

# the HELICOPTER



The Rotary Club of Pensacola District 6940 Club 4248

## WEEK IN REVIEW 3/3/2026

President Allison Hill welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 12:08. Craig Hindsman led the meeting with prayer and pledge.

**Announcements:** 1) Allison welcomed Peggy Bense, President Elect, who shared she was going to PETS Training soon and is looking for board members for her term, which begins in July. Reach out to her if you are interested.

2) Randall shared that the Community Grants were going live that afternoon. There are five \$2000 grants available and the deadline is

3) There will be a Naturalization Ceremony on March 27th with two slots open; let Linda know if you would like to attend.

4) Gulf Breeze and Cordova Clubs have their fundraisers coming up; look on their social media for more information.

**Sunshine Report:** Rob Overton welcomed Ellie Savoni, guest of Jean Norman and visiting Rotarian, Dave Woodward with the Sub west Club. **Birthdays for this week:** Lou Ray, Jr. (40 years in Rotary and is a Paul Harris Fellow +1; Joe Vinson (6 years in Rotary and a Paul Harris Fellow). **On this Day:** Instead of jokes, Rob shared information of interesting events that took place on March 3rd: In 1845, Florida was admitted as the 27th state, 1865, President Lincoln created the Freedmen Bureau's Act, which provided food, clothing and shelter for refugees and slaves, Time Magazine debuted in 1923 and 1931, the Star Spangled Banner was declared the National Anthem and Mount Rushmore was dedicated in 1933.

**Guest Speaker:** Marco Medici shared his fascinating journey of how he attained his US Citizenship. In 1991, Marco and his wife came to the US on vacation and fell in love with everything they saw and experienced and did not want to return. He went back to complete his studies at the university and obtained his degree

after a few years. He began to research how the VISA system and Green Card.

Treaty Trader E1 or E2 was the option he chose which meant they had to begin a business. They settled in Charleston, South Carolina and decided to pursue opening a restaurant. He and his wife went through all the steps and had to present his plan to the counsel and ended up with a one-year VISA (i.e., tourist Visa). He had to stay for a year; go back with proof he had the business and then could come back for five years. Marco had begun to study immigration laws, asked a lot of questions of the American Consulate of Milan. Some time passed, he developed his plan and Marco flew to the airport and was stopped with suspicion by the immigration officer, that they were illegally trying to enter the United States. Their trip was delayed and although they felt they did everything correctly and legally, they received two weeks, which was not enough to begin a business. Marco pled his case and received six months. They had to regroup and form a new plan and discovered there was a Lottery VISA where individuals can win a Green Card, which they eventually won, out of 100,000 which was narrowed down to 50,000 people. Years went by, they played the lottery and visited the US on vacation and in 2006, they found out they won (but no money). With excitement, they began their plan to move to the US because they had only six months. Everything eventually came together and have been settled here since but had to go back and for the for a while to Italy. It was a 20-year journey (1991-2011 t) to obtain their citizenship, but it was worth it.

President Hill thanked Carmen, David, Madison, Gary, Craig, Rob, and Terri for their service today. Next week's speaker is Vinne Whibbs with Re-Entry Alliance Pensacola. Meeting adjourned at 12:55.

**RECORDED BY TERRI JENKINS**

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ROTARY

**Today, March 10, 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 [lelias@pensacolarotaryclub.org](mailto:lelias@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  
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

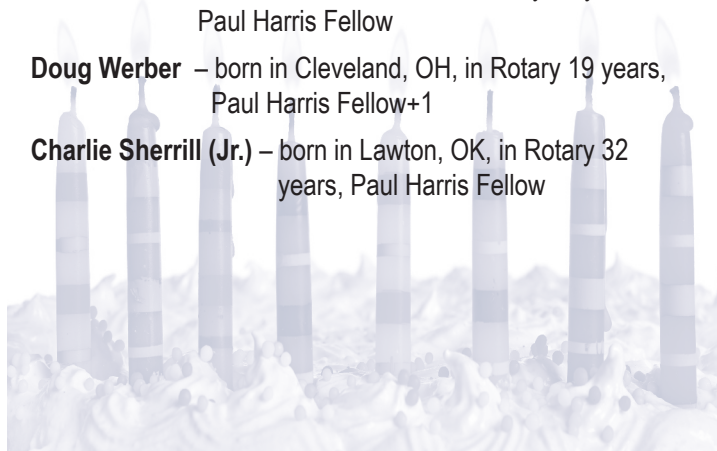
# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthdays for the week of  
March 10 through March 16

**Clark Merritt** - born in Pensacola, FL, in Rotary 23 years  
Paul Harris Fellow

**Doug Werber** – born in Cleveland, OH, in Rotary 19 years,  
Paul Harris Fellow+1

**Charlie Sherrill (Jr.)** – born in Lawton, OK, in Rotary 32  
years, Paul Harris Fellow



## Greeters and Ticket Sales

### March 10

Greeters: Christina Doss, Cedric Durre  
Ticket Sales: Pete Doyle, Lindsey Durre

### March 17

Greeters: Lee Elebash, Dede Flounlacker  
Ticket Sales: Bill Fleming, Preston Forshee

## Prayer/Pledge And Sunshine

### March 10

Prayer & Pledge: Charles Sherrill      Sunshine: John Shaffer

### March 17

Prayer & Pledge: Charles Sherrill      Sunshine: Scott Sallis

## Meeting Schedule

### March

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

## Program Schedule

### March

- 10 - Vinnie Whibbs - Reentry Alliance Pensacola
- 17 - Jackie Gheen - Ballet Pensacola
- 24 - Stacey Kostevicki, Gulf Coast Kid's House
- 31 - Connie Bookman, Pathway for Change