

the HELICOPTER



The Rotary Club of Pensacola District 6940 Club 4248

WEEK IN REVIEW

The weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Pensacola took place on Tuesday, February 2, 2010. Jason Crawford and Claude Manderson greeted members and guests at the door. Greg Guzman and Scott Sallis sold raffle tickets. The winning ticket went to Charles Gund who walked away with \$65.00. President Margaret Stopp called the meeting to order with the Four Way Test and a reminder that the nominations for the 2011 LEAP class are due by March 1 to the Pensacola Chamber. Neal Goldsborough led the way with the prayer and pledge. Scott Grissett who was looking good in Gator colors for a change brought sunshine into our lives with his usual wit and winning ways. Congratulations went out to Scott Grissett and Trey Maygarden for their Rising Star designations. Scott welcomed our military guest Lt. Mary Pena and several noted guests of members. Birthday greetings went out to Leonard Swartz, Brian Masterson, Gary Lee, Norris McMahon, Gerald Hoewing and Ed Ranelli.

Evon Emerson introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Rick Harper, Director of the Haas Center for Business Research and Economic Development at the University of West Florida who gave an overview of the economic picture for the national and local economy. The picture begins with the easing of the financial crisis and the

improvement of the credit lending market as indicated by the 5.6% growth in US GDP for the 4th quarter of 2009. The unemployment rate is expected to improve slowly this year, first step will be to restore employed workers up to the full workweek, then the hiring brought on by the US Census Bureau will begin to affect employment rates and finally Dr. Harper predicted that the unemployment rate will show a real improvement in the last quarter of 2010. Housing prices are beginning to flatten at the national level. Florida's housing prices will stabilize however prices will not begin to increase until population begins to grow again in Florida which is not predicted to happen until housing prices in northern areas begin to rise. The current monetary policy and the unprecedented steps taken by the Federal Reserve to overcome the financial crisis have been good, according to Dr. Harper. He forecasted low interest rates will remain for a while and that inflationary pressures are low, despite energy prices going up, and will remain low as long