

the HELICOPTER



The Rotary Club of Pensacola District 6940 Club 4248

WEEK IN REVIEW 9/10/2024

Despite the overcast skies dimming the Pensacola Yacht Club, a vibrant light shone from within as the Downtown Rotary Pensacola continued its 109-year tradition of gathering to drive positive change in our community. Dr. Henry Roberts rang the bell, evoking our rich heritage, as we assembled with a group that was truly “far above average.”

Innis Richards, past president and area governor, led us in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to kick off another impactful meeting. As we entered the room, Bill Fleming and Benny Jeansonne warmly welcomed us, while Marjy Anders and Jane White distributed raffle tickets to nearly every attendee. Past president Charles Beal made a surprise appearance, bringing his trademark sunshine and cheer.

The moment everyone had been eagerly anticipating arrived: the raffle drawing. The pot had swelled to nearly \$1,500, and suspense hung in the air as we awaited the winner. In a twist that surprised no one, Ted Brown’s name was drawn. Fortunately for those of us with “losing” tickets, Ted only took home \$10, so everyone gets another shot at winning next week.

Given that it was National Suicide Prevention Day, it was fitting that Olivia McNally introduced our speaker, Don Winslett, Ed.D., founder and director of the Center for Mental Health. With nearly 30 years of experience as a licensed psychologist and a background as an ordained minister and Director of

Clinical Pastoral Education at Baptist Hospital, Don has trained approximately 500 pastors through the CPE model.

Don addressed the sobering reality that suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in America, with nearly 7 people taking their lives every hour—around 67 a day. Alarming, a quarter of these suicides involve veterans, and the U.S. will experience more suicide deaths related to the Iraq and Afghanistan wars than active combat deaths. The demographic most affected is white males aged 65 and older.

Yet, there is hope. Don highlighted that taking one’s life typically requires a buildup of “courage,” meaning that very few people succeed on their first attempt. This insight provides a crucial opportunity for intervention. Two primary factors driving people to suicide are hopelessness and perceived burdensomeness—believing that the world would be better off without them. Recognizing these signs allows us to offer support to friends, loved ones, and colleagues.

In response to audience questions, Don emphasized the importance of directly asking individuals about suicidal thoughts and guiding them to safe spaces and appropriate care. Reconnecting them to their sense of purpose and showing them that they are valued can be instrumental in saving lives.

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN ROTARY

TODAY, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, WE MEET AT PENSACOLA YACHT CLUB.

Welcome The Return of Rotarian Lou Ray. Lou is a native of St. Louis, Mo. He is a retired attorney serving Pensacola for numerous years specializing in mediation. Lou is returning to our club following a 5-year break. He served as club President from 2004-2005. His sponsor is Innes Richards.

37 members have returned their Rotary Commitments Forms designating where they wish to serve this Rotary year. These forms are available at the meetings and attached with this email. Please take the time to review and make your choice based on interest and opportunity to support of club and community.

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.

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 a service charge will be applied to your payment.

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
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

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

Assistant District Governor

Cliff Schornak

Program Schedule

September

17 - Keith Leonard - Escambia County School Superintendent
24 - Dr. Martha Saunders - UWF President

MEETING SCHEDULE

September

17 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club and
MicroSoft Teams
1:00 Board of Directors Meeting
24 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club and
MicroSoft Teams

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthdays for the week of September 17 through September 23

Caleb Heifner – September 18 – born in St. Louis, Mo. In
Rotary 2 years

Susan O'Connor – September 21 – born in Quincy, IL, in
Rotary 22 years, Paul Harris Fellow +1

Trey Manderson – September 23 – born in Kosciusko, MS,
in Rotary 16 years

Greeters and Ticket Sales

September 17

Greeters: Dennis Barnes and Charles Beall
Ticket Sales: Bobby Behr and Judy Bense

September 24

Greeters: Aaron Bercovitch and Laura Piovesana
Ticket Sales: George Biggs and Steve Black

Prayer/Pledge And Sunshine

September 17

Prayer/Pledge: Terry Scruggs Sunshine: Randall Richardson

September 24

Prayer/Pledge: Charlie Sherrill Sunshine: Grover Robinson



Pamela L. Smith

Realtor, CRS, PMN, e-Pro, C2EX
Real Estate Counselors, Inc.

EXPERIENCE MATTERS

When it comes to the biggest investment of your life, choose a Realtor who has earned the endorsement of Florida Realtors as a Board Certified Professional. This professional endorsement is earned by Realtors who demonstrate high competency, professionalism in sales, ethical conduct, volunteerism, support for homeownership and sets us apart as The Best of the Best. Out of 238,000 Realtors, only 20 are Board Certified.

With over 30 years of experience, I deliver a high level of service based on industry knowledge, skills, a strong moral compass, and a deep connection to my community. Choose a Board Certified Realtor - You deserve to work with the Best of the Best.

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