

the HELICOPTER



The Rotary Club of Pensacola District 6940 Club 4248

WEEK IN REVIEW 2/25/2025

A Day of Fellowship and Fortune!

It was a beautiful day as Rotarians gathered for fellowship and a delicious meal. Interestingly, our meeting coincided with "Foiling Week," filling the Pensacola Yacht Club (PYC) parking area with international sailors and sailboats – a fitting backdrop for our yacht club venue!

Raffle Jackpot!

Raffle tickets were sold at the door, and to everyone's surprise, the winning ticket was drawn, leading to Norris McMahon pulling the Joker from the deck! Norris walked away with a fantastic \$563 in one-dollar bills – congratulations, Norris! The pot now resets, and a new deck of cards is introduced. Best of luck to everyone as we rebuild the jackpot, thanks to Norris's win.

President's Announcements and Community Support

President Henry kicked off the meeting, followed by Lee Elebash leading the prayer and pledge. Henry then made several announcements, including the presentation of a \$5,000 contribution to United Ministries. This donation will provide essential support to families in need, covering necessities such as rent and food.

Birthday Celebrations and Upcoming Events

A special recognition was given to Frank Beall, who celebrated his 90th

birthday this week – Happy Birthday, Frank! Additionally, Sub-West Rotary will host its annual "Burgers by the Bay" fundraiser on May 3rd. We encourage everyone to consider attending or sponsoring this event.

Guest Speaker: Coach Ronnie Cottrell

Following a delightful Sunshine program and birthday recognitions, Ed Wonders introduced our guest speaker, Coach Ronnie Cottrell. Coach Cottrell, the head coach at Lighthouse Christian College in Gulf Breeze, boasts an impressive resume in college football, including several years working with Coach Bobby Bowden at Florida State University in the 1990s. He discussed the current state of college football, particularly the impact of NIL (Name, Image, Likeness) contracts and the transfer portal. These dramatic changes have significantly altered the college football landscape, creating opportunities for colleges like Lighthouse to recruit players seeking playing time and pathways to larger programs. Coach Cottrell proudly shared that most of his players are from the 850 area code or lower Alabama and Georgia. He also highlighted the team's undefeated inaugural season and expressed his optimism for continued success and program growth. After a brief Q&A, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Clark Merritt

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ROTARY

TODAY, TUESDAY, March 4, we will meet at Pensacola Yacht Club.

The Rotary Club of Pensacola Community Grant applications are now available. If you know of a worthy 501c non-profit that meets the requirements, let them know by sending them to our website: www.pensacolarotaryclub.org. If you have any questions, please reach-out to Randall Richardson at: rc1.myflorida.com or 912.690.2664. The grant application process is open now, and the deadline to submit an application is March 15, 2025. Applications will be available at the weekly meetings, attachments 3 and 4.

The Combined Rotary Clubs of Pensacola along with the University of West Florida are looking for individuals who exhibit outstanding ethical practices. They are looking to identifying those persons who should be given community-wide recognition. That is why the Combined Rotary Clubs of Pensacola, along with the University of West Florida College of Business, established an Ethics in Business Award. This year's recipients will be awarded during a luncheon meeting on May 8, 2025. Two awards will be given, one for an individual from an organization with 50 or more employees and one for an individual from an organization with 49 or fewer employees. The 2025 instructions and nomination forms can be found as attachment #5 and will be available soon on our website at: www.pensacolarotaryclub.org. Copies are available at our weekly meeting, or you can request a form by emailing Chris at: cbridwell@pensacolarotaryclub.org. Nominations must be received by Friday, March 28, 2025.

Rotarian Terri Jenkins is sharing an event on March 27th and is offering you the opportunity to participate in– Dine for Disaster for the American Red Cross Northwest Florida Chapter. Area restaurants have been invited to participate in this one-day event to benefit the local Red Cross Chapter. It began in GA 12 years ago by a board member and it has grown in the division and Terri has now brought it to Pensacola. If you own a restaurant or have connections to one and would be interested in supporting, please contact Terri at Terri.Jenkins@redcross.org. There will also be an online auction, and she has been working with her board in securing items of all kinds. If you want to donate an item, please also email Terri for further steps. The auction will go live on March 20th and March 27th, you will have many options of where to go to eat a delicious meal. All information will be up soon on the North FL Region event page. Terri would like to thank everyone in advance for any and all suggestions in ensuring the success of this event.

