

# the HELICOPTER



The Rotary Club of Pensacola District 6940 Club 4248

## WEEK IN REVIEW 1/28/2025

President Roberts called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. Rotarian Frank Beall led the members in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Guest Speaker and Announcements

DeDe Flounlacker, Executive Director of Manna Food Bank, addressed the members, expressing gratitude for their continued support. She noted a significant decline in food donations compared to the previous year and highlighted upcoming fundraisers as an opportunity to offset the shortfall. More information is available on their website: [www.mannahelps.org](http://www.mannahelps.org).

President Roberts welcomed a new member and presented Asher Kelley with a Paul Harris Fellow recognition.

Rotarian Ted Brown delivered "Sunshine" presenting it in a five-pound bag of potatoes.

### Guest Speaker: Howard Reddy, UWF Vice President of Advancement

Rotarian Sherry Hartnett introduced Howard Reddy, who oversees the UWF Foundation's endowment investments, which now exceed \$140 million. As the university's chief philanthropic officer, he plays a key role in fundraising efforts. Reddy acknowledged the presence of former and current faculty, staff, UWF alumni, and friends. He expressed appreciation for the longstanding generosity of the Rotary Club of Pensacola and highlighted the university's scholarship programs. Attendees received a summary detailing the number of scholarships awarded, their criteria, and their impact. A scholarship spotlight at each table featured students who had benefited from these awards. He thanked the Rotary Club of Pensacola for contributing to the 123 scholarships awarded this semester, emphasizing the life-changing impact on recipients.

Reddy provided an update on UWF Advancement, particularly the university's ambitious capital campaign. In April 2024, UWF publicly announced a campaign goal of \$90 million, with a completion target of June 30, 2026. With 17 months remaining, the campaign focuses on sustaining UWF's mission by investing in faculty, students, research, and infrastructure.

### Key fundraising efforts include:

**Scholarships and Faculty Support** – The campaign has established 114 new scholarship funds, both endowed and non-endowed, to ensure all undergraduate students have access to financial support. Even

modest scholarships, such as \$500 awards, can make a substantial difference. Additional funding is sought for new programs, such as the civil engineering degree.

**Major Gifts** –The Bear family donated over \$2.5 million to support scholarships in the College of Business. Jerry and Rhonda Maygarden committed \$250,000 to the Maygarden Family Scholarship for undergraduate communication students. The Wright Family Institute for Global and Population Health, housed within the College of Health, established a new public health research institute through a significant contribution from alumni Steven and Mona Wright. A new civil engineering department is planned, with fundraising efforts continuing.

**Infrastructure and Facilities Enhancements** – Rotarian Ted Brown contributed to facility and equipment improvements at UWF's Port of Pensacola location, known as the Watercraft and Vessel Engineering (WAVE) program. At the campaign's public launch, Gordon and Debbie Gordon pledged more than \$9 million to fund the construction of a new stadium. Diane Miller donated funds in honor of her late husband, a former UWF computer science faculty member. Her \$97,000 contribution funded a much-needed data server for the department. The **Barbara Goggins Train Pavilion** was made possible by the generosity of the Lake Goggins McMillen family. Reddy also recognized Rotarian Chris Kelly for his pivotal role in securing an important property in East Pensacola Heights related to the DeLuna Settlement. Margaret and Harry Stopp donated to enhance the **Historic Village**, an ongoing restoration project. The **Pensacola Museum of Art** received funding to improve its Main Street entrance, with further support anticipated.

Since January 2022, UWF has experienced tremendous philanthropic support. Reddy expressed heartfelt appreciation to the Rotary members and broader community for their contributions. The meeting concluded with remarks from students who shared how these scholarships and donations have positively impacted their academic journeys.

President Roberts thanked Dr. Reddy for his presentation and acknowledged UWF's past and present leadership, including Drs Judy Bense and Martha Saunders.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Meeting Minutes submitted by Nicole Gislason.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ROTARY

**TODAY, TUESDAY, February 4th we will meet at Pensacola Yacht Club.**

**Sign-up to Volunteer for Rotarians Against Hunger Manna Food Bagging Event.** This event will be held Saturday, February 15, 2025 at 3030 North E St. You can sign up for the first shift from 8:00am to 10:00am or 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.

**We will continue to stream our meeting using Microsoft Teams; however, changes will be made due to poor wi-fi reception at PYC.** You will no longer receive visual video of the meetings but will be able to listen to the announcements and hear the speaker. The link to join will be sent out in the same manner as before. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these changes, please let me know. 850-434-0684.

**To increase the membership of our club, we will continue to offer three free lunches for potential new members.**

## 2024-2025 Club Officers

•President	Henry Roberts
•Past President	Charles Beall
•President Elect	Allison Hill
•Secretary	Randall Richardson
•Treasurer	Lori Nesmith
•Communications Officer	Betty Roberts

## 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  
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

Mike Tatem  
<http://www.rotary6940.org>

## Assistant District Governor

Cliff Schornak

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ROTARY

*continued*

**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 a service charge will be applied to your payment.

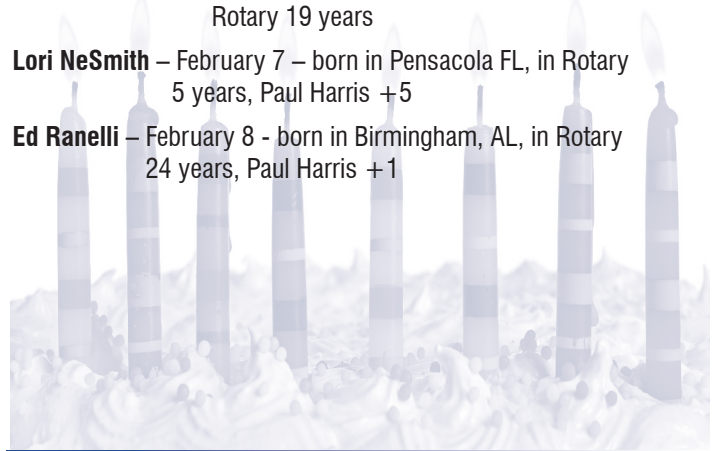
# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthdays for the week of  
February 4 thru February 10

**Norris McMahon** – February 5 – born in Pensacola, FL, in Rotary 19 years

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

**Ed Ranelli** – February 8 - born in Birmingham, AL, in Rotary 24 years, Paul Harris +1



## Greeters and Ticket Sales

### February 4

Greeters: Leslie Mickles

Ticket Sales: Lori NeSmith and

### February 11

Greeters: Tony Neuner and Sheila Nichols

Ticket Sales: Jean Norman and Sandra O'Connor

## Prayer/Pledge And Sunshine

### February 4

Prayer/Pledge: Vicki Campbell

Sunshine: John Shaffer

### February 11

Prayer/Pledge: Vince Currie

Sunshine: David DelGallo

## Program Schedule

### February

4 - Mark Robinson - Credit Workshop

11- Dr. Ed Meadows - PSC

18- Nevin Shaffer - Intellectual Property Mistakes

25 - Ronnie Cottrell - Football Coach

## MEETING SCHEDULE

### February

4 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club and MicroSoft Teams

11 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club and MicroSoft Teams

18 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club and MicroSoft Teams

1: 00 Board of Directors Meeting

25 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club and MicroSoft Teams