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## Service Above Self



**2017-2018 Rotary Club Assistant (Area 10) District (6940) Governor Chris Cowart (left) and 2018-2019 Assistant District Governor Jana Carlisle are seen at the Wednesday afternoon (June 27) meeting of the Rotary Club of Dixie County. Area 10 of District 6940 includes the one Rotary Club in Dixie County, the one Rotary Club in Gilchrist County and**

**the three Rotary Clubs in Levy County. Cowart has been the assistant district governor for four years, following in the footsteps left by Past Assistant District Governor Jo Buckles of Gilchrist County. Buckles is also a past president of the Trenton Rotary Club, which was renamed the Gilchrist County Rotary Club during this past Rotary Year (July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018). The late Eighth Judicial Circuit Senior Judge Edward Philman, who took office as the Gilchrist County judge in 1989, was the governor for the District 6940 Rotary Clubs. Like Buckles, his home club was the Trenton Rotary Club. District 6940 has at least 51 clubs with about 2,500 Rotarians, who put service above self as they help people locally, regionally and internationally.**

*Photo by Jeff M. Hardison © June 29, 2018 at 7:08 p.m.*

**By Jeff M. Hardison © June 29, 2018 at 7:08 p.m.**

**TRI-COUNTY AREA** – During the Wednesday afternoon (June 27) regular meeting of the Dixie County Rotary Club, the current assistant (Area 10) district (6940) Governor and the future assistant district governor were present.

The half-dozen members at the meeting in Cross City spoke about a program where students from Dixie County High School present speeches to the club throughout the school year.

This longtime tradition of the club has included Mike Thomas when he was a DCHS student. He is now Dixie County Superintendent of Schools Thomas, and he was present for the meeting on Wednesday afternoon.

The other clubs in Area 10 of District 6940 have started Interact Clubs to encourage student involvement in the Rotary Club International family. Club members in Cross City mentioned that the currently relatively small club is hard-pressed just to perform

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the civic action it is committed to, and it lacks enough members to move forward with the start of an Interact Club at DCHS.

Nevertheless, this small but strong Rotary Club OF Dixie County is not ruling out the potential to sponsor a DCHS Interact Club at some point in the future.

District 6940 of the Rotary Club is huge. Area 10 of the district is Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist counties.

The Cross City gathering was one of four clubs' events across the Tri-County Area.

While the Rotary Club of Dixie County did not have a banquet or luncheon event to celebrate their new officers, the 2018-2019 leaders of this club are selected.

2018-2019 President Anne Hodges is taking the office held during the past year by 2017-2018 President Heather Smith.

Following are the other new officers of the Dixie County Rotary Club: Treasurer Tonya Howell; Secretary Holly Houghton; Sergeant-At-Arms Hayward Anderson.

Monday, the Rotary Club of Gilchrist County met in Trenton. (That story is on the Life Page.)

Monday night, the Rotary Club of Williston met at the Horse and Hound Restaurant on Bonnie Heath Blvd. (U.S. Alt. 27) in Marion County – east of Williston.

The Williston Rotarians normally meet on Tuesdays with a social gathering for 15 minutes starting at 11:45 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Williston and the meeting and lunch lasts from noon until 1 p.m.

This club met at the eatery for a prime rib special as the members inducted their new officers for the year and welcomed some new members.

## 2018-19 Williston Officers



**(from left) Treasurer Matt Brooks, Secretary Donna Hatcher, President-Elect Jennifer Jones, President Fran Taylor and Past President Danny Etheridge.**

*Photo Provided by Assistant District Governor Jana Carlisle*

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## New Williston Rotarians



**President Fran Taylor (leftmost) stands next to the new members of the Rotary Club of Williston (from left) Deedee McLeod, Reggie Priest and Michael Langston.**

*Photo Provided by Assistant District Governor Jana Carlisle*

On Wednesday, there were two sets of Rotarians meeting. The Rotary Club of Chiefland had its regular weekly meeting at The Gathering Table Restaurant and the Rotary Club of Cross City met in the kitchen-dining room-conference room at the Dixie County Public Library facility in Cross City.

Thursday, it was the Rotary Club of Suwannee Valley meeting in the Haven Community Building on the campus of what was once the Haven Hospice Care Center but is now a Haven satellite business office – and its Community Building.

**Incoming Rotary Club of Suwannee Valley President Ben Lott shakes hands with outgoing Rotary Club of Suwannee Valley President Kathryn M Lancaster. The 2018-2019 officers in that club are President Ben Lott, President-Elect Andy Lott, Secretary Rissa**

**Mainwaring, Treasurer Justin Hardy and Sergeant-At-Arms Mark Swain. Like the Dixie County Club, this group did not have much of a ceremony for the new officers. Lott presented Lancaster with a gavel and plaque for her service during the previous year.**

*Photo by Jeff M. Hardison © June 29, 2018 at 7:08 p.m.*



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**Leah Gamble accepts a certificate showing she is a member of the Rotary Club of Suwannee Valley. She was also given a new member packet that included her Rotary Club name tag.**

*Photos by Jeff M. Hardison © June 29, 2018 at 7:08 p.m.*

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**Author, non-practicing attorney, gentleman, scholar and stand-up comedian Luther Beauchamp entertains Rotarians in Chiefland on Thursday.**

*Photo by Jeff M. Hardison © June 29, 2018 at 7:08 p.m.*

The Thursday meeting of Rotarians in Chiefland showed about 16 members and guests, with Leah Gamble being added to the active membership list.

Thursday's keynote speaker is a member of that club, and much more.

