

Rotary Clubs of Hillsborough County continued

the member who works in Temple Terrace, Brandon and downtown Tampa, as well as other locations.

Culture/personality of club:

• The Temple Terrace Club is not a stuffy club steeped in formality. We enjoy having fun as a club in a relaxed, casual atmosphere. Our club has a range of diverse members, male and female, young and not so young. We are always looking for others to increase our diversity.

Contact person for membership information:
Tom Wagner at (813) 684-7500

► Plant City Daybreak Club

Meeting location, day and time: South Florida Baptist Hospital, 301 N. Alexander St., Plant City at 7 for breakfast
Members: 19

Date of incorporation: Dec. 15, 1990

Significant accomplishments:

• Received Presidential Citation Award for 2006-2007.
• Club had 100 percent sustained membership for 2006-2007.
• As our Centennial Project, we partnered with Plant City Noon Club to construct the All Persons Playground at Gilchrist Park in Plant City.

Major focus of community involvement:

• Dictionary Program.
• Students for Tomorrows Leaders.
• Annual High School Speech Contest.

► Tampa Club

Meeting location, day and time: noon Tuesday, St. Pete Times Forum, downtown Tampa
Members: 211

Date of incorporation: April 7, 1914; the first Rotary Club in Tampa

Significant accomplishments:

• Beautification and monuments of Memorial Highway in 1920.
• Rotary Club of Tampa appropriated \$7,500 for the 15-mile project.
• Reading is Fundamental Each month. Ten percent of our club read to "at risk children" of the Headstart Program.
• Scholarships: Each year in cooperation with our local Boys and Girls Clubs, a recipient is selected for a scholarship of \$1,000 each for four years to the college of their choice.
• Holiday Wrapping Project purchases and distributes gifts of clothing to needy students identified by our local school system.
• Dominican Republic water purification project: A water filtration system was designed and constructed by Rotarians to assist people in underdeveloped regions of the Dominican Republic attain potable water.
• Dictionary Project – Distribute 1,500 dictionaries to local fifth-graders; support foreign exchange students; placed flags in local school classrooms; furnish and serve food to the homeless in conjunction with the Salvation Army during February each year; provided funds for disaster relief; satellite phones for hurricane prone countries; African AIDS relief; kitchen equipment for Kids Café; school bus for Academy Prep.

Major focus of community involvement:

• The Rotary Club of Tampa is focused on kids and education in our community involvement as is evidenced in our accomplishments.

Exemplary young professional/business member:
Mark Abdoney.

Mark Abdoney is a periodontist and implant surgeon practicing in South Tampa. He and Wendy, his wife of 12 years, were both born and raised in Tampa. Abdoney spent eight years of his life at the University of Florida for his undergraduate and dental education, where he graduated in 1996 with a degree in zoology and a doctorate in dental medicine. The couple has three daughters: Rosemary, 7, Evelyn Grace, 5, and Hannah, 2.

Abdoney enjoys the terrific opportunities Rotary offers to serve the community as well as fellowship with Tampa's community leaders. He also enjoys the many different speakers who come to Rotary, which keep our club up-to-date on the many developments impacting our city, state and country.

Reasons to join our club:

• Service: The Rotary Club of Tampa has a 93-year history of making a contribution of time and money to support

healthy development of children and families. Opportunities to contribute toward the betterment of Tampa are many within the structure of the club.

• Fellowship: We foster friendship, collaboration, fairness and truth in the relationships that develop within the club.
• Impact on community: The Rotary Club of Tampa gives generously to the community. Some of the projects require a sizable commitment of the time and talents of our members. Other projects utilize the financial resources that our members and the foundation provide.

Interesting facts about the club:

• First Rotary Club of Tampa created by Jack Mahoney, who also was the first commodore of the Tampa Yacht Club.
• Because we are the oldest club in Tampa and its largest, there are as many as three generations of Tampa families that have been members of our club.
• The Rotary Club of Tampa was the first club to sponsor a non-English speaking club by working with professional/business leaders in Madrid.

