

the HELICOPTER



The Rotary Club of Pensacola District 6940 Club 4248

WEEK IN REVIEW 7/15/2025

At the Rotary meeting, President Hill opened proceedings at 12:05 with John Tice leading the prayer and Pledge of Allegiance. President Hill shared the sad news of Judge Bill Stafford's passing. Judge Stafford, a Pensacola High School and University of Florida graduate, served in the U.S. Army and was appointed as a U.S. District Judge for Northern Florida in 1975. He had been a member of Rotary since that time, having transferred from the Tallahassee club. Hill expressed condolences and asked for prayers for Stafford's family. Funeral arrangements will be shared soon, with a service planned for 1 p.m. next Tuesday at Christ Church.

The meeting continued with the swearing-in of the new board of directors. President Hill expressed confidence in their leadership and their commitment to upholding the values and responsibilities of the Rotary Club of Pensacola. An upcoming naturalization ceremony was also announced, and members were encouraged to contact Chris if interested in attending.

Before the speaker's presentation, the club held its weekly raffle, offering members a chance to win a prize while supporting club activities.

The featured speaker was Chris Plate, Executive Director of FloridaWest Economic Development Alliance. Plate delivered an in-depth presentation on the region's economic development efforts. He explained that FloridaWest plays a dual role—supporting business recruitment, retention, and site development—while also administering incentives and facilitating public-private partnerships through the PEDC. A major theme of his talk focused on product/site development, particularly the lack of ready-to-market industrial properties,

and the organization's active work to prepare sites for new business investment.

Plate highlighted the economic impact of targeted industry marketing, such as recent outreach at international aerospace events in Paris. These efforts have already resulted in five active project leads. He provided data showing nearly 2,500 potential jobs and \$700 million in investment in the pipeline, with notable recent wins from companies like Jupiter Bach, GE Vernova, and National Energy. He emphasized the importance of balancing residential growth with commercial tax base expansion, explaining that industry is needed to offset the cost of public services.

He also detailed the structure of FloridaWest and PEDC, their funding sources, and how they collaborate with state and local governments, utilities, and private investors to drive development. Current priorities include redeveloping Central Commerce Park and preparing land just north of UWF for future industrial use. Plate concluded by reaffirming the organization's commitment to growth and innovation, including initiatives in cyber, AI, and precision manufacturing. He credited partners like the Greater Pensacola Chamber, the University of West Florida, and Florida's Great Northwest for helping support economic momentum in the region.

The meeting wrapped with a note of appreciation for the day's volunteers. Next week's meeting will feature a discussion on childcare policy initiatives led by the Theresa Cserep in the Mayor's office.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ROTARY

Today, Tuesday, July 22, we meet at Pensacola Yacht Club.

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>

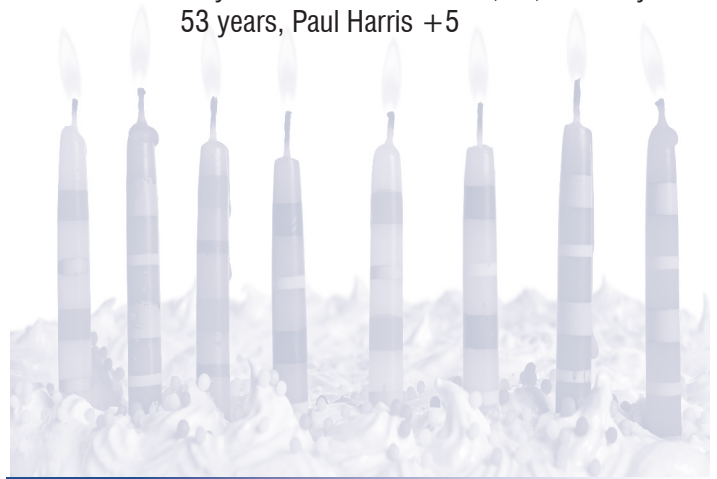
Assistant District Governor

Cliff Schornak

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthdays for the week of
July 22 thru July 28

Vince Currie – July 22 – born in Pensacola, FL, in Rotary
53 years, Paul Harris +5



Greeters and Ticket Sales

July 22

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

July 29

Greeters: Sherry Hartnett and Verdell Hawkins
Ticket Sales: Craig Hindsman and Sarah Horne

Prayer/Pledge And Sunshine

July 22

Prayer/Pledge: Charles Thornton Sunshine: Brian Wyer

July 29

Prayer/Pledge: John Tice Sunshine:

Program Schedule

July

22 - Theresa Cserep - City of Pensacola
29 - Leslie Moland - Florida Blue

August

5 - Kaleb Nobles - UWF Football Coach
12 - Mike Bunn - History Writer
19 - Kelly Davies - Ascension Sacred Heart
26 - Dan Shugart - Sports

Meeting Schedule

July

22 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club
29 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club

August

5 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club
12 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club
19 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club
1:00 Board of Directors Meeting
26 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club