

Meet Our Presenter: **Tara Nichols**

Ms. Tara Nichols has been named the new Executive Director of the Greater Seminole Area Chamber of Commerce, effective January 1, 2019. She will take the helm of the Chamber from Roger Edelman who has ably lead the Chamber for the last seven years.

Ms. Nichols, originally from Georgia, earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Speech Communications and Public Relations from Valdosta State University. She began her career in the not-for-profit industry as a Community Director for the March of Dimes. She brings more than seven years in the industry after working as the Vice-President of Business Development at the Valdosta-Lowndes Chamber of Commerce in Valdosta and Program Manager and Services Coordinator at the Southeast Tennessee Development District in Chattanooga, Tennessee.



Among other duties with these organizations, she wrote grants and acquired funding to implement programs to grow and support small businesses in Valdosta-Lowndes County and rural Tennessee, including work with entrepreneurship development. Most recently Tara provided office management and marketing services to a public accounting firm in Tampa.

“My passion is in economic and community development,” Ms. Nichols noted, “and I love the sense of commitment to and involvement in the community that has been a hallmark of the Seminole Chamber. My previous experience, especially with the Valdosta Chamber, has given me the deep appreciation for nurturing small business success which shapes where we live, work, and play.”

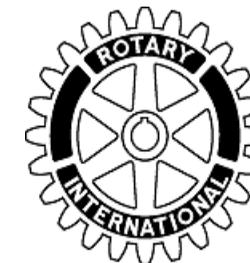
Dr. Jim Olliver, Chamber President-Elect and Search Committee Chair said, “The Committee was impressed with Tara’s enthusiasm for the area and excitement about networking opportunities and working with Chamber members and volunteers to continue the great traditions in Seminole.”

Tara lives in mid-Pinellas County with her fiancé and blended family of 6 teenagers.



ROTARY 2018-2019

SEMINOLE SMOKE SIGNALS



Club Number 4289

February 20, 2019

PRAYER FOR TODAY: Almighty God, we thank You for this day and for this privilege of being gathered in Rotary fellowship. Please bless this food to our use, and us to Your service. Amen

PROGRAM THIS WEEK: **Tara Nichols, Executive Director of the Greater Seminole Area Chamber of Commerce**

PROGRAM NEXT WEEK: **Presenter brought to us by Claude McMullen**

PROGRAM LAST WEEK: **Sweetheart’s Luncheon, Seminole Middle School Chorus**

Upcoming Events:

March 6th Heather Lennie, Free Leadership Program
March 13th Bob Castles
March 20th CJ Morris
March 27th Phil Crow

Rotary Club of Seminole Officers 2018-2019:

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|------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| President | Ginger Hayes | Sergeant at Arms | Frank Tanzella |
| President Elect | Jen Reynolds | Bulletin Editor | Jeff Graves/Ruth Berry |
| Secretary | Lorie Whitney | Past President | CJ Morris |
| Treasurer | Mike McQuilkin | | |

District 6950 Website - www.rotary6950.org
Seminole Rotary Website - www.seminolerotary.org
Rotary Club of Seminole P.O. Box 3313 • Seminole, FL 33775-3313

Rotary clubs blanket Brazil with polio and measles vaccinations

Rotary clubs in Brazil mobilized to help stave off a potential polio outbreak after dangerously low vaccination rates were reported by health officials last year. More than 11 million Brazilian children were inoculated during a massive two-month vaccination campaign, reversing a trend of plummeting immunization coverage.

Brazil Rotary clubs held End Polio Now vaccination festivals, which included food, entertainment, local celebrities, games.

The government said more than 300 cities in the country had low rates of vaccination against diseases such as influenza, measles, and polio. The Ministry of Health called the situation “extremely serious.”

Measles were spreading in an outbreak that eventually sickened more than 1,500 people in Brazil. Health officials worried that poliovirus could also re-emerge. Brazil’s massive national immunization campaign from 6 August to 28 September aimed to vaccinate at least 95 percent of children ages one to five.

The measles cases were concentrated in the northern states where thousands of Venezuelan refugees have crossed the border to escape economic and political hardships. Many haven’t been immunized, because Venezuela’s health system is in crisis.

Rotary leaders in Brazil found the possibility that poliovirus could resurge frightening, said Marcelo Haick, a regional coordinator for Rotary’s End Polio Now initiative. They knew they had to help health workers reach the millions of children who might be vulnerable to the paralyzing disease.

“The campaign was a success,” says Haick, a member of the Rotary Club of Santos-Praia in São Paulo state. “To our great surprise, clubs throughout the country responded in a way unlike anything we have ever seen.”

More than 11 million children were vaccinated during the initiative, reaching the government’s goal of 95 percent coverage, the target recommended by the World Health Organization.

Rotary members went to events and high-risk communities to announce the vaccination campaign.

According to Haick, every Rotary club in the country participated in the campaign in some way.

Clubs and districts promoted the vaccinations. A majority of clubs, says Haick, produced leaflets and distributed them at schools and at busy street crossings.



Some used other methods to draw attention to the cause:

- The International Fellowship of Motorcycling Rotarians rode through the city of Jundiaí, São Paulo, with End Polio Now banners attached to their motorcycles.
 - Dozens of clubs held End Polio Now vaccination festivals, which included food, entertainment, local celebrities, games — and oral polio vaccine drops. Health officials vaccinated the children who attended.
 - Clubs installed lighted signs along major highways.
 - At a major football game, club members in District 4670 took the field during intermission to display a huge End Polio Now banner. Clubs across the country used other sporting events, including bicycle races and marathons, to promote the vaccinations.
 - Haick and other End Polio Now coordinators encouraged clubs to adopt vaccination centers. Clubs were also encouraged to contact local politicians and health officials at these centers.
 - Clubs used Facebook and other social media platforms to post informational ads.
- Districts and clubs used trucks to announce information about the vaccination campaign at major social and cultural events and in high-risk communities.

Pedro Durão, another End Polio Now coordinator, says Rotary’s awareness campaign was widespread. “It was a mass adoption,” he says. “It was gratifying to see the work done by the clubs and districts throughout Brazil. I’ve been in Rotary since 1991 and have never seen such great enthusiasm.”

Rotary leaders in Brazil hope the success of this effort can inspire clubs and districts, not only in their country but also in others that are at risk of a resurgence of polio, to continue to raise awareness of the importance of polio immunization and other potentially lifesaving vaccinations.

