

ROTARY CLUB OF  
ST. PETERSBURG  
CLUB ACCOMPLISHMENTS  
2019-2020



BOB CARTER, PRESIDENT  
TROY WILLINGHAM, IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
LIZ HEINKEL, PRESIDENT ELECT  
BOND THOMAS, SECRETARY  
JILL VANMIDDLESWORTH-BANKS, TREASURER  
CHRIS ARNOLD, SERGEANT AT ARMS

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Brian Clark  
Jeff Hearn  
Joe Ozbolt

Doug Phares  
Harry Piper  
Scott Russell

Michael Shorter  
Brett Szematowicz  
Ken Williams



Rotary Club of St. Petersburg was chartered on January 2, 1920, with 2019-2020 marking its Centennial year. It has been a year of looking back at club history and looking ahead to the future and a year of firsts, to be sure. President Bob Carter was the first president in the history of the club to serve a second term. It was a strategic decision by the nominating committee to place Bob in the presidency during the year of the Centennial and he has stated that it was an honor to serve the club again as

president. During the club meetings for the first half of the year, Will Michaels presented a piece of club history, while Cynthia Farrell led in a song matching the decade of the weekly history moment. During the second half of the year, newer members were invited to share their vision about the future of the Rotary Club of St. Petersburg.

Big dreams and goals were set for this Centennial year. A signature project that addressed hunger, one the purposes of Rotary, was selected. The club pledged an unprecedented \$100,000 to the St. Petersburg Free Clinic to sponsor the Pack-a-Sack program for one year and is on track to achieve this goal by the end of 2020. The Pack-a-Sack program provides weekend meals to food insecure students in Pinellas County Schools.

We didn't expect that in the third quarter of the year we would be hit with the COVID-19 pandemic which quite literally shut everything down. The club transitioned to Zoom teleconferencing in April for club meetings, another first. Board meetings and socials also went virtual. We were able maintain club membership and connections during this

time. While everyone is looking forward to in person meetings again, Zoom teleconferencing has helped fill the gap nicely.

The Centennial Gala was held on January 25<sup>th</sup>, at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club. Chaired by Liz Williams and Doug Phares, the Centennial Gala was expertly planned and executed with an amazing team of volunteers. The Roaring 20's theme was perfect for the occasion and over 200 guests enjoyed a sumptuous meal as we celebrated 100 years. Paul Tash, Publisher of the Tampa Bay Times was honored as the club's first William Straub Community Contributor Award.

Sherwood White coordinated a fundraiser through the Florida Orchestra. The club members sold tickets, donated by the Florida Orchestra, and held a pre-concert reception. The \$2,600 in proceeds from this event were applied toward the \$100,000 pledge to the Free Clinic.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought all fundraising efforts to a halt. All events had to be cancelled due to this crisis. On the positive side, additional funds were able to be raised through District matching grants. The Club will be receiving \$15,000, \$6,250 and most likely an additional \$10,000 to go towards the \$100,000 pledge. This was also a club first to receive three grants in the same year.

While our Centennial year did not go completely as planned, many good things did come out of it and we found that for a 100-year-old club, we were pretty flexible, adaptable and tech savvy.

## AVENUES OF SERVICE

### 1. CLUB SERVICE

New Members - Inducted 5 new members, 2 of which were Corporate Connection Members

Corporate Connection Membership (CCM) Instituted a new corporate membership option and began recruitment from local corporations. The first corporate member was inducted in July, 2019.

Celebrated our 6th Year as a member of the St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce

Programs: During the past Rotary year, we were fortunate to have some outstanding programs and speakers visit the club.

- Melissa Macogay, Vice President & Chief Nursing Officer, Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital with Research Building tour

- Bill Leavengood, Author and Playwright
- Nicole Carlisle, National Weather Service
- Melanie Parker, Florida Fish and Wildlife
- Heather Darling, Dali Museum
- Dr. Amit Srivastava, Interventional Cardiologist
- George Leydon, Southeastern Guide Dogs
- Jackie Dixon, Dean Marine Science, USF
- Jesse Turtle, St. Petersburg College Foundation
- Jason Mathis, CEO Downtown Business Partnership
- Scott Neil, Founder and COO, American Freedom Distillery
- Lt. Brian Dykens, USCG, Juneau, Alaska
- Roslyn Franken, Author
- Gina Driscoll, Vice Chair, City Council, St. Petersburg
- Dr. Farhan Malik, DO, Intensive Care Medicine Johns Hopkins ACH

## 2. VOCATIONAL SERVICE

- ❖ NED MARCH-BUD PURDY AWARD – The Club hosted the Ned March/Bud Purdy Award ceremony at a club meeting in February. Plaques and a cash award were given to two officers selected by the St. Petersburg Police Department. Additionally, the recipients received watches provided and presented by Rotarian Jim Watters and the Shops at 200 Beach Drive.
- ❖ MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP/SOCIAL EVENT – The Membership Committee in conjunction with the Vocational Service Committee continued a monthly networking social event at various members' homes, businesses, or on Zoom.