Culture/personality of club:

• Our club is comprised of business owners, executives and the decision-makers of their organizations who are able to bring to the club a wide range of the resources from their businesses. We are able to accomplish much for this community with that kind of support while building valuable personal and business relationships among members.

Contact for membership information:

Bart Depury at (813) 247-2278 or e-mail bdeputy@verizon.net; Scott Rutz at (813) 277-3104 or e-mail Scr4@ntrs.com.

► Brandon South Club

Meeting location, day and time: noon Wednesday, Port City Java, 3330 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Valrico
Members: 9

Date of incorporation: 1986

Significant accomplishments:

In 2006-2007, our club:
• One hundred percent of our club members support the Rotary Foundation as a sustaining member.
• Our club was recognized by Hillsborough County for supplying new socks and underwear to more than 400 children in need from Brandon south to Ruskin.
• Contributed our time and energy to helping foster children enjoy and remember the holidays by volunteering at EveryDay Blessings' second annual Family Reunion.

Major focus of community involvement:

• Volunteer with the ECHO organization, a nonprofit emergency food and clothing service for Brandon-area families. We participate in their food drives, annual adventure race and volunteer lunches.
• Support local 4-H groups for children by judging the livestock contest for the Florida State Fair, participating in the Hillsborough County Fair.
• We participate in District 6890 student programs, such as the annual High School Speech Contest, and Seminar for Tomorrows' Leaders.
• Recognize outstanding scholastic achievement for ROTC students at Bloomingdale High School.

Exemplary young professional/business member:
Irma Davila

Irma Davila is the promotions coordinator for the St. Petersburg Times, tbt* and tampabay.com in east Hillsborough. She is a native Floridian and lives in south Brandon with her son, Donovan. She is community oriented, serves as president of the Rotary Club and recently was re-elected for a second term as secretary of the Executive Board of ECHO of Brandon. She also is a board member of the Apollo Beach Chamber of Commerce.



Reason(s) to join our club
• Service: As a small club, we

have the opportunity to work on service projects that are truly important to each member.

• Fellowship: Each member of our club brings something wonderful to the table each week, themselves. Our club is full of character and more characters are welcome.
• Fun: We try not to take ourselves too seriously as we serve our community.
• Leadership opportunities: New members are appointed to committees and also can move quickly through the ranks and hold a leadership position in the club.

Interesting facts about our club:

• We are small, but mighty. We are the smallest club in the district, but we have a large slate of service projects and fundraisers in which all of our members participate.
• We have one of the few female past district governors.
• We have the youngest president in the district and one of the youngest in the state.
• We used to be a breakfast club, but came to the conclusion, "We are not morning people!"

Culture/personality of club:

"We can do it!"
• We are a group of joiners. We try to help our community in many ways, both large and small.
• We have a fun club — you never know what is going to be discussed at our table, nothing is off-limits.
• Although we are a female-dominated club, we do love our guys, both of them!
• The range in age for our club is quite diverse.
• We end each meeting on a "happy note."

Contact for membership information:

Jennifer Trundy, membership chairwoman, at (813) 251-3948 or e-mail jen@red-hot-properties.com

► SouthShore — Ruskin Club

Meeting location, day and time: 12:15 p.m. Wednesday, Cypress Creek Golf Club, Cypress Village Road, Ruskin
Members: 23

Date of incorporation: Dec. 11, 1979

Significant accomplishments:

• Establishment of a school food program/medical clinic in Haiti.
• Local scholarships and food programs.
• Gift of Life specials project.
• Founded (1980) and sustained Boy Scout Troop 661.
• Formation of a 503(c)(3) foundation; SouthShore Rotary Foundation Inc.

We are proud to have accomplished so many things with such a small membership and limited finances. Our members are generous with their personal time and monetary donations.

