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# THE "TIMES" OF Seminole County South



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District 6980  
Award Winning  
Newsletter

## TODAY'S PROGRAM

**Denny Kurir**  
6980 District Governor

## WHO'S WHO

Greeter: **Pete Osborn**  
 Invocation: **Bill Fahey**  
 Guests: **Louise Zeuli**  
 Happy Dollars: **Bob Burkhart**

## HUMOR AND WIT



"I'm just a struggling actor. Your insurance policy doesn't cover a real doctor."

## TODAY'S MESSAGE

### President's Column

This morning we are honored to have as our special guest and speaker Mr. Denny Kurir, District Governor of our Rotary International District 6980. Denny was a long time member of the Longwood Club and, since 2000, a member of the Rotary Club of Orlando. Just as our Club relies on the services of volunteer members to accomplish Club fund-raising and service goals, Rotary International relies on the services of a network of remarkable people who volunteer their time as leaders at the District level. These individuals serve as intermediaries between Rotary International and the local clubs so we can align our work with Rotary's global mission and purposes. As District Governor, Denny is assisted by a network of district-level volunteers such as Governor's Aid Jack Schrenker of the Apopka Club; Assistant Governor Laura Phipps of the Altamonte Springs - Forest City club, who visited us last week; our own Clark Gwinn, who chairs the District Group Study Exchange Committee; our own Barry Gainer, who chairs the district's New Generations committee; and our own Russ Moncrief who serves on the District's Environmental Committee. Please join me in welcoming District Governor Denny Kurir to our meeting today, and in thanking him and others who so generously give of their time in service to Rotary.

Vol. 29 No. 5 August 3, 2007

## TODAY'S SONG

### The Star-Spangled Banner

Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light,  
 What so proudly we hailed  
 at the twilight's last gleaming?  
 Whose broad stripes and bright stars,  
 Through the perilous fight,  
 O'er the ramparts we watched  
 were so gallantly streaming?  
 And the rockets red glare,  
 The bombs bursting in air,  
 Gave proof through the night  
 that our flag was still there.  
 Oh, say does that star spangled banner yet wave,  
 O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 13 - Rotary Leadership Institute
- October 15 - Golf Tournament
- November 10-17 - District Conference

**Next Week's Program:**  
**Ann Valandingham**  
 Trip to Russia

2007 - 2008

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We meet every Friday at 7:30 a.m. - Rolling Hills Country Club

## THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS



Frank Cashin 08/04



## HAPPY DOLLARS

Last week, **Pete Burg** collected our happy dollars starting with one from **Linda Schoonover** who was happy to be headed to San Francisco for the ABA convention. **Carole Hinshaw** let us know about the budget crunch at UCF which is causing \$500,000 in library resources to be lost; not good for a research university. She also told us about the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jack Kerouac's "On the Road" and the writer in residence program in College Park. Our speaker, David Johnson, was happy to have the opportunity to speak with us. **Barry** had a thank you dollar for Mr. Johnson, told us about his planned trip to Oregon to visit his two daughters and grandchild, and added one for **Jim DeKleva** who is now "singing for his meals." **Bob Levy** had one for Jim's Whisker Biscuits, for the Legislature for the wonderful (i.e. minuscule) tax savings he characterized as "fiscally irresponsible bordering on moronic." **Jerry Barrett** put one in for **Dennis Sobik** and his leadership in last year's RAP Raffle. **Jim Lee** thanked Russ Hauck for his leadership in Altamonte Springs, hoping he will soon be on the Seminole County Commission. **Clark Gwinn** told us about his latest trip to the Sanford airport to pick up some two week guests and remarked on how busy it was. **Diedrich** was glad to be back from Hendersonville where he visited a 180 member Rotary club, full of women who all sat by themselves. **Bill Fahey** agreed to chip in toward putting **Paul Sills** in the three month, Jack Kerouac writer in residence program. Dennis thanked Jim and his "Biscuits" for their help with the coalition collection. **Frank Casillo** was very happy to be greeting his grandchildren at the airport for a visit. **Bill Stack** told us about his trip to Arlington National Cemetery. **Jim Gamble** was glad to have David Johnson visiting and praised his praiseworthy website as being "much better than the local competition." **Sheila** explained why she was happy to do the greeter job; she gets lots of hugs. Bob Levy spoke about his daughter who is in Madrid and the complicated process for obtaining her visa.

