

# Rotary Clubs of Polk County



## ► Bartow Club

**Meeting location, day and time: noon Wednesday, Bartow Civic Center Members: 72**

**Date of incorporation: Dec. 9, 1924**

### Significant accomplishments:

- Our club has had four Group Study Exchange team leaders.
- Club member Bill Stuart is a former district governor.
- Donated funding for gazebo as Rotary Centennial Project.
- Through club dues and individual contributions, we continue to help support the international efforts to rid the world of dreaded diseases, especially polio.

### Major focus of community involvement:

- Be aware of the community's needs.
- Build wheelchair ramps for needy.
- Provide area fifth-graders with dictionaries.
- Give annual donations to many community organizations.
- Awarding of several thousand dollars of scholarships each year to promising needy scholars.

### Exemplary young professional/business member:

Anita Stasiak



Anita Stasiak is president of the Bartow Chamber of Commerce and has served as secretary for the Peace River Center for Personal Development. She is immediate past president of the Bartow Rotary Club. After completing her term as Rotary president in June, she continued to lead the club when her successor was unable to fulfill the president's role

because of an illness. Stasiak graduated from North Missouri State University, moving to Polk County in 1986 to join the staff of a Lakeland bank. She joined the staff of Citrus & Chemical Bank in 1995. She is a 2002 graduate of the Florida School of Banking, and the Leadership Bartow program. She is senior vice president and area executive at Colonial Bank, formerly Citrus & Chemical Bank, in Bartow and Fort Meade. Stasiak joined the Bartow Rotary Club in 1997 and is a Paul Harris Fellow and this year's Medal of Honor recipient. She and her husband, Mike, live in Lakeland. They have two daughters, one of whom is a member of the Bartow Rotary Club.

### Reason(s) to join:

- Structured service, ranging from local to international service projects.
- Opportunity to develop personal and professional

relationships with past and present business leaders within the Bartow community.

### Interesting fact(s) about club:

- First community service project (1925) was to get cattle off public roads, in and around Bartow.
- Started the Polk County Youth Fair.

### Contact person for membership information:

Club President Ernie Cooper at (863) 512-0951 or email erniesheryl\_cooper@yahoo.com

## ► Lakeland Christina Club

**Meeting location, day and time: Cleveland Heights Country Club, 2900 Buckingham Ave., Lakeland, 7 a.m. Thursdays for breakfast meeting and fellowship.**

**Members: 46**

**Date chartered: 1982**

### Significant accomplishments:

In 2007-2008, our club:

- Donated clothing to Crystal Lake Elementary to help stock a clothing closet.
- Has donated more than \$11,000 to the Rotary Foundation in the last 1 ½ years.
- Contributed to the funding of the "Common Ground Playground" in Lakeland.

### Major focus of community involvement:

Our local schools with the following programs:

- We participate in District 6890 student programs, such as the Annual High School Speech Contest, Seminar for Tomorrow's Leaders program and Rotary International activities such as the Ambassadorial Scholarship Program.
- Deliver dictionaries to all local fifth-graders
- Rotarian of the Month Book Program – provide books to Crystal Lake Elementary and Oscar Pope Elementary's media center in the name of the Rotarian of the Month.

### Reason(s) to join:

- Great meeting time (7 a.m. to 8 a.m.)
- Service – Fulfilling opportunities to have a hands-on impact in our local community, our country, and throughout the world through our clubs community and international programs.
- Fellowship – Build close professional relationships with active and retired community leaders, their spouses and their family members in Lakeland as well as friends in Rotary from around the world.
- Information – Become informed weekly at our meetings where speakers talk on a range of topics from, personal experiences, community issues, topics affecting our country and world issues.

### Culture/personality of club:

- Friendship and fun while working to share Rotary with our community.
- Diverse age group, professional men and women ranging in age from the mid-20s to mid-80s representing a wide range of vocations.
- Monthly socials allow our members to interact after work with other Rotarians and their families.

### Contact for membership information:

Jeff Schiller at jeffreyschiller@yahoo.com.

