

the HELICOPTER



The Rotary Club of Pensacola District 6940 Club 4248

WEEK IN REVIEW 3/3/2025

Our March 4th meeting was a mix of heartfelt reflection, important club updates, and an engaging guest speaker. We began the meeting on a somber note as we honored the passing of Hansel Butts, the longest-serving member of our Rotary Club. Hansel, who joined in 1963, was a pillar of our community, known for his generosity and leadership. His financial contributions to our foundation helped shape many of the charitable efforts we proudly support today. Members are encouraged to attend in remembrance of his impactful life.

Adding to the heaviness of the day, we received news of a serious accident involving the husband of Chris Bridwell, our dedicated club secretary. While details were still emerging, Chris, despite facing personal distress, continued to show her unwavering commitment to our club. Our thoughts and prayers are with her and her family during this difficult time. A heartfelt prayer was shared for both Hansel's family and Chris's husband, reminding us of the strength found in our Rotary community during challenging moments.

Despite these solemn announcements, the club pressed forward with its mission. A special recognition was given to major donors who have made significant contributions to our foundation, ensuring that we continue supporting local organizations that uplift those in need. We are currently in the process of reviewing grant applications, with approximately 30-35 submissions already in. Randy provided an update on the selection process, and we look forward to distributing funds to deserving projects that align with our mission.

We also took a moment to celebrate birthdays, honoring Joe Vinson (March 8) and Clark Merritt (March 10), both proud Pensacola natives and long-standing Rotarians. A spirited rendition of "Happy Birthday" filled the room, reinforcing the joy of fellowship within our club. Additionally, we welcomed guests and visitors, ensuring they felt the warm hospitality that defines the Downtown Pensacola Rotary.

Our guest speaker for the day was Jeff Weeks, a well-respected broadcaster with years of experience interviewing prominent figures from various industries. Jeff shared insights from his career, emphasizing the importance of storytelling and active listening. He highlighted the value of truly hearing others, both in personal and professional interactions, and reminded us that people often remember how we make them feel more than the words we say. His anecdotes, including encounters with Bobby Bowden, Larry Butler, and Wayne Rogers, captivated the audience and reinforced the power of meaningful conversations.

As we closed the meeting, we were reminded that, even on days when we carry a heavy heart, our Rotary mission continues—to serve, support, and uplift. Whether through honoring our past, standing beside our members in times of hardship, or supporting initiatives that impact our community, the Downtown Pensacola Rotary remains a beacon of leadership and compassion. Thank you to all who attended, and we look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ROTARY

TODAY, TUESDAY, March 11, 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.

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ROTARY

continued

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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthdays for the week of
March 11 thru March 17

Doug Werber – March 13 – born in Cleveland, OH, in Rotary
18 years, Paul Harris Fellow +1

Charlie Sherrill (Jr.) - March 15 – born in Lawton, OK, in Rotary
31 years, Paul Harris Fellow

Andrea Krieger – March 17 – born in Pensacola, FL, in Rotary
23 years, Paul Harris Fellow +2

DeDe Flounlacker – March 17 – born in Blountsville, AL, in Rotary
14 years

Greeters and Ticket Sales

March 11

Greeters: Bob Rogers and Scott Sallis

Ticket Sales: Martha Saunders and Jessica Scholl

March 18

Greeters: Don Scott and Terry Scruggs

Ticket Sales: John Shaffer and Charles Sherrill, III

Prayer/Pledge And Sunshine

March 11

Prayer/Pledge: Laura Gilliam

Sunshine: Sally Fox

March 18

Prayer/Pledge: Kia Goldsmith

Sunshine: Nicole Gislason

Program Schedule

March

11 - Matt Coughlin - Pensacola International Airport

18 - Terri Jenkins - American Red Cross

25 - Joyce Dove - Rotary Youth Camp

Meeting Schedule

March

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