

the HELICOPTER



The Rotary Club of Pensacola District 6940 Club 4248

WEEK IN REVIEW 4/22/2025

Rotary Club of Pensacola – Meeting Minutes

Location: Pensacola Yacht Club

Date: April 22, 2025

Attendance: Approximately 96 members and guests

President Henry Roberts called the meeting to order at 12:19 p.m. and led the membership in reciting the Four-Way Test. Rotarian John Tice offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements:

- **Upcoming Meeting Change:** There will be no meeting on Tuesday, May 6. Instead, the club will convene on **Thursday, May 8 at noon** (location TBD). This special gathering will include Rotary clubs from District 13 and will honor two individuals recently recognized as Ethical Business Leaders in Pensacola.
- **Raffle Update:** President Roberts announced the raffle results, with the lucky ticket holder winning \$3.
- **Guest Introductions:** Rotarian Frank Beall welcomed several guests and shared a round of “Squirrels of Sunshine.”

Program:

Rotarian Olevia McNally introduced the guest speaker, **Rick Outzen**, a nationally recognized investigative journalist and publisher of The Independent News.

Speaker Biography Highlights:

- Founded The Independent News in July 1999
- Finalist for the 2012 Sunshine State Awards in Investigative Reporting

- Gained national recognition for coverage of the Billings murders and the Deepwater Horizon oil spill
- Profiled by The New York Times and featured on Dateline NBC, Investigation Discovery, and other outlets
- Author of *City of Grudges* (2018), *Blood in the Water* (2023), and the forthcoming *The Murders Began* (2026)
- University of Mississippi graduate and former Pensacola City Council member (1992–2006)

Key Remarks: Mr. Outzen provided a detailed look into his investigative work with a focus on Florida’s higher education governance. He addressed the recent controversies surrounding the University of West Florida’s Board of Trustees, particularly regarding out-of-state appointments and political interference. He commended **Dr. Martha Saunders** and her administration for their exceptional leadership, student outcomes, and community engagement.

He emphasized the broader implications of state-level political decisions on public institutions and shared the importance of preserving institutional integrity.

During the Q&A session, Mr. Outzen also discussed his upcoming nonfiction book, *The Right Time, Right Place*, which explores the story behind Pensacola’s Maritime Park referendum and the city’s urban redevelopment. The book, which highlights the importance of storytelling in understanding civic history, is expected to be released in **June 2025** via Amazon.

President Roberts adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN ROTARY

TODAY, TUESDAY, April 29, we will meet at Pensacola Yacht Club.

****NOTE** We will not have a meeting next Tuesday, May 6th. The Business in Ethics Award Ceremony Luncheon will be Thursday, May 8th at Pensacola Yacht Club. If you plan to attend, RSVP to: cbridwell@pensacolarotaryclub.org.**

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



Presented by: 

Glitz and Gallop Gala

May 3, 2025



Join us on Saturday, May 3rd from 4 pm - 7 pm at Culinary Productions Event Venue for our Annual Glitz & Gallop Gala and watch the 151st Kentucky Derby!

Tickets are \$100 each, which includes entry to the event, food, drink tickets, 10 betting tickets, and entertainment.

This unique fundraising event will be packed with exciting activities including horse races and silent auctions, chances to win great prizes, and watching the Kentucky Derby.

Your support of United Way of West Florida improves lives in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties

Learn more at www.wf.org/gala.

GET YOUR TICKETS AT WWW.WF.ORG/GALATICKETS OR SCAN THE QR CODE.







SPONSORSHIPS ARE STILL AVAILABLE. VISIT WWW.WF.ORG/SPONSORS TO LEARN MORE.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthdays for the week of
 April 29 thru May 12

Bobby Behr – April 30 – born in Pensacola, FL, in Rotary 18 years, Paul Harris Fellow

Ellen Vinson – May 1 – born in Tampa, FL in Rotary 2 years



Greeters and Ticket Sales

April 29

Greeters: David Williams and Jack Williams
 Ticket Sales: Denise Windham and Ed Wonders

May 13

Greeters: Dennis Barnes and Brett Barrow
 Ticket Sales: Charles Beall and Bobby Behr

Prayer/Pledge And Sunshine

April 29

Prayer/Pledge: Stephaniea Streit Sunshine: Chris Kelly

May 13

Prayer/Pledge: Fred Lindstrom Sunshine: Leslie Mickles

Program Schedule

April

29 - Capt. Sterling Gilliam - National Naval Museum

May

- 6 - No Meeting
- 8 - Combined Rotary of the Panhandle Business in Ethics Awards Luncheon
- 13 - Capt. Newman - NASP
- 20 - Kendrick Doidge - HCA - West Florida
- 27 - David Brinkley - WUWF

Meeting Schedule

April

29 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club and MicroSoft Teams

May

- 6 - No Meeting
- 8 - 11:00 am Business in Ethics Meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club
- 13 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club and MicroSoft Teams
- 20 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club and MicroSoft Teams
- 1:00 Board of Directors Meeting
- 27 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Morris L. Eaddy Activity Center at Lifeview and MicroSoft Teams