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District governor visits Trenton Rotary Club



Trenton Rotarian Dr. Andrew Nguyen plays the piano on Monday afternoon (Aug. 7) as he substitutes for Monnye Brown, the usual piano player at the Rotary Club meetings in Trenton.

Story and Photos By Jeff M. Hardison © Aug. 8, 2017 at 11:27 p.m.

TRENTON -- The Rotary Club of Trenton hosted Florida Rotary District Governor Lisa Weeks of Santa Rosa County (Pace Rotary, where she has been since 2003).



Trenton Rotary Club President Bob Clemons opens the meeting.

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Assistant District Governor Chris Cowart speaks about the district governor.

The Trenton Rotary Club is in District 6940, which includes 49 other clubs and covers many counties.

Assistant District 6940 Governor Chris Cowart visited the Trenton group as well. There are 10 assistant governors in District 6940.

Cowart is responsible for the clubs in Chiefland (Levy County), Dixie County (Cross City), Suwannee Valley (Levy County), Trenton (Gilchrist County) and Williston (Levy County). Cowart's home club is in Williston.

Before District Governor Weeks spoke about the district and some of her goals, and some of the goals of 2017-18 Rotary International President Ian H.S. Riseley, she presented an award to Trenton Rotarian Shannon Smith.

Shannon Smith brought his wife Christine Smith as a guest.

Trenton Rotary President Bob Clemons welcomed everyone and thanked the members and guests for spending time with them.

Assistant District Governor Cowart introduced Weeks. The district governor was born in Fairbanks, Alaska; is a graduate of the University of West Florida; and is a real estate broker with her husband of 30-plus years David.

She has an extensive background in Rotary.

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Trenton Rotary Club President Bob Clemons (left) watches as District Governor Lisa Weeks (second from left) tells Rotarian Shannon Smith that Smith's work to help people all over the world through his participation in the Foundation. Assistant District Governor Chris Cowart is seen at the right.



Christine Smith pins her husband Shannon Smith with the Paul Harris Fellow pin.

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PAUL HARRIS FELLOW

District Governor Weeks presented the Rotary Foundations Paul Harris Fellowship Award to Shannon Smith.

The Paul Harris Fellow recognition acknowledges individuals who contribute, or who have contributions made in their name, of \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International.

It was established in 1957 to show appreciation for and encourage substantial contributions to what was then the Foundation's only program, Rotary Foundation Fellowships for Advanced Study, the precursor to Ambassadorial Scholarships.

Paul Harris started Rotary International in 1905.

In addition to the certificate, which was presented to Smith by President Clemons, there was a pin presented. Christine Smith pinned Shannon Smith with that award.

Thanks to his gift to the Rotary Foundation, Weeks told Smith, it is able to benefit people all over the world by improving living conditions; increasing food production; providing better education; increasing the areas where people who are disabled can be treated; opening new channels for the flow of international understanding; and offering a brighter hope for peace throughout the world.

The ideals of the Foundation are goodwill, peace and understanding around the world, Weeks said.

PLANT A TREE

District Governor Weeks shared with the audience that President Riseley would like each club around the globe to plant a tree.

She urged the Trenton Rotarians to accomplish this before April.



District Governor Lisa Weeks shares with the Trenton Rotarians some of her goals.

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30th ANNIVERSARY

District Governor Weeks presented each of the Women of Rotary with a lapel pin on Monday.

As the district governor and being a woman, Weeks said she felt that this year 2017 deserves to be memorialized as the 30th year since the United States Supreme Court ruled that organizations like Rotary and Kiwanis could no longer exclude women from being members.

The women of Rotary at the meeting on Monday are pinned and they stand to be recognized. This year marks the 30th anniversary of women being allowed to join Rotary, Kiwanis and other clubs that had excluded them based on gender before.



The district presents the Trenton club with a check.

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The Trenton club presents a check to the district.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The motto of Rotary Club International is “Making A Difference.”

With that in mind, District Governor Weeks is asking all of the clubs in District 6940 to have members from the different clubs to visit with each other, and to work together on projects.

Weeks said she also would like the members to socialize with each other, rather than to just see each other in passing at a meeting.

She mentioned to the Trenton club that they may want to sponsor an Interact Club at a high school as well as a Rotaract Club at a college.

Her presentation included a call to attend the April 5-9 District 6940 meeting at the San Destin Golf and Beach Resort. She would like to see Rotarians attend the June 23-27, 2018 Rotary International Conference in Toronto, Canada as well.

The Rotary Club of Trenton meets each Monday (except holidays) at noon, in the Woman’s Club of Trenton, 819 S.W. Gilchrist County Road 339 in Trenton.