

# the HELICOPTER



The Rotary Club of Pensacola District 6940 Club 4248

## WEEK IN REVIEW 9/21/2021

The September 21 meeting of the Rotary Club of Pensacola was called to order by President Wonders at 12:06 pm. Participants included 38 members via Zoom. Rotarian Robert Stephens led us in the prayer and pledge.

The Rotary Club of Pensacola Program Chair, Joe Vinson, welcomed the guest speaker, John Peacock. He is a charter financial consultant with Edward Jones who is well-known in our community for his activism and philanthropy. He currently serves on the boards of the UWF Foundation and the UWF Historic Trust, and has served on many more, including the Greater Pensacola Chamber, the DIB, and the Council on Aging, to name a few. He created the Panhandle Charitable Open, which over 18 years raised nearly \$1.8 million for charitable causes in memory of his son John Ryan Peacock as well as Ashley Lauren Offerdahl. One of the organizations that has benefited greatly from John's efforts is Gulf Coast Kid's House. Several years ago, he was involved in the community effort to review and replace the City of Pensacola's charter.

John shared his vision for charter government in Escambia County. He began his remarks by listing the many of the community's assets:

- Some of the world's most beautiful beaches
- An historic city on the water
- A 4 year University
- A State College
- An airport
- A seaport
- 3 major hospitals
- IHMC
- Largest IMPACT 100 in the world
- Historic Assets for cultural tourism
- An Interstate that dissects the county for commerce
- Plenty of rural land for development
- Vibrant downtown
- AA baseball team
- Extremely philanthropic community
- US Naval Base/active military community
- Home of the Blue Angels
- Large employers such as GE, International Paper, Ascend

With all of the assets and amenities in Escambia County, why is the community struggling? There's an old saying that "Shared responsibility means no one is responsible. Without responsibility and accountability very little happens."

While the City of Pensacola changed to a Mayor/Council form of government in 2010, Escambia County remains governed by a Commissioner/Manager form of government with 5 commissioners elected by district only (single member district). Escambia County has grown less than neighboring Santa Rosa. Escambia grapples with environmental issues, poorly performing schools, under-resourced households, and a lack of strategic planning. Leaders are not utilizing all of county assets for the betterment of the citizens. Now is the time to effect change.

Starting back in 2008, a "Quality of Life" Survey provided insights into how citizens view the community. The thought process was that by measuring public opinion in an annual survey and collecting data for comparison, the material would be used to generate informed debate and inspire necessary action. Public officials have failed to address the concerns of the citizens.

Escambia residents may only vote for one commissioner. This forces each commissioner to focus on their own district instead of the entire community.

John concluded his remarks by asking, "Is there a better way? Twenty out of 67 counties in Florida have charter governments. Over 75 percent of people live in a charter county. The political structure can be tailored by the local electorate."

Peacock's group will be on the County Commission Agenda on Nov 9. Peacock entertained several questions and asked the members to write letters to the County Commission.

President Wonders thanked our speaker and then educated the members on (1) National Pecan Cookie Day. Rotarian Ed enjoyed a cookie on zoom; (2) National Chai Day – a spicy drink fit for a king; and (3) National IT Professional Day.

Rotarian Sally Fox hosted an Irish themed sunshine. She made the members chuckle with Irish glee. Birthday greetings for four Rotarians were announced followed by a chorus of Happy Birthday.

President Wonders thanked all for their role in the meeting. He adjourned at 12:41 pm

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Rotarian Nicole Gislason.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ROTARY

The Pensacola Yacht Club meetings are now open to an unlimited number of people. However is very important that you RSVP every week, between Wednesday through Friday at 5:00 pm.

**Want to experience the Guatemala Literacy Project in action?** 2022 travel dates are Feb. 5 - 13 and Feb. 22 - 27 and July 26 - 31. For more information copy and paste this link: Home - The Guatemala Literacy Project. Due to COVID, these trips may be canceled on September 15. If you are interested in traveling, please contact Julie Tippins Parker at julietippins@bellsouth.net.

**Our new Prayer/Pledge and Sunshine Committee Chair-Person Jean Norman** is looking for members to serve at our weekly Rotary Club meeting. Contact Jean at: jean.n.norman@gmail.com and let her know if you would like to be included and if you would like to provide prayer and pledge or sunshine or maybe both.