## 3. COMMUNITY SERVICE AND SUPPORT

- ❖ FINES AND HAPPY DOLLARS - The club raised over \$4,000 through Fines and Happy Dollars for the year. Distributions were made to the following organizations:
  - Lighthouse of Pinellas (July-August) \$725
  - Daystar Life Center (Sept-Oct) raised \$425.00 For Thanksgiving food baskets.
  - Christmas Toy Shop (Nov-Dec) raised \$425 to purchase bicycles.
  - Sallie House (Jan-Feb) raised \$1,255.50.
  - St. Petersburg Free Clinic (March-April) \$775 to add to Centennial pledge

- Goodwill Life Skills (May-June) raised \$541 so far with two weeks to go.
- ❖ CENTENNIAL GALA. January 2020, planned and held the club's Centennial Gala. Fundraising goal of \$100,000 to fund the Pack-a-sack Program at the St. Petersburg Free Clinic for one year.
- ❖ TRUST PROJECTS AND DISTRIBUTIONS: The Projects and Distributions Committee administrated disbursements of \$19,372 from the proceeds of the trust investment accounts. The following charities benefited from the donations made:
  - City of St. Petersburg – Camp Redbird
  - Special Olympics
  - Children's Dream Fund
  - Girls, Inc.
  - Clothes to Kids
  - Goodwill Industries Suncoast
  - Jump for Kids
  - The Kind Mouse
  - St. Petersburg Free Clinic – Food Bank
  - Salvation Army
  - Morean Arts Center
  - Red Tent Initiative
  - St. Vincent de Paul
- ❖ Rotary District 6950 Matching Grants
  - Our club applied for and was approved for two matching grants from District 6950, one for \$30,000 and a special COVID-19 grant for \$6,250. These two grants will assist in helping us meet our pledge of \$100,000 for the St. Petersburg Free Clinic.

## OTHER PROJECTS

- Hygiene Products Drive – Jan-Feb 2020: participated in an Area 1 (St. Petersburg Area 1 Rotary Clubs) collection for hygiene products for the St. Petersburg Free Clinic.
- Special Olympics – Volunteers provided assistance at the Bowling Tournament in October 2019 and Spring Games in March, 2020.
- John Thompson Nursing Scholarship – (November/December) Sold special wildlife themed Rotary calendars created by Tom Bell, to benefit the John Thompson Nursing Scholarship. The net proceeds of \$210 were donated to the SPC Foundation designated to the John Thompson Nursing Scholarship which is now fully endowed and being awarded to qualified nursing students.
- Salvation Army Bell Ringing – (December) Provided volunteers for Salvation Army Bell Ringing for two days in December 2019.

- Sallie House Easter Event – Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Easter Party had to be cancelled. Easter candy was purchased and delivered for the kids of Sallie House, with the idea that a summer party would be planned when it was safe to do so.
- Children's Books Literacy Project – A children's book was donated in honor of each of our guest speakers. These books were collected and delivered to Happy Worker's Children's Center and volunteers spent time reading to the children at three literacy events this year.
- St. Petersburg Free Clinic – The club provided volunteers for the Pack-a-Sack program and the Drive Thru Pantry.
- Florida Orchestra Concert (February 2020) The Club sold over 100 concert tickets, donated by the Florida Orchestra, to raise money for the Centennial project. A reception was held prior to the concert and a great night was enjoyed by all.

#### **4. INTERNATIONAL SERVICE**

- Polio Plus - Polio Donations: The club has collected over \$1,133 so far this year designated to the Polio Plus Campaign.
- Every Rotarian Every Year (EREY) - Club members donated \$5,448 to the Rotary Foundation as part of the "Every Rotarian Every Year" program, as Rotary Foundation Sustaining Members.
- International Grant -- The Club participated in an international grant for Africa due to the generous donation of one of our club members.
- Global Grant – The Club sponsored Jackson Willis as a Global Grant recipient to study at the University of Cambridge.

#### **5. YOUTH SERVICES**

- Interact & Rojan Clubs - Sponsored 2 (Interact & Rojans) Clubs at SPHS. Provide liaison and guidance to clubs including them in volunteer opportunities with the club's events.