

**ROTARY TIDES**  
Rotary Club of the Gulf Beaches  
December 2005

**June 2006** : What a great time for a holiday, ah SPRING time...and right now is the ideal time to start your planning. It just so happens that the 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of Rotary International is being hosted by Malmo, Sweden and Copenhagen, Denmark at that very time. Ever been to Europe? Malmo was chartered in 1275 and is famous for castles, organic gardens and the herring fishing trade. It also hosts a number of international equestrian and bicycle events. Copenhagen was born in 1167 and was named "The European City of the Year" in 2004. It is a great walking city with pedestrian shopping areas including the tax free Christian District. Denmark has over 100 music festivals each year. Between 1026 and 1809, an average of one war every 6 years raged between Denmark and Sweden. It is nice to know that they finally got all that out of their system and will be co-hosting Rotarians from around the world on June 11-14, 2006. You could be there!

**Rotary Volunteers Are Needed:** We need 2 to 4 Gulf Beaches volunteers to work as committee chairs for the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Rotary Golf & Tennis Classic. It will be held at the Treasure Bay Golf and Tennis Center on January 27-28, 2006. The silent auction committee, the court sponsor committee and the Rotary display committee are all up for grabs. We have a pretty good history with this event and a lot of background material. While the committee chair position does involve a bit of work and commitment, it is only for 2 months. How tough is that? See Chuck Coward to get involved. Chuck is the event chair and will be your "guiding light".

**Membership with Alana:** Alana Bergh was the first and only women in 1988 in her North Pole, Alaska Rotary Club and is now the first women on the Rotary International Board. Today Bergh chairs the 05-06 RI Membership Development & Retention Committee which provides support and advice to clubs and district governors. Her committee of 6 has set three goals: 1) to maintain proactive contact with the 44 regional RI membership coordinators, 2) to draft at least 4 articles for Rotarian publications and 3) each committee member promised to sponsor one new member. The last goal fits with 05-06 RI President Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar's objective of having each club post a net gain of one member at the end of the RI year in June 2006. If achieved, that would mean about 32,000 additional members around the world. That is not as easy as it sounds because clubs typically lose 10-15% of their membership each year.

Bergh recalls 1988 as a new Rotarian when she attended meetings and just sat there, uncertain about protocol. "I would wonder if it would be OK if I volunteered?" She finally did volunteer, and, of course the Club welcomed the extra pair of hands. From this experience, Bergh feels that clubs need to make sure that each member has a mentor who can make sure that the new member comes to meetings and gets involved in club projects and social events. She believes that if new members understand what is expected of them, their chance to be a successful Rotarian increases greatly. "If a person sticks with Rotary for 3 years, you've probably got them for life" Bergh theorizes.