*continue on back*

## 2021-2022 Club Officers

•President	Ed Wonders
•Past President	Sally Fox
•President Elect	Bruce Partington
•Secretary	Lisa York
•Treasurer	Lori Nesmith
•Sergeant At Arms	Scott Grissett
•Communications Officer	Joe Vinson

## Bulletin Information

Nicole Gisalon email: [nicole@uwf.edu](mailto:nicole@uwf.edu)  
Web Site: [Pensacolarotaryclub.org](http://Pensacolarotaryclub.org)  
E-Mail: [rcopens@bellsouth.net](mailto:rcopens@bellsouth.net)  
Chris Bridwell, Executive Secretary  
Office, Room 323 Brent Building  
P.O. Box 528 • Pensacola, FL 32591-0528  
Phone: 434-0684

## Clubs Available for Makeup

Five Flags	McQuire's Irish Pub	Mon.	12:15 pm
Gulf Breeze	Legends at Andrews Institute	Tues.	7:00 am
Milton	The Hangar Restaurant	Tues.	12:00 pm
Seville	Seville Quarter	Tues.	4:15 pm
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	Asbury Place, Cokesbury United Methodist Church	Fri.	12:00 pm

## District Governor

Larry Kubiak  
<http://www.rotary6940.org>

## Assistant District Governor

Sally Fox

## What's Happening in Rotary

**Our new Helicopter Committee Chair-Person Nicole Gisalon** is looking for members who would like to take minutes at the weekly Rotary Club meetings. If you would like to be a part of that committee please contact Nicole at: [nicole@uwf.edu](mailto:nicole@uwf.edu).

**We will continue to have On-Line Zoom Meetings along with the In-person meetings at Pensacola Yacht Club.** You will continue to get a Zoom invitation every Monday. If you have any questions please feel free to give me a call. 850-619-0679. Chris

**You are now able to pay your quarterly Rotary Club dues with a credit card/debit card.** Please note a service charge will be applied to your payment. The link can be found on our website at <http://www.pensacolarotaryclub.org/payment>.

**Promote your business by placing an ad in the Helicopter.** The Rotary Club of Pensacola will advertise your business in our weekly newsletter with ads running for a full month. Business cards \$250. 1/4 page \$500. 1/2 page \$750. To place your ad send the prepared document to [rcopens@bellsouth.net](mailto:rcopens@bellsouth.net) stating the size ad you wish to place. Proceeds to benefit the Rotary Club of Pensacola Foundation.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthdays for the week of  
September 28th through October 4th

**George "Ray" Fox** – September 29 – born in Providence, RI, in Rotary 9 years, Paul Harris Fellow

**Innes Richards** – September 29 – born in Washington, DC, in Rotary 22 years, Paul Harris +8

**Peit Hudson** – October 1- born in Long Beach, MS, in Rotary 16 years, Paul Harris Fellow

## Prayer/Pledge And Sunshine

### September 28

Prayer/Pledge: John Tice

Sunshine: Innes Richards

### October 5

Prayer/Pledge: Sherry Hartnet

Sunshine: John Clark

## Greeters and Ticket Sales

### September 28

Greeter: Andrea Kreiger and David Lamar

Ticket Sales: Britt Landrum and Carol Law

### October 5

Greeters: Trey Manderson and Ron Martin

Ticket Sales: Matt Massey and Jean Norman

## Program Schedule

### September

28 - Larry Kubiak, District 6940 Governor

### October

5 - Marty Stanovich - First Tee

12 - Chris Warner - History of Football in the South

19 - Coach Rod Aldoff - Pensacola Ice Flyers

26 - Maria Goldberg & Nicole Stacy - Foo Foo Fest

## What's Happening in Rotary

### September

28 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting @ Pensacola Yacht Club and On-Line Zoom Meeting  
1:00 Board Meeting

### October

5 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting @ Pensacola Yacht Club and On-Line Zoom Meeting

12 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting @ Pensacola Yacht Club and On-Line Zoom Meeting

19 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting @ Pensacola Yacht Club and On-Line Zoom Meeting  
1:00 Board Meeting

26 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting @ Pensacola Yacht Club and On-Line Zoom Meeting