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## LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Last week, we had the privilege of welcoming David Johnson, the Seminole County Property Appraiser, as our guest speaker. Mr. Johnson is a member of the Sanford lunch club and has received many national awards for his work. The primary focus of his talk was the changing face of property taxes, courtesy of the Florida Legislature's most recent special session. A plan was cobbled together and presents some interesting choices for Florida homeowners. Phase I of the effort takes effect for this tax year. This change calls for an immediate millage reduction of 0-9%, depending on the City or County (for instance, Altamonte Springs is already doing a great job keeping taxes low and is a 0% reduction City). The governing board of a City or County may override the imposed reduction with a super-majority vote, and several local governing bodies are doing just that. Unfortunately, all this hullabaloo will make little difference in the taxes on our homes, with an average change of \$75-\$100 annually. Phase II is the proposed Constitutional change to be voted on in January which will add a "super exemption", with an eye toward phasing out Save Our Homes over time. The super exemption provides that the first \$200,000 in value is exempt, with a graduated percentage from there. (Please go to the Property Appraiser's website and use the calculator which shows how the super exemption would effect the taxes on your home.) The effect will be to bring taxes down on newer homes to more closely match those levied on older homes. Once the super exemption is opted, it can't be revoked. With the new requirement for a Constitutional Amendment to carry 60% of the vote, the change is all but assured. There is also the matter of the changes creating a \$20 million budgetary hole. **Clark** asked about what happens if the proposed Amendment doesn't pass, with the answer being basically a "back to the drawing board" result. **Joe Williams** asked a question about portability and **Jack Mannion** asked for specifics as to which local governing boards were overriding the millage reduction. **Jim Gamble** asked about the reality of decreasing property values, with Mr. Johnson's answer being that residential is down 2.5-3% (median price) and commercial and industrial are stable or slightly up. He also explained the difficulties involved in valuing new neighborhoods where developers and investors are in the "pull out" stage. We learned an alarming statistic; 25,000 homes are for sale in Seminole and Orange Counties, an 18 month supply. Fred Poole made the insightful comment, agreed upon by our guest, that these changes are really short-term solutions. **Barry** gave us an update on the impact the changes will have on our schools, which are working with the 12th straight year of millage reduction. A \$25-30 million gap will be created in our County and the Legislature has uncomfortably said, "Trust us." **Bill Miller** asked our guest to elaborate on Sen. Rubio's ("Last Week" cont. on pg. 4)

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## “Last Week” (cont. from pg. 3)

efforts. His proposal apparently just fell flat when it wasn't going to make it past the Governor's desk and, as a result, other options had to be considered. As a result, our delegation is “concerned” with the current plan but has no alternative at this time. The new plan has also not addressed a huge issue, that being the most effected segment of the real property market, non-homestead property. Interestingly, 60% of our taxes are paid by 30-40% of the taxpayers. Following our speaker, our Assistant DG told us about her affiliation with Kid's House, prepped us for this week's visit by the District Governor and reminded us about the District Cruise. **Linda Schoonover** talked about the RAP Kickoff Barbecue (see story below) and her push for 80-90% involvement in the program this year. **Bill Fahey** told us about the homeless collection efforts undertaken while our own **Jim DeKleva** entertained with his band, Whisker Biscuit, at Mulligans. A record \$330 was raised and Jim thanked the many Rotarians which attended for their support, particularly Bill and his amazing collection ability. Ironically, Jim won the drawing and donated the proceeds to the homeless collection effort.

## RAP KICK-OFF

(contributed by **Carole Hinshaw**)

More than 30 Rotarians and their spouses turned out for the RAP kickoff Sunday and several ideas were discussed for moving ahead as soon as possible. If you haven't yet volunteered for a committee please contact **Linda Schoonover** or **Bill Potter**. **Brad Weston** will be overseeing the fund-raising efforts this year; **Paul Crouch** will oversee the Raffle Committee; **Tracy Huggins** has volunteered to chair the corporate table committee and **Fred Poole** will act as chairman of the Finance Committee. In addition, we will have Rotarians who will serve as ambassadors to students and to each corporate sponsor. **Sue Easton** has volunteered to serve as Chairman of the student ambassador committee and **Carole Hinshaw** will act as assistant chairman. In addition we are asking Rotarian spouses for their assistance in serving as ambassadors. An after hours event for corporate sponsors is planned for September or October at the Longwood Community Building. If you have corporate contacts, please let us know so that we may invite them to this evening where they will learn about RAP and how they can become involved. Please see Tracy Huggins if you would like to assist or have input into this event.

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*Hope to see you  
next week!*

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