We will continue to stream our meeting using Microsoft Teams; however, changes will be made due to poor wi-fi reception at PYC. You will no longer receive visual video of the meetings but will be able to listen to the announcements and hear the speaker. The link to join will be sent out in the same manner as before. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these changes, please let me know. 850-434-0684.

To increase the membership of our club, we will continue to offer three free lunches for potential new members.

Promote your business by placing an ad in the Helicopter. Your ad will run for a full month each week. Business card-sized ads are \$25.00, a 1/4 page is \$50.00, and a 1/2-page ad is \$75.00. To place your ad, send the prepared document to cbridwell@pensacolarotaryclub.org stating the size of the ad you wish to place. **Proceeds benefit the Rotary Club of Pensacola Foundation.**

To pay your quarterly Rotary Club dues with a credit card/debit card go to <http://www.pensacolarotaryclub.org/payment>. Please note a service charge will be applied to your payment.

2024-2025 Club Officers

•President	Henry Roberts
•Past President	Charles Beall
•President Elect	Allison Hill
•Secretary	Randall Richardson
•Treasurer	Lori Nesmith
•Communications Officer	Betty Roberts

Bulletin Information

Web Site: Pensacolarotaryclub.org
E-Mail: cbridwell@pensacolarotaryclub.org
Chris Bridwell, Executive Secretary
13 Palafox Place, Suite 200
P.O. Box 528 • Pensacola, FL 32591-0528
Phone: 850-434-0684

Clubs Available for Makeup

Five Flags	Pensacola Bay Center	Mon.	12:00 pm
Gulf Breeze	Legends at Andrews Institute	Tues.	7:00 am
Milton	The Hangar Restaurant	Tues.	12:00 pm
Seville	Seville Quarter	Tues.	5:15 pm
	meets every other Tuesday		
Cantonment	St. Luke's United Methodist Church	Wed.	12:15 pm
Perdido	The Point Church	Wed.	7:30 am
Pace	Stonebrook Village Country Club	Thur.	7:00 am
Cordova	Gulf Coast Kid's House	Thur.	7:00 am
Suburban West	Pensacola Yacht Club	Thur.	12:00 pm
Navarre	Broussard's Cajun Restaurant	Fri.	12:00 pm
Pensacola North	Hancock Bank, Creighton Rd.	Fri.	12:00 pm

District Governor

Mike Tatem
<http://www.rotary6940.org>

Assistant District Governor

Cliff Schornak

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthdays for the week of
March 4 thru March 10

Joe Vinson – March 8 – born in Pensacola, FL, in Rotary 5 years,
Paul Harris Fellow

Clark Merritt – March 10 - born in Pensacola, FL, in Rotary 22
years, Paul Harris Fellow

Greeters and Ticket Sales

March 4

Greeters: Lou Ray and Randall Richardson
Ticket Sales: Stacy Robello

March 11

Greeters: Bob Rogers and Scott Sallis
Ticket Sales: Martha Saunders and Jessica Scholl

Prayer/Pledge And Sunshine

March 4

Prayer/Pledge: Bill Fleming Sunshine: Dede Flounlacker

March 11

Prayer/Pledge: Laura Gilliam Sunshine: Sally Fox

Program Schedule

March

- 4 - Jeff Weeks - Conversation with Jeff Weeks
- 11 - Matt Coughlin - Pensacola International Airport
- 18 - Terri Jenkins - American Red Cross
- 25 - Joyce Dove - Rotary Youth Camp

Meeting Schedule

March

- 4 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club and
MicroSoft Teams
- 11 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club and
MicroSoft Teams
- 18 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club and
MicroSoft Teams
1: 00 Board of Directors Meeting
- 25 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club and
MicroSoft Teams