## ► Lakeland South Club

**Meeting location, day and time: First United Methodist Church, 72 Lake Morton Drive, Lakeland, at noon Fridays for lunch**

**Members: 72**

**Date of incorporation: Dec. 11, 1968**

### Significant accomplishments:

- Established the Tom Sheridan Memorial Scholarship at Florida Southern College.
- Joined with the other Rotary Clubs of Lakeland to create The Common Ground Playground for handicapped children.
- Participated in District 6890 student programs, such as the annual High School Speech Contest, Seminar For Tomorrow's Leaders and Rotary Group Study Exchange programs.

### Major focus of community involvement:

- Since its founding in 1968, Lakeland South Rotary has contributed over \$1 million to the community, including distribution of several thousand gunlocks, ramps for the handicapped, imaging equipment to enable Lakeland firefighters to identify persons trapped in burning buildings and housing for Lakeland homeless.

### Exemplary young professional/business member:

Martin Phillips, district manager, Wendy's Restaurants.

"Joining Rotary has been one of the best things I have ever done and I am looking forward to many more years of service."

### Reason(s) to join:

- Rotary gives its members the opportunity to serve the community and the world. Its motto "Service above self" is demonstrated by Lakeland South Rotary's long-term commitment to our community.

### Culture/personality of club:

- Lakeland South represents a cross section of the community, both in diversity and age. Lt. Anne Marie Wendel of the Lakeland Police Department will become our first woman president for the year 2008-2009.

## ► Lakeland North Club

**Meeting: 7 a.m. Wednesday, Lone Palm Golf Club, 800 Lone Palm Drive, Lakeland Members: 34**

**Date chartered: October 1973**

### Significant accomplishments:

- Donated more than \$30,000 to the operating budget of the Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine Clinic.
- Held Christmas parties for children in foster care.
- Provided shelter boxes for disaster relief.
- Involved in various international drinking water projects.
- Hosted group study exchange team members from India, Australia, South Korea and Argentina.

### Major focus of community involvement:

- Deliver dictionaries to each fifth-grade student at selected schools in Lakeland area.
- Deliver Christmas food baskets to clients of

Volunteers in Service to the Elderly.

- Send delegates each year to and participate in Seminar for Tomorrow's Leaders.
- Assist Salvation Army in community-wide bell-ringing fundraiser.
- Provide chili service at post-race ceremony for Common Ground All-Children's Park.
- Give annual donations to Heartbeat International and Gift of Life programs.
- Provide free photo IDs and fingerprints for kids.
- Donated to drug-free graduation parties for Kathleen High School seniors.
- Provide shoes for needy elementary school students.
- Participate in Reading to Students at North Lakeland Elementary.
- Provided financial support to Lakeland Police Department's Victim Assistance Program.
- Conduct annual speech contest for high school students.

### Exemplary young professional/business member:

John Everhart

John Everhart graduated from Bluffton College in Ohio with a bachelor's degree in recreation management in 1995, began working for the YMCA as a program director and then relocated to Florida in March 1991. He is executive director of the YMCA in Lakeland. He was first introduced into Rotary in April 1999 in Merritt Island. When Everhart, his wife Karen and their two children moved to Lakeland in 2001, he was invited to join the Lakeland North Rotary Club, where he has held the offices of director, treasurer and president. Everhart says that being a young professional in Rotary has allowed him to be a part of local, national and international service projects, as well as to meet other professionals as the basis for a network and a resource for mentors for leading a successful professional career.

### Reason(s) to join:

- We are a club of diverse membership, representing the various professions of the Lakeland community. Our weekly meetings are lively, with interesting speakers on a range of subjects. The club provides excellent opportunities to give back to the community through various service projects. We meet at 7 a.m. Wednesdays and have an excellent buffet breakfast in a beautiful setting overlooking the pristine Lone Palm Golf Course. Our members prefer this over a luncheon meeting.

### Contact person for membership information:

Jeff Fee at (863) 682-6136 or e-mail cfee@tampabay.rr.com ■



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