

# Rotary Club of Cocoa Beach



District 6930 • February 2026

**SERVICE ABOVE SELF** — One profits most who serves best

## Ellen Cruse- 2 Truths and a Lie

Which of the following is NOT true:

- 1) I can ride a unicycle
- 2) I won a national bodybuilding championship in 1990
- 3) I can juggle

## Get Involved- A Night at the Races Fundraiser

- o Help find sponsors for Races, Photography, Food, DJ, Hat Contest, Cooler of Cheer, Race Programs, Audio Visual
- o Ask businesses for Donations for 10 Race Baskets
- o Live Auction ideas needed
- o Cooler of Cheer liquor bottle donations to Joanie
- o Event Tickets \$60 each-buy tickets and invite your friends!

## Altruistic Kidney Donation- Josh Marquis

90,000 Americans are on the Kidney Donation wait list, with 25 dying every day due to there being only around 6,200

kidney donors per year.

Dialysis costs in the tens of billions of dollars annually – about \$500,000 per patient per. Dialysis negatively impacts the lives of patients.

I went to Washington DC in October to lobby for a law called the End Kidney Deaths Act– House Resolution 2687 268/Senate 957) that could make a huge change.

Almost all of us are born with a “spare” kidney when we only generally need one. People who need kidneys have gone to incredible lengths to locate donors but Congress has banned any form of compensation for kidney donation. It’s estimated that over one million Americans have died due to the kidney shortage. Usually the direct costs of donation are covered by insurance, but the lost time and collateral medical expenses of donors are generally not.

What the bill – called the END KIDNEY DEATHS ACT –would do is provide a \$50,000 refundable tax credit to the

## Recent Club Highlights:

“altruistic donors” payable in 5 annual \$10,000 increments, starting AFTER the successful transplant. The amount provided to donors will create kidney abundance. Only 2% of prospective “altruistic donors” (like me) give is because there is a rigorous medical and psychological screening process.

Kidney donation has become a safer surgical procedure than either childbirth or knee replacements. We can save the lives of tens of thousands of Americans while massively reducing public health costs. Visit [www.endkidneydeathsact.org](http://www.endkidneydeathsact.org) for more info and to sign the petition.

## Save the Date!

February 7 District Assembly in Port St. Lucie

February 14-21 Trip to Ak’Tenamit School in Guatemala

February 26 Happy Hour at Pig and Whistle 5-7 PM

March 14 A Night at the Races Fundraiser

April 25 RLI in Port St. Lucie

## Rotary Anniversaries

Lee Romano  
5 years

Richard Sickles  
2 years

Liz Norwood  
13 years

## Happy Birthday

Cruse, Ellen	04 February
Muskoff, Kyle	04 February
Byrne, Shane	22 February
Iaco, Joanie	28 February

## Recent and Upcoming Speakers:

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| 02/04 | Lynn Petzold, National Outdoor Leadership School, former Rotary Exchange Student to Bolivia  |
| 02/11 | James Hart, Space Coast Honor Flight- JAMES HART   |
| 02/18 | Club Assembly/ Night at the Races, Fundraising Committee   |
| 02/25 | Jutes Marie Sheppard, A surprisingly light hearted, interactive discussion on our most uncomfortable topic...what do you say to a grieving person? |

**“You must be the change you wish to see in the world.”  
Mahatma Gandhi.**