IDEAS, AND FORTIFY OUR CONNECTIONS.

**THE MAGIC
OF ROTARY**

If you are interested in hosting, please reach out for more information.

We hope you can join us for a great season of networking!

Please Contact:
District 6980 Vocational Services Chair
Sasha Higgins
sasha@slhbrands.com or call 407-969-6332.

Interact Newsletter

SIGN UP!



INTERACT NEWSLETTER



Sign up for our newsletter today
and be the first to know about
upcoming events, service
projects, leadership
opportunities, and more. Don't
miss out on the chance to make a
difference and be part of our
vibrant community.



Interact



Schedule a presentation...
I'll come to
YOUR Club!

RYE - Roadshow

Rotary
District 6980



**Rotary
Youth
Exchange**



Get Involved Today!

District 6980 RYE needs YOU!

- Become a Host Club
- Become a Host Family
 - Must be within close proximity to Host Club
- Become an Approved Volunteer
- Join the RYE Committee
- Actively Promote RYE in your Club and Community



Initial cost for Host Club: **\$2,750***

*Additional costs may include costs associated with student's extracurricular activities.

Each Host Club will need:

- 2-3 very committed volunteers
 - A dedicated Club Counselor/YEO
 - For each student (same sex)
- 2-3 Host Families
 - Within the same school district and close proximity to Host Club/per student

Contact:

Michelle Koch
RYE Chair
407-415-8255

RYE-Chair@youthexchangefl.org

RYE - Long Term Exchange

**TRAVEL.
LEARN.
GROW.**



ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE LONG-TERM

Long-term exchanges build peace one young person at a time. Students learn a new language, discover another culture, and live with host families for a full academic year. Become a global citizen.



CONNECT WITH US

Rotary District 6980; Central Florida
Program Contact: Outbound Chair
outbound@youthexchangefl.org
www.youthexchangefl.org



SEEKING: PUBLIC IMAGE COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Help D6980 GROW!

Are you skilled in:

- LinkedIn
- Press Releases
- Corporate Sponsorships
- Media Buying/Planning
- Content Creation
- Podcasts
- Virtual Trainings
- Meta Suite
- Social Media
- Event Coordination

Come Serve with Us Now!

Current Rotary Year through 6/30/2026

Or Serve Later!

Next Rotary Year 7/1/2026

Submit interest to: PIChair6980@gmail.com

- 2-year committee term commitment preferred
- Currently meeting via Zoom weekly Fridays @12 PM



Get your news out for next month!

*Please send all upcoming fliers, service projects and events from your club
to eric@hearts-hands-hope.org.*

*For February's Newsletter **No Later Than January 24th***



***DG Richard (Dick) Harris:** rharrisrotary6980@gmail.com*

***DPIChair Eric Wilson:** eric@hearts-hands-hope.org*

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Rotary
District 6980



UNITE FOR GOOD

