

the HELICOPTER



The Rotary Club of Pensacola District 6940 Club 4248

WEEK IN REVIEW 1/13/2026

New Year, New Fellowship

Our first meeting of 2026 at PYC brought a wonderful turnout as we gathered to kick off a fresh year of service. **Denise Windham** set the tone with a warm welcome at the door, while **Ellen Vinson** expertly managed the ticket sales.

President Allison officially called the meeting to order, inviting **Laura Gilliam** to lead us in the prayer and pledge. The highlight of our opening ceremonies was the introduction of our newest member, **Barbra Wright**, introduced by **Judy Bense**. We are thrilled to have you as part of the family—welcome aboard, Barbra!

A Season of Giving: Salvation Army Success

President Allison shared some staggering news regarding our holiday efforts: the **Salvation Army Bell Ringing** campaign was an immense success, raising over **\$40,000!** A huge thank you to the **52 Rotarians** who dedicated their time to manning the kettles. Your commitment truly made a difference for those in need in our community.

Service Opportunities & Club News

- **Valerie's House Dinner (Jan 27):** We have a hands-on opportunity to serve dinner to families at Valerie's House. Rotarian **Laura Piovesana** will be preparing the meal and is looking for a few helping hands to assist with service.
- **Paul Harris Fellow:** A huge congratulations to **Ellen Vinson** on receiving her first **Paul Harris Fellow** designation. Thank you, Ellen, for your generous support of The Rotary Foundation.
- **Staffing Update:** On a bittersweet note, Allison reminded the club that our longtime administrative support, **Chris**, will be moving on soon. We are actively searching for a replacement. If you know of a worthy candidate who would be a great fit for our club's operations, please contact Allison as soon as possible.

Sunshine & International Spirit

The effervescent **Dee Dee Flounlaker** delivered the sunshine this week with her trademark energy. We were particularly honored to host **nine foreign exchange MBA students from Deutschland (Germany)**. These students are visiting Pensacola as part of a short-term UWF program. They each introduced themselves and shared details about the companies they represent back home. It was a fantastic reminder of Rotary's global reach!

Raffle & Luck of the Draw

Dale Knee walked away with \$7 from this week's raffle. The "big" pot is growing quickly and is already over \$275—make sure to get your tickets next week!

Featured Program: Project SEARCH & GCE

Our guest speaker, **Courtney Lawson** with **Global Connection to Employment (GCE)**, presented on an inspiring initiative called "Project SEARCH."

Originally started in 1996, this nine-month, intern-based program assists developmentally challenged young adults (ages 18–22) in gaining essential life and business skills for the service sector—including food service, logistics, and maintenance.

Key Highlights:

- **Partnerships:** GCE works with local leaders like **Innisfree Hotels, Baptist Hospital**, and our local school districts.
- **Proven Success:** The program boasts a remarkable **92% employee retention rate**, proving that these graduates aren't just finding jobs—they are building careers.
- **Referrals Needed:** GCE relies heavily on community referrals to find participants. If you know of a business or a student who could benefit, please reach out.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ROTARY

Today, January 20, we meet at Pensacola Yacht Club

Service Opportunity, Valerie's House. On January 27th Rotarian Chef Laura Piovesana will be preparing a meal and is looking for approximately 4 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
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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 20 through January 26

Chuck Michaels – January 21 - born in Columbia, PA, in Rotary
24 years, Paul Harris Fellow

George Biggs – January 23 – born in Pensacola, FL, in Rotary
for 26 years, Paul Harris Fellow +1

Al Coby - January 23 – born in Muskogee, OK, in Rotary for
36 years, Paul Harris Fellow

Ron Jackson – January 23 – born in Marianna, FL, in Rotary
for 25 years, Paul Harris Fellow +1



Greeters and Ticket Sales

January 20

Greeters: Brian Wyer

Ticket Sales: Frank Yeager and Marjy Anders

January 27

Greeters: Jim Bauchard and Brett Barrow

Ticket Sales: Dennis Barrow and Scott Barrow

Prayer/Pledge And Sunshine

January 20

Prayer: Charles Kahn

Sunshine: Asher Kelly

January 27

Prayer: Olevia McNally

Sunshine: Chris Kelly

Meeting Schedule

January

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

20 - Todd Thomson - Pensacola Chamber

27 - President Diaz - UWF