

November 3rd, 2003

Please sign up to be a greeter at club meetings and also to give the pledge, invocation and Four-Way Test.

Cindy Lewis, sergeant of arms of the Sarasota Bay Club, was a guest at the Nov. 3 meeting.

On Nov. 1, Virginia Orenstein and Patricia Schmoranz attended The Rotary Foundation seminar in Arcadia. Virginia said our club could be missing the big picture; Rotary International can help us expand on what we do. Matching funds are available from the foundation for some service projects. She suggested that members look at the foundation information on Rotary International's Web page. There are several kinds of grants available, ranging from \$2,000 to \$25,000. Virginia and Patricia said they need another member to help them leverage the work we do to make a difference. Valerie Stafford-Mallis volunteered, but said the group needs a "spiritual renaissance," to rekindle the commitment we had when we joined the club.

President Jeff Orenstein said he often is asked by potential members if Rotary is a networking group. No, Jeff said, we're a service club. But, yes, we are a networking group if that definition means meeting with similarly inclined people. It's a worldwide network with 2.1 million members in 35,000 clubs in 161 countries. Our club is in its second stage, he said. We went through the first stage bonding as a group. Now, we're trying to mature, to take that initial spirit and move to the next step to recognize what Rotary is in a community.

Rotary is sponsoring a Four-Way Test speech contest in local high schools. President Jeff Orenstein has the information.

David Grace will soon give a Rotary Web site talk to the club to help members navigate through hundreds of pages of information available.

The speaker at the Nov. 3 meeting was Karen Fraley of Around the Bend Nature Tours. A naturalist, her background is in horticulture, environmental and agricultural research, and education. She works part time for the National Parks Service at DeSoto National Memorial in northwest Bradenton. Fraley also leads nature walks, tours and sunset cruises to help people learn a sense of Florida as home, she said. In the last couple of years, Fraley has focused her business on school groups using grants from the Southwest Florida Water Management District and the National Estuary Program.



The 4 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?"