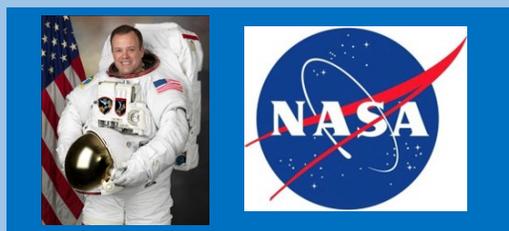




# PETS NEWS

## Information as you prepare for the President Elect Training Seminar



### Astronaut Ron Garan: A REAL Explorer!

Lieutenant Colonel Ron Garan, USAF (retired) hails from Yonkers, New York. He earned a B.S. degree in Business Economics from the State University of New York, a M.S. degree in Aeronautics from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and a M.S. degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Florida. He was conferred with an honorary Doctor of Science degree from the State University of New York.

Colonel Garan is a highly decorated, combat-seasoned F-16 Fighter Pilot, a Flight Instructor at the Air Force Fighter Weapons School, and he has been awarded recognition from both the United States and Russia. Colonel Garan qualified as an AQUANAUT as part of his training to become a member of the elite group of people who have served as both a Space Shuttle Engineer and a member of a joint US-Russia mission to the International Space Station.

Colonel Garan has completed two spaceflights aboard Space Shuttle Discovery as well as a Russian Soyuz spacecraft, which launched from the same site from which Russian Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin launched. His missions have delivered much-needed technical devices and participated in microgravity experiments. He has traveled more than seventy-one million miles in space in 2842 orbits of the Earth, totaling more than 178 days, including more than twenty hours on spacewalks.

We are grateful to Lieutenant Colonel Ron Garan for sharing his experiences of EXPLORATION and SERVICE to humankind as a NASA Astronaut!



PETS Chairman  
Mike Chapman  
PDG District 6950

### Countdown to Launch!



In just FIVE DAYS, we begin what I believe will be one of the best experiences in your Rotary life! On Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, you will meet with over 300 of your fellow Presidents-Elect and begin the next leg of your trek toward qualifying as the PRESIDENT of your Rotary Club. Your District Governor-Elect, Governor-Nominee, and Governor Nominee-Designate, in cooperation with the Rotary Florida PETS Staff, have been preparing for this exciting weekend for *almost a full year!*

Most of our PETS participants will be checking in on Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. When you arrive at the Double Tree Resort – Sea World, please go to Room “Orange A” to receive your PETS credentials, schedule, and accoutrement. This room is located immediately to the left of the main entrance to the lobby of the resort. Assistant/Area Governors from your district will be standing by to welcome you.

After PETS check-in, please head over to the hotel registration desk, where you’ll receive your room assignment. Then it’s off to your room to get unpacked and organized for the next three days’ activities!

On Friday morning, all Districts are meeting together at 9 a.m. for the first District Breakout. During this meeting, you will meet your District Leaders and continue the district-and -club-focused training that you began during PETS phase 1.

At 10 am, the first general session will begin – and from there, *the sky’s the limit* as you network with fellow Presidents-Elect, exchanges ideas, talk about meeting the challenges of your next leadership experience in Rotary.

A suggestion: Come to Rotary Florida PETS with an open mind and an attitude of *wanting to learn how to become the best club president you can be*. Ask questions, share experiences with your newfound contemporaries (during breakouts, meals, and “after hours”), and try to take at least one new idea with you when you move from breakout to breakout. If you will try that strategy, you’ll come away with lots of great and innovative ideas you can share with your Rotary Club in the coming year.

I want to congratulate you again for ascending to the office of Club President. If I, or anyone on the Rotary Florida PETS team, can help you while we’re together – or when you “land” in you club again – please feel free to contact us and ASK. We’re here for YOU!

Your Friend in Rotary Service,

Mike



Past Rotary International Director &  
Chair of the 2022 RI Convention

John Smarge  
District 6960



John Smarge has been a Rotarian and resident of Naples, Florida since 1982. John and his wife Cindy are Level 2 Major Donors and Bequest Society Members.

John served as President of The Rotary Club of Naples in 1992-93 and as District 6960 Governor in 1995-96. He was a member of the Rotary International Board of Directors in 2010-2012 and Chairman of the Executive Committee in 2011-2012.

John has twice been a Delegate to the Council on Legislation and three times a member of the RI President Nominating Committee. He has served as a Rotary International Membership Coordinator, Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator, Rotary Coordinator Training Leader and as Chair of multiple RI Committees.

John served as the Aide to the 2018 – 2019 Rotary International President. Currently he is a member of the Shaping Rotary's Future Committee, the RI-USAID Steering Committee, and a founding member of HANWASH (Haiti National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Strategy.) John is also serving as the Chairman of the 2022 RI Convention Committee (Houston, TX).

John has received numerous awards for his Rotary Service including the *Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service*, the *Distinguished Service Award* the *Rotary International Service above Self Award* and was recognized in 1999 as the *District 6960 Rotarian of The Decade*.

John is a past Board Chairman of the Naples YMCA and served as Director on the board of the Boy Scouts of America, Shelter for Abused Women, Naples Girls Sports Foundation and Southern Community Bank. John and Cindy have three married daughters and two grandchildren.

**Remember!** Send us your selfies to be shown on the Jumbo screen in Orlando

At Rotary Florida PETS 2022!

<https://rotaryfloridapets.live/2022Selfies>



## PETS Training Notes

From PETS Training Chair

John A. Medina PDG District 6940

**FEBRUARY 26**

**PETS TRAINING - An Educational Overview**

**General Breakout (GBO) Course: Facilitated Discussion**

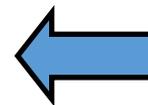
**As the President-Elect of your club, what are your biggest challenges and concerns? What do you still feel unprepared for? As you look at your club, what are some of your best practices that you can share with others?**

This GBO will facilitate group discussion of similar size clubs. Historically, this has been one of the highlights for PEs and provides an opportunity (as the last GBO session of Saturday) for open discussion and sharing.

In this GBO, Presidents-Elect will:

- Discuss issues, concerns, and outstanding questions of primary interest;
- Share ideas about how to address club challenges;
- Develop a support network of contacts in Florida (and visiting PEs).

Prior to coming to PETS, please take a moment to reflect on key challenges you or your club may be facing and outline the key elements for your club's success during your year as Club President.



Visit The Rotary Foundation  
Resource Page



**Get Your Florida Rotary Tag**  
Invest in Florida's youth and show your Rotary pride. Order yours NOW!  
[www.floridarotarytag.com](http://www.floridarotarytag.com)