Major focus of community involvement:

• Food programs for children and seniors.
• Scholarships for local high school students.
• Support of local hospice program.

Exemplary young professional/business member:

Jennifer K. Pioli

Jennifer K. Pioli was born in Erie, Pa., but considers herself as close to a native Floridian as one can get. She has been in the Tampa Bay area for more than 20 years, graduating from the University of South Florida with a bachelor's degree in mass communications. After working in the television production and print media sales industries, she was given the opportunity to join her father in a family business. The company conducts indoor air quality test-



ing and consulting for homes and businesses. One day, she hopes to take over and run the company.

Not long after her family moved to Florida, Pioli's dad became a charter member of a Rotary club. At the time, she had no idea what Rotary was, but soon became well aware, participating in some of the service projects his club was

involved in. One of the projects she was most proud to have a small part in was the ground clearing for what is Rotary's All Person's Park, which is handicap-accessible for children with special needs. Pioli became familiar with all the good Rotary does for the local communities as well as around the world. She knew that one day she wanted to be a part of that.

She reached a point in her career and life when she was ready to make the commitment to a Rotary club and visited the Rotary Club of SouthShore — Ruskin. Pioli immediately felt the friendship and love for Rotary the members shared. It was a smaller club, which she also liked. She has been a member for more than a year and recently was elected club treasurer.

Reason(s) to join:

• We are a small but growing, congenial, informal, fun-loving group. We enjoy one another's company but we are interested in doing the work of Rotary. We have excellent speakers weekly from business, government and social services. Community members, who are not Rotarians, are notified by email of our speakers and often attend our meetings to hear those speakers.

Interesting fact(s) about club:

• We have a high percentage of Paul Harris Fellows.
• Our club meetings are publicized in local newspapers.
• The club grows in winter with the addition of our northern fellows from the northern states and Canada.

Culture/personality of club:

• The club is a great mix of native Floridians, retired and active business people.

Contact for membership information:

Steve Murray, (813) 641-3333, drsdmsteve@aol.com

► Tampa North Club

Meeting location, day and time: 12:15 p.m. Monday, Comfort Inn, Interstate 275 and Busch Boulevard
Members: 43

Date of incorporation: Dec 14, 1954

Significant accomplishments:

• District 6890 Club of the Year.
• Renovated a cabin at Rotary's Camp Florida.
• Built a large gazebo that is ADA-compliant for Rotary's Camp Florida.
• Established a computer lab in Romania.

Major focus of community involvement:

• Annual Christmas party at Dorothy Thomas School.
• Annual Christmas party at Boys and Girls Club.
• Annual fundraiser for a major project at Rotary's Camp Florida.
• Four-way test speech contest.
• Seminar for Tomorrow's Leaders.
• Participate in District 6890 dictionary project for all fifth-graders in Hillsborough County.

Exemplary young professional/business member:

Dr. Zenobia Bowen

Dr. Zenobia Bowen is a podiatrist in private practice specializing in diabetic foot care. She is originally from New York, and did her medical training in New York before moving to Tampa in 2002.

Reason(s) to join:

• We have great weekly programs that provide insightful and interesting information about our community, opportunities to serve and ways to improve yourself as a business professional.
• Fellowship is a major part of our club. We have an annual Shrimp Boil, which is awesome, at the home of one of our members. Our Christmas party also is hosted by a different member every year and provides a warm and special way to interact and get to know each other better, as well as the spouses.
• We are service-minded and believe that Service Above Self is more than a motto, but a manner of life for Rotarians. We provide many hands-on ways of being involved in service projects.

Interesting fact(s) about club:

• We are more than 50 years old with a rich history and a track record of success. Our members include or have included a former state senator, college president, country music artist and a former district governor.

Culture/personality of club:

• We are a conservative club that believes in the time honored values of God, home and country. We range in age from 20's to 80's. We have men and women with various ethnic and racial backgrounds.

Contact for membership information:

Sharon Wimberly.