

the HELICOPTER



The Rotary Club of Pensacola District 6940 Club 4248

WEEK IN REVIEW 3/11/2025

Rotarians Connect Over Fellowship and Airport Insights

Spring was definitely in the air as our Rotary Club gathered at the Pensacola Yacht Club for our recent meeting, where fellowship and a delicious meal were enjoyed by all. The welcoming committee of Bob Rodgers and Scott Sallis greeted members, and the energetic duo of Dr. Saunders and Jessica Scholl were busy selling raffle tickets.

President Henry got the meeting underway with an inspiring reminder of the significant impact of Rotary, noting that our club is part of a network of over 44,000 Rotarians across the United States making a real difference both locally and globally. Laura Gilliam thoughtfully led us in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. President Henry then took a moment to acknowledge the success of the recent RYLA camp and express gratitude to the many members who have supported this vital program for countless years. This year's camp saw an enthusiastic participation of 78 high school students, and we look forward to a program in June for a more in-depth look at their experience.

Sally Fox, brought her usual cheer as she welcomed our guests, visitors, and celebrated our members with birthdays. Charlie Sherrill was the sole birthday honoree present and gamely endured a spirited rendition of "Happy Birthday" from the club – Happy Birthday, Charlie!

The anticipation for the ever-growing raffle continues, and this week Sally Fox, fresh from her Sunshine duties, was delighted to claim the grand prize of \$8!

Our program for the afternoon focused on a key element of our community: the Pensacola International Airport. We were fortunate to hear

from the airport's Director, Matt Coughlin, and Air Services Manager, Todd Payne. They provided fascinating insights into the operations of our 1400-acre airport, impressively nestled within the city limits, which continues to break passenger records while strategically planning for future growth. Pensacola's airport ranks an impressive 87th out of 420 nationwide, maintaining its position as the busiest airport between New Orleans and Jacksonville, and south to Tampa and Orlando. The statistics shared were remarkable: 3 million passengers in 2024, a 14% increase from 2023 and a staggering 104% increase since 2013. Cargo movement with UPS also saw a significant 120% jump compared to 2024.

Looking ahead, Matt and Todd detailed the planned expansion project for the concourse and security area, outlining the location and sharing initial renderings for the nearly \$100 million endeavor currently in the design phase. Funding remains a key challenge, and while grants and other avenues are being explored, some form of bonding is likely for a project of this magnitude. They highlighted the recent opening of a new parking lot off Tippen Avenue, which is already experiencing full capacity during peak travel times. Other noteworthy updates included American Airlines being the leading carrier in Pensacola, the addition of Contour as the 9th airline serving our city, the upcoming launch of a new cell phone waiting lot to ease terminal traffic, and the positive news of improved TSA operations thanks to increased staffing and new equipment.

The meeting was adjourned shortly after 1:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Clark Merritt.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ROTARY

TODAY, TUESDAY, March 18, we will meet at Pensacola Yacht Club.

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 18 thru March 24

Teri Levin – March 23 – born in Salem, IN, in Rotary many years,
Paul Harris Fellow

Greeters and Ticket Sales

March 18

Greeters: Don Scott and Terry Scruggs
Ticket Sales: John Shaffer and Charles Sherrill, III

March 25

Greeters: Charlie Sherrill and Richard Sherrill
Ticket Sales:

Prayer/Pledge And Sunshine

March 18

Prayer/Pledge: Kia Goldsmith Sunshine: Nicole Gislason

March 25

Prayer/Pledge: Verdell Hawkins Sunshine: Scott Grissett

Program Schedule

March

18 - Terri Jenkins - American Red Cross

25 - Joyce Dove - Rotary Youth Camp

April

1 - Chris Martin and Rob Overton - UWF's Physical Footprint
(Facilities and Historic Trust)

8 - Thomas "Shep" Coggin - Port of Pensacola

15 - Kim Wilson - Habitat for Humanity

22 -

29 - Capt. Sterling Gilliam - National Naval Museum

Meeting Schedule

March

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

April

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MicroSoft Teams

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1:00 Board of Directors Meeting

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