Luther Beauchamp is not actively practicing law, however he is actively entertaining the masses with public presentations of stories from one of his two books.

Beauchamp is not a tall man in height, and he has fun joking about that.

The titles of his two books are – *I'll Try to Be Short... Small Doses of Healthy Humor* (illustrated by Joe McKeever with a forewarning by Lance T. Beauchamp); and *Legal Shorts...Not Briefs – Lawful Laughs from School & Practice* (illustrated by Joe McKeever)

Beauchamp opened his presentation of funny stories by introducing the speaker of the day.

As he mentioned that he enjoyed the privilege of introducing the speaker, he said of that person, "Our speaker once was the senior partner in his city's largest law firm.

"He served as an officer in two statewide organizations," Beauchamp continued. Our speaker was recently honored by the Florida Bar Association. He has authored two books, both of which have been on the *New York Times* Best Seller List."

He explained to the audience that his introduction of himself was accurate.

At one time, W.O. "Brett" Beauchamp III – who is now the Levy County undersheriff – was a partner with his uncle.

"We were the only firm (in Chiefland) that had more than one lawyer in it," he said.

In high school, he was fourth vice president of Future Farmers of America, Beauchamp said. About 15 years ago, he served as second vice president of the Florida Baptist Convention. Hence, he served as an officer in two statewide organizations.

"The first vice president (of the Florida Baptist Convention) didn't have anything to do," he added. "So, you can imagine how important my job was."

The jokester did have a valid point about being honored by the Florida Bar too.

"Anybody who pays his or her annual dues for 50 years," Beauchamp said, "is

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honored by the Florida Bar. I'm on that list this year, because I was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1968 – 50 years ago.”

As for his two books being on that best seller list, Beauchamp explained that he wrote “*New York Times* Best Seller List” on a piece of paper, and then he placed copies of both books on that piece of paper. Therefore...

In 1968, Beauchamp graduated from Vanderbilt University Law School (Nashville, Tenn.). Established in 1874, it is one of the oldest law schools in the southern United States.

He practiced law in Tallahassee for year, and then returned to his home county of Levy County, where he practiced law in Bronson. Judge Wilbur Anderson was his partner then.

Judge Joseph Smith then became a partner with Beauchamp, and keynote speaker on Thursday said he could do a whole program just on his experiences with now Eighth Judicial Circuit Court Senior Judge Smith, who is a former Levy County Court judge.

The first story he shared is titled “Terrazzo Terror” in his book *Legal Shorts..Not Briefs*.

His first law office had two small rooms. There was no intercom, but telephones in both rooms were on the same line. There was no “hold” button on either phone. The floor was terrazzo, which is harder than concrete.

During a conference in his office with clients, Beauchamp’s secretary came in and told him that Judge Murphree was on the line.

At that time, in the late 1960s, there were only three circuit court judges in the entire Eighth Judicial Circuit, which includes Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Gilchrist, Levy, and Union counties.

Today there are currently 13 circuit court judges for these six counties.

Lacking the confidence that he could impress his clients by speaking with a circuit court judge in their presence, he got up from his desk to go to the other room.

As he got up, the cord to the telephone became tangled on his foot and he brought the receiver down to the floor with a loud crash as it shattered into several pieces.

“The crash created a tremendous noise in my office,” he said, “and undoubtedly in the ear of the judge. I apologized to the judge, but I don’t think he heard me.”

Circuit Court Judge John Crews from MacClenny was a new judge back then, Beauchamp said.

“That shocks the conscience of the court,” is a phrase Beauchamp remembers the judge stating on occasion.

Beauchamp remembers having a hearing in Bronson one day, and he went to lunch with him in Bronson.

Beauchamp overturned a glass for of Pepsi, which spilled on Judge Crews. The attorney told the judge he was happy that he did not have to appear before him later that day, and the judge concurred with that statement.

On another occasion, Beauchamp was visiting with Judge Crews, whom he knew was a friend of Earl Faircloth (Sept. 24, 1920 - May 5, 1995), a friend of the Beauchamp family.

Faircloth had graduated Chiefland High School, was student body president at the University of Florida, graduated the UF College of Law, had a practice in Miami, was in the Florida Legislature and served as Florida Attorney General from 1965 to 1971.

Faircloth also served in the United States Army Corps of Engineers in World War II.

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Beauchamp was speaking with Judge Crews about then Gov. Claude Kirk (Jan. 7, 1926 - Sept. 28, 2011), the 36th governor of Florida and the first-ever Republican governor of the state.

“I made some derogatory comments about the governor,” Beauchamp said, “because Earl Faircloth was running against Gov. Kirk, or he was trying to get the nomination to run in the general election.

“I was thinking anything I said about Kirk would be alright because of the friendship with Mr. Faircloth,” Beauchamp continued. “So, when I made some derogatory comments about the governor, Judge Crews said ‘Yes, most of what you say is true. However, he has made some very fine appointments.’”

That is when it dawned upon the lawyer that is how Judge Crews had got to be a judge.

“I said, ‘Yessir he has – one in particular,’” Beauchamp told the Rotarians and guests. “I tried to recover using a little judicial diplomacy.”

Beauchamp told several other humorous stories to the delight of the listeners.

And so, the Rotary year in Area 10 of District 6940 ended on a happy note as all of the Rotary members in the 35,000-plus clubs around the globe accept a shared responsibility to take action on the world’s most persistent issues.

Rotarians work together to promote peace; fight disease; provide clean water, sanitation, and hygiene; save mothers and children; support education; grow local economies; and get involved.

The theme for the 2017-2018 year was “Making A Difference” and the theme for the 2018-2019 year is “Be An Inspiration.”