

YOU CAN MAKE UP AT THESE LOCAL ROTARY CLUBS

Monday: Largo, Noon at Alfano's Restaurant

Tuesday: Clearwater Countryside, 7:30 AM, Countryside Country Club

Wednesday: Dunedin North, 7:30 AM, Dunedin Country Club

Palm Harbor Rotary, 12:15 lunch at Innisbrook

Thursday: Tarpon Springs, 12:15 PM, Tarpon Springs Yacht Club

Friday: Safety Harbor, 7:30 AM, Safety Harbor Spa

A complete list of all District 6950 Rotary Clubs is available at

www.Rotary6950.org.

Visit Your Club Website - www.DunedinRotaryClub.com

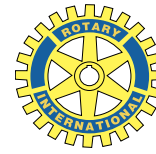
Next Week's Agenda

June 19, 2007

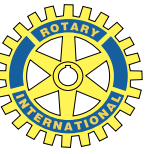
Invocation - Cheryl Wade
Joke of the Day - Don Gage
Speaker - Bud Meyer,
Dunedin Fire Chief



Dunedin Triathlon chairs and volunteers at last week's meeting.



Gulf Breeze



The Rotary Club of Dunedin Florida

Tuesday, June 12, 2007

Make Your Reservations for Installation Banquet

The Rotary Club of Dunedin will hold our annual installation banquet and meeting on Thursday, June 28th. President-Elect Ray Kingsbury along with his elected officers will be installed. The place is Dunedin Country Club and the time is 6:00pm-6:30pm cocktails (cash bar).

The meeting will be called to order at 6:35pm by President Bill Francisco who will welcome Rotarians and their guests, followed by the invocation and the pledge. Dinner will be served promptly. The menu for the evening includes a berry salad served with a raspberry vinaigrette dressing, a choice of Grouper piccata or prime rib served with asparagus and roasted potatoes. Desert is a decadent white chocolate mousse served with tossed raspberries.

After dinner President Bill will continue the evening with awards and presentations, followed by the changing of the gavel.

A Roast to honor Past President Bill will take place shortly before President Ray gives his remarks for the up coming Rotary year. Your Master of Ceremonies for the evening is our very own Jonathan Skinner. **The installation banquet will replace our regular Tuesday (6/26) meeting.**



Senator Fasano Promises Tax and Insurance Reform

Senator Mike Fasano spoke to our Club last week about two of the biggest issues on every Floridian's mind, property taxes and insurance. Senator Fasano represents citizens from parts of four counties in Florida; Pinellas, Pasco, Hernando and Citrus.

Senator Fasano said that the calls coming in to his office affirm the fact that many residents are struggling with home insurance cancellations. He feels that we have not done enough yet to fix the problems related to insurance even though it (MORE ON PAGE TWO)

June 5th Meeting Recap

Guests: Marty Slavney from the Clearwater Club and Jack formerly of the East Clearwater Club and now of the Tarpon Springs Club

Happy Bucks: Ellis Rue gave a gold George Washington dollar last year to start an annual tradition and today he gave the new John Adams gold dollar. Ray Kingsbury is very happy today that the triathlon is over and was a great success. Don Gage is happy his tour of duty as Toastmasters District Governor ends this month. Sue Thomas thanks to all those who helped with food for the Triathlon, especially Nora Mihopoulos, who was cooking before dawn. Bill Berger thanks to all the volunteers at the Triathlon, it really meant a lot to be cheered on by so many friendly faces and a special thanks to Ray Kingsbury and Suzanne Henslee. Jonathan Skinner gave a sad buck for Lynn Wargo whose Dad passed away. Lynn Wargo sends her thanks to all those who sent cards and letters. Jonathan gave another happy buck for this Club and the members who were able to pull together and fill in for both he and Lynn at the Triathlon. **50/50** Mark Brandt pulled the 8 of Diamonds. There is \$700 in the pot.

Senator Fasano Promises Tax and Insurance Reform

(FROM PAGE ONE) has been discussed during the regular session and a special session and some progress has been made.

The Senator said the he believes that Citizens Insurance is here to stay as more and more of the large insurers are opting to leave the State. According to Senator Fasano, insurance problems are not being experienced by Floridians alone; most of the country is struggling with similar issues because the private insurance companies are less willing to provide coverage just about anywhere. Citizens is currently the fourth largest insurer in the country and Senator Fasano believes Citizens should be allowed to provide competitive rates and should have top customer service.

One of the changes to come out of the special session was remov-

ing the provision that Citizens had to have the highest rates of the 10 most expensive competing companies, whether they were writing in Florida or not. Some other changes made with regard to insurance include increasing exemption limits and ending the mandate for property owners to carry wind coverage.

Senator Fasano said that insurance companies have been demonstrating bad corporate citizenship and that they should not be able to "cherry-pick" the types of insurance they are willing to write. Additional new legislation aims to prevent a company that writes home insurance in other states from writing other types of insurance in Florida if they are not willing to write home insurance in Florida.

Property taxes are the second big issue. Senator Fasano said one of (MORE ON NEXT PAGE)



TODAY'S SPEAKERS

June 12, 2007

Invocation - Ann Kennedy

Joke of the Day - Ken Rejko

Speaker - Julie Scales - Executive Director,
Pinellas Community Foundation



More on Florida Taxes and Insurance Special Session

the primary aims of the tax relief that is to come will focus on those who have not enjoyed the current benefits provided by the 3% Save Our Homes cap, including business owners, new buyers and non-homestead properties. There are several changes and recommendations that the Senator feels will result from the two week special session that begins on June 12th, some of which will require approval from Florida voters on the January 29, 2008 ballot. As for the changes that can be enacted without a referendum, Senator Fasano said that he expects that there will be a tax rollback, but feels that the extreme rollback scenarios will be avoided. To that end he said, Governor Crist has cut \$459 million in projects so there is some room for rollbacks and that we must give people some help.

A second change Senator Fasano said may take effect after the special session is a change to how property values are calculated. Currently the 'highest and best use' formula is used to determine a property's value and Senator Fasano feels this is wrong. He said this method forces a property owner to pay property taxes as if the property was being used for its highest and best use and not based on what the property is actually

used for. Senator Fasano said that he believes this method is wrong and that it unfairly punishes the property owner.

Portability of the 3% Save Our Homes Cap is another item that will be heavily discussed during the special session. Portability would give a homesteaded homeowner the ability to move from their residence and carry with them in some form the assessment cap they enjoyed on their prior residence. Some of the issues that surround this idea are determining whether the portability will be extended for a move anywhere within the state of Florida, restricted to moves within the county of the property being sold. There are other recommendations that Senator Fasano thinks may come from the special session that will require a 2/3 majority vote from Florida voters on January 29, 2008. Senator Fasano said that would include any change to the amount of Homestead Exemption or the percent increase allowed under the Save Our Homes Cap.

Story by Sarah McCallum

THANK YOU TO ALL TRIATHLON VOLUNTEERS especially to Race Director, Ray Kingsbury and the chair persons who worked all year on this event. CHAIRS: Bill Berger, Jonathan Skinner, Sarah McCallum, Pete Krulder, Carol Ketterhagen, Lynn Wargo, Cheryl Wade and Kim Gray. Thank everyone who participated in many different way to make our major fund raising event suc-