

# the HELICOPTER



**The Rotary Club of Pensacola District 6940 Club 4248**

## WEEK IN REVIEW 1/27/2026

President Allison Hill welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 12:10. Olevia McNally led the meeting with prayer and pledge.

### Announcements:

1. Allison welcomed Reid Torgenson of the Cordova Rotary Club who announced a fundraiser, The 1st Chili City Bowl on March 20th at the Museum Plaza downtown; tickets are \$20.
2. Allison presented pins to six Rotarians who increased their Paul Harris levels and they are: Art Hufford, PH+2, Kevin Stark, PH+2, David DelGallo, PH+3, Britt Landrum, PH+5, and Chris Kelly, PH + 5. Congratulations, everyone!
3. Mike offered a community service project, Rotarians Against Hunger that is February 21 to benefit the Manna House and teams are needed. Please get with Mike or Chris if you want to help.
4. Randall shared that the Community Grant Program will open the first week in February and applications will be accepted through March 1. Five organizations will receive \$2000.

**Sunshine Report:** Chris Kelly welcomed guests: Linda Elias and Nancy Kelley (Henry Roberts), Amy Hall (Allison Hill), Robin Zimmern (Rob Overton), Janet Kahn (Chuck Kahn)

- **Visting Rotarians:** Jeff Kass (Danbury CT Rotary Club) and Brad Spear (Independence, MO Rotary Club) was also in attendance.
- **Birthdays for this week:** Ron Martin (27th) who is a PH + 3 and in Rotary for 25 years. Sonya Nash (28th) and has been in Rotary for less than a year. Happy Birthday!
- **On this Day:** Chris shared some sobering and interesting

events that took place: Louis Carroll, author of Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass, Laverne and Shirley debuted, a spin off from Happy Days, the space shuttle Challenger exploded 73 seconds after takeoff and the Paris Peace Accord ended the Vietnam War.

**Guest Speaker:** Manny Diaz, Jr. the new president of University of West Florida shared some highlights and accomplishments starting with the good work of the Historic Trust.

15,500 students are in attendance with a record-breaking enrollment for the spring session.

The 4th year in a row, UWF is in the top ten of public schools in the South Region at number six; also in the top ten for Veterans in the South and identified as a military friendly school. Ranked third among the 12 Florida Institutions.

\$65 Million in funding was awarded for the Science & Research completion and will also expand doctorate programs, Intelligence and Cyber Security programs as well.

February 11 will be a groundbreaking ceremony for the new stadium which is projected to be completed by Fall, 2027. The research wing will also break ground this spring.

There is a huge need for civil engineering program since there is only one graduate from the state of Florida. A meeting will take place at Eglin to discuss strategies on how to increase this program and interest. Two National Merit Scholarship Finalists were welcomed at UWF this year.

President Hill thanked Olevia, Brett, Dennis, Scott, Chris and Terri for their service today. Next week's speaker is Rotarian Vicki Campbell with ECUA. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 P.M. **RECORDED BY TERRI JENKINS**

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ROTARY

**Today, February 3, we meet at Pensacola Yacht Club.**

**Sign-up today to Volunteer for Rotarians Against Hunger, Manna Event.** This event will be held Saturday, February 21, 2026, at 3030 North E St. You can sign up for the first shift from 8:00am to 10:00am or the second shift from 10:30am to 12:30pm. Sign up sheet will be available at the weekly meeting or send an email and we will get you on the list.

**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](mailto: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](http://Pensacolarotaryclub.org)  
E-Mail: [cbridwell@pensacolarotaryclub.org](mailto:cbridwell@pensacolarotaryclub.org)  
Chris Bridwell, Executive Secretary  
13 Palafox Place, Suite 200  
P.O. Box 528 • Pensacola, FL 32591-0528  
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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 February 3 through February 9

**Leslie Mickles** – February 3 – born in Cherrypoint, NC, in Rotary  
9 years, Paul Harris Fellow

**Norris McMahon** – February 5 – born in Pensacola, FL, in Rotary  
20 years

**Lori NeSmith** – February 7 – born in Pensacola FL, in Rotary  
6 years, Paul Harris Fellow +5

**Ed Ranelli** – February 8 - born in Birmingham, AL, in Rotary  
25 years, Paul Harris Fellow +1



## Greeters and Ticket Sales

### February 3

Greeters: Charles Beall and Judy Bense  
Ticket Sales: Bobby Behr and Laura Piovesana

### February 10

Greeters: George Biggs and Alexis Bolin  
Ticket Sales: Ted Brown

## Prayer/Pledge And Sunshine

### February 3

Prayer & Pledge: Bruce Partington      Sunshine: Gary Dennis

### February 10

Prayer & Pledge: Innes Richards      Sunshine: Collier Merrill

## Meeting Schedule

### February

3 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club  
10 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club  
17 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club  
1:00 - Board of Directors Meeting  
24 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club

## Program Schedule

### February

3 - Vicki Campbell - ECUA  
10 - Tricia Wessell - Just Pensacola  
17 - Chip Simmons - Escambia Co, Sheriff  
24 - Judge Charles Kahn