

the HELICOPTER



The Rotary Club of Pensacola District 6940 Club 4248

WEEK IN REVIEW 1/6/2026

The Rotary Club meeting convened at 12:10 p.m. at the Pensacola Bay Center and opened with the Rotary Four-Way Test, reminding members to consider truth, fairness, goodwill, and mutual benefit in all that they do.

The meeting began with an opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The club then received an important update regarding staffing. President Hill shared that Chris Birdwell has decided to retire at the end of February. Her many years of service were acknowledged with gratitude, and members expressed appreciation for her dedication and support. A transition plan is being developed in coordination with the Club President, and members were invited to share ideas and input as the club prepares for this change.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the formal welcome of a new member. Randy Richardson welcomed Dr. Jessi Truitt. She was recognized not for her extensive academic accomplishments, publications, or awards, but for her authenticity, generosity, and servant leadership.

Additional announcements followed. Members were reminded that the club would return to its regular meeting location the following week and to check their email for updates, including details about upcoming service opportunities with Waterfront Rescue Mission. President Hill also addressed recent changes in billing and bookkeeping, explaining that the club has transitioned from a desktop accounting system to a cloud-based platform. Members were advised that invoices may look slightly different during the first quarter and that minor hiccups are expected during the transition.

Rotarian Ray Jones warmed the room with sunshine. Guests and returning members were acknowledged, and New Year greetings were exchanged. Special recognition was given to Dr. Saunders. Lighthearted remarks followed, touching on seasonal themes, Epiphany, and reflections on holiday traditions.

January birthdays and Rotary anniversaries were recognized, including Betty Roberts, Sherry Hartnett, John Shaffer, and Julie Tippins-Parker. The club joined together in singing "Happy Birthday."

The weekly drawing was held however the joker remains elusive.

The program featured Dr. Marcus McBride, who delivered the kickoff presentation for Workforce Services Month. Dr. McBride shared his

professional background, including more than two decades of leadership in workforce development, his academic training, and his current role with CareerSource EscaRosa. He spoke passionately about the importance of self-sufficiency, work ethic, and aligning talent with employer needs. Drawing from early career experiences in mental health and family services, he described how employment stability transforms individuals, families, and communities.

Dr. McBride outlined CareerSource Escarosa's mission to serve both employers and job seekers, emphasizing that employers are the starting point for sustainable workforce solutions. He described free services available to businesses, including job postings, customized training, on-the-job training reimbursements, apprenticeships, and rapid response support. He highlighted the organization's focus on removing barriers to employment such as transportation, childcare, and caregiving responsibilities, and its partnerships with Pensacola State College, the University of West Florida, George Stone Technical College, and Locklin Technical College.

He shared performance metrics, noting strong outcomes in employment placements, wage gains, veteran services, and employer engagement, including recognition as a top-performing workforce board in Florida. Special emphasis was placed on services for veterans, military families, and transitioning service members. Dr. McBride also discussed the importance of preparing workers for technological change, including automation and artificial intelligence, while ensuring training investments align with in-demand, resilient careers.

A question-and-answer discussion followed, addressing emerging barriers to employment such as digital distraction and social media use, as well as the role of AI in workforce training. Dr. McBride emphasized the importance of intentional skill development, adaptability, and keeping people ahead of technological shifts rather than behind them.

The meeting concluded before 1PM with acknowledgments and thanks to those who made the program possible. Members were reminded that the next meeting would return to the regular club location, and Lisa Bloodworth was announced as the upcoming speaker.

Minutes submitted by Nicole Gislason.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ROTARY

Today, January 13, we meet at Pensacola Yacht Club

Welcome New Member Barbara Wright. Barbara is a native of Sea Girt, New Jersey. She attended and graduated from Katharine Gibbs School, NYC, Marymount Manhattan College, NYC, New York University, NYC, New York Institute of Finance, NYC, Emory University, Atlanta, City Literacy Institute, London, England and University of West Florida. Barbara is a District Sales Manager for Holland American Line. Her sponsor is Dr. Judy Bense.

Service Opportunity, Valerie's House. On January 27th Rotarian Chef Laura Piovesana will be preparing a meal and is looking for approximately 6 volunteers to assist in serving the families. Laura ask for volunteers to be available from 4:45 to 6:15pm.

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 that 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

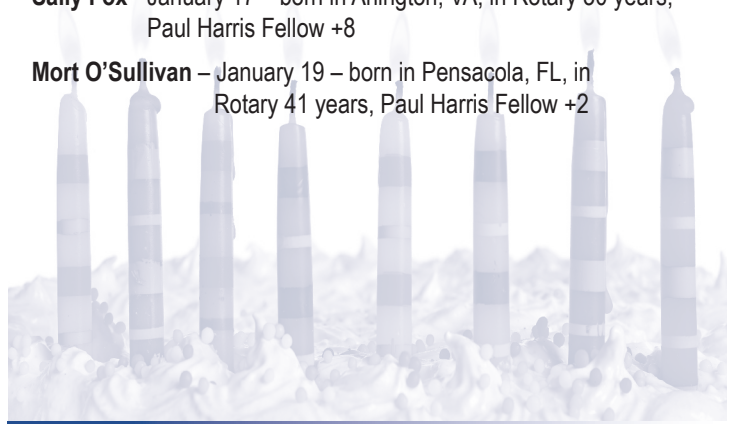
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthdays for the week of January 13 through January 19

Dennis Connolly – January 16 – born in Birmingham, MI, in Rotary less than one year

Sally Fox - January 17 – born in Arlington, VA, in Rotary 30 years, Paul Harris Fellow +8

Mort O'Sullivan – January 19 – born in Pensacola, FL, in Rotary 41 years, Paul Harris Fellow +2



Greeters and Ticket Sales

January 13

Greeters: David Williams and Denise Windham

Ticket Sales: Jack Williams and Ed Wonders

January 20

Greeters: Brian Wyer and Lisa York

Ticket Sales: Frank Yeager and Marjy Anders

Prayer/Pledge And Sunshine

January 13

Prayer: Laura Gilliam

Sunshine: Dede Flounlacker

January 20

Prayer: Charles Kahn

Sunshine: Asher Kelly

Meeting Schedule

January

13 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club

20 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club

Board of Directors Meeting

27 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club

Program Schedule

January

13 - Lisa Bloodworth - Global Connection to Employment

20 - Todd Thomson - Pensacola Chamber

27 - President Diaz - UWF