

the HELICOPTER



The Rotary Club of Pensacola District 6940 Club 4248

WEEK IN REVIEW 9/17/2024

A Beautiful Day and a Warm Welcome

On a picture-perfect September day, Rotary members gathered, grateful for the pleasant weather compared to the devastating hurricanes that had impacted the area in previous years. Ex-president Charles, with his infectious smile, and the ever-organized Olevia, program chair extraordinaire, greeted everyone at the door, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere. Bobby Behr and the esteemed Dr. Judy Bense enthusiastically sold tickets for the 50/50 raffle, the pot already exceeding an impressive \$1500, generating excitement for the lucky winner.

Meeting Highlights

Following a heartfelt prayer and pledge led by Terry Scruggs, President Henry took the stage. He began by extending a warm welcome back to Lou Ray, a returning member to the Rotary fold. Welcome back, Lou! We've missed you.

Sally Fox, the dedicated district chair for Polio eradication, took a moment to remind everyone about the upcoming "Pints for Polio" event on October 17th at Perfect Plain. "For just \$20, you'll get a special commemorative glass, enjoy a few refreshing beers, and most importantly, contribute to Rotary International's critical Polio eradication efforts.

The anticipation for the 50/50 raffle reached a fever pitch as Mike Steltenkamp stepped up to draw a card. A collective gasp filled the room as he revealed a 10, not the elusive joker. "So close!" someone exclaimed. The excitement for next week's drawing was palpable.

Rob Overton reminded everyone that the Pensacola Museum of Art is celebrating its 70th anniversary this fall. They have a fantastic lineup of events planned. Be sure to visit their website for all the details.

President Henry then shared some personal updates. He expressed well wishes for Lynn Tobin, who was recovering from a recent hospital

stay. A somber note followed as he announced the passing of Mary Hufford, the beloved wife of fellow Rotarian Art Hufford. Deepest condolences go out to Art and his family during this difficult time.

A Focus on Education

Olevia then introduced the day's guest speaker, Escambia County School Superintendent Keith Leonard. Keith was greeted with warm smiles and nods of recognition from many in the audience as he called out their names.

Keith began by sharing his deep-rooted connection to education. "I come from a family of educators. My wife is a dedicated Pre-K teacher, and I've been fortunate enough to serve in various capacities within the Escambia County School District since 1986." His passion for his work was evident.

He proudly reported the district's progress, with 14 A-rated schools, an improvement from the previous year. "We're committed to working tirelessly for our students and ensuring that local employers have the skilled workforce they need to thrive," Keith emphasized. He outlined the district's core principles: fostering attendance, positive behavior, stability, and strong academic performance.

In closing, Keith shared some impressive statistics. "Our education podcast is consistently ranked in the top 10, and our fleet of 210 buses travels over 35,000 miles every day, ensuring our students get to school safely and on time!" The members were clearly impressed.

Following Keith's insightful presentation, there was a lively Q&A session, with members eager to learn more about the district's initiatives. The meeting adjourned shortly after 1:00 pm, leaving everyone feeling informed and inspired.

Respectfully submitted,
Clark Merritt

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ROTARY

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

A memorial service for Rotarian Leonard Swartz will be held at B'Nai Israel Synagogue on Monday September 30, at 2:00, followed by a reception in the social hall.

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.

Purchase your tickets now for the Pints for Polio Event on October 17th at Perfect Plain, 50 E. Garden Street. Open the attachment for information and to scan the QR code with your cell phone to purchase tickets.

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
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 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



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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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthdays for the week of September 24 through September 30

Daniel Joyner – September 24 – born in Memphis, TN, in Rotary less than one year

Bill Fleming – September 25 – born in Jenkintown, PA, in Rotary 32 years, Paul Harris Fellow +1

Benny Jeansonne – September 25 – born in Baton Rouge, LA in Rotary 27 years, Paul Harris Fellow +8, Paul Harris Society, Benefactor, Major Donor

Innes Richards – September 29 – born in Washington, DC, in Rotary 25 years, Paul Harris Fellow +8, Paul Harris Society, Benefactor, Major Donor, Bequest Society

Greeters and Ticket Sales

September 24

Greeters: Aaron Bercovitch

Ticket Sales: George Biggs and Steve Black

October 1

Greeters: Alexis Bolin

Ticket Sales: Ted Brown and Meredith Bus

Prayer/Pledge And Sunshine

September 24

Prayer/Pledge: Charlie Sherrill

Sunshine: Grover Robinson

October 1

Prayer/Pledge: Charles Sherill

Sunshine: Scott Sallis

Program Schedule

September

24 - Dr. Martha Saunders - UWF President

October

1 - Mayor D.C. Reeves - City of Pensacola

8 - Therese Felth or Maria Goldberg - Foo Foo Fest

15 - Mark Faulkner - Baptist Hospital

22 - Dr. Brian Rucker PSC - Historian: Longleaf Pine Logging presentation

29 - Quint Studer - TBD

MEETING SCHEDULE

September

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

October

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

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

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

1:00 Board of Directors Meeting

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

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