

the HELICOPTER



The Rotary Club of Pensacola District 6940 Club 4248

WEEK IN REVIEW 7/8/2025

Welcome & Fellowship!

It was a beautiful, warm summer day with a touch of rain, as Rotarians were greeted with warm smiles by Dee Dee Flounlacker. And Sally and Will Fox were busy at the door, offering members a chance to win big with raffle tickets!

President's Corner - Allison's First Official Meeting

President Allison officially kicked off her term with enthusiasm! She began by inviting Charlie Sherrill to lead us in a thoughtful prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Allison extended a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to the recent change of command ceremony, acknowledging the smooth transition. A special mention was made for Jane White, our dedicated Club Secretary for the year, who will be taking the initiative to personally welcome and guide potential new members during our lunch meetings – a fantastic way to show them the Rotary spirit!

Mark your calendars: There will be a naturalization ceremony held on **Friday, July 18th**. For those who haven't experienced this moving event, President Allison highly recommends taking the time to witness it.

Allison also shared highlights from her recent trip to Calgary, Canada, where she proudly represented our club at Rotary International's annual conference. With over 150 countries represented, she described it as an inspiring and truly global event.

Raffle Fun!

The excitement built as the raffle draw took place. Congratulations to Ellen Vinson, whose winning ticket revealed the lucky three diamonds – lucky for the other players as the big jackpot remains up for grabs.

Sunshine Report with Scott Sallis

Scott Sallis embraced "Sunshine," warmly recognizing our visiting Rotarians and guests. A special birthday shout-out and the traditional birthday song went to the one and only Tony Neuner – Happy Birthday, Tony! Before moving on to our program, President Allison engaged in a friendly flag exchange with a visiting Rotarian all the way from Peru, showcasing Rotary's international connections.

This Week's Program: A Historical Look at Pensacola's Fourth of July

Our program for the day was a captivating presentation by our esteemed Club member, Joe Vincent. Introduced by President Allison, Joe, a true Pensacolian and a renowned local historian celebrated for his numerous awards and accolades from various historical societies, took us on a fascinating journey through the history of Fourth of July celebrations right here in Pensacola.

Joe recounted the stories of several key figures in our city's past, including George Walton, George Walton Jr., General Galvez, and Dorothy Walton, who once called Romana Street home. These individuals laid the groundwork for Pensacola's inaugural Fourth of July celebration in **1822**, after Florida became a part of the United States. The day's activities included a reading of the Declaration of Independence and an intriguing shooting game called Patgo.

Other highlights from Pensacola's Fourth of July history that Joe shared included the visit of the USS Isla de Cuba warship in **1856**, resulting in a vibrant exchange of fireworks between the ship and the shore. In the **1930s**, these celebrations often coincided with the grand opening of a new City Park. Joe also touched upon how the Civil War and the suffering the South endured, complicated Fourth of July festivities for a period. However, the patriotic spirit was rekindled following World War I and II, leading to renewed and enthusiastic celebrations. He also made a brief mention of the Emma Jones Society, a historical precursor to the current LGBTQ Memorial Day celebration held annually at our beach. He had photo and discussed Johnson's Beach and the celebrations that occurred there over the years by the local African American citizen. More recent milestones highlighted were the **1976** Bicentennial celebration, the first Blue Angel Pensacola Beach Air Show in **1984**, and the naming of the air show as "Red, White and Blues" in **1999**. Looking ahead, Joe encouraged us to anticipate spectacular celebrations in **2026** for the United States' 250th anniversary.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM. Respectfully submitted, Clark Merritt

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ROTARY

Today, Tuesday, July 15, we meet at Pensacola Yacht Club.

The opportunity to attend the next Naturalization Ceremony is Friday July 18th. This event takes place at 10:00 a.m. in the United States District Courthouse located at One North Palafox Street, Pensacola, Florida. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Chris by Tuesday July 15th.

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.

2025-2026 Club Officers

•President	Allison Hill
•Immediate Past President	Henry Roberts
•President Elect	Judy Bense
•Secretary	Jane White
•Treasurer	Lori Nesmith

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

Andre Boyd
<http://www.rotary6940.org>

Assistant District Governor

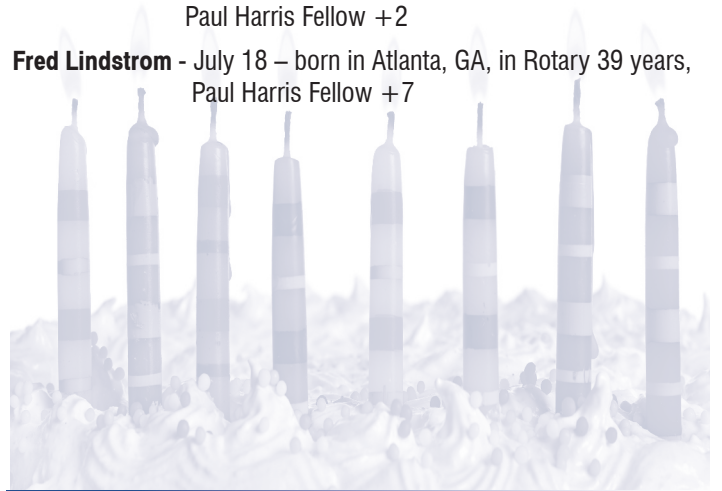
Cliff Schornak

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthdays for the week of
July 15 thru July 21

Terry Scruggs – July 15 – born in Atmore, AL, in Rotary 34 years,
Paul Harris Fellow +2

Fred Lindstrom - July 18 – born in Atlanta, GA, in Rotary 39 years,
Paul Harris Fellow +7



Greeters and Ticket Sales

July 15

Greeters: Nicole Gislason and Kia Goldsmith
Ticket Sales: Jonathan Griffith and Scott Grissett

July 22

Greeters: Charles Gund and Leslie Halsall
Ticket Sales: Lane Harper and

Prayer/Pledge And Sunshine

July 15

Prayer/Pledge: Stephania Streit Sunshine: Richard Sherrill

July 22

Prayer/Pledge: Charles Thornton Sunshine: David Stafford

Program Schedule

July

15 - Chris Plate - West Florida Economic Development Alliance
22 - Theresa Cserep - City of Pensacola
29 - Leslie Moland - Florida Blue

Meeting Schedule

July

15 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club
1:00 Board Meeting
22 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club
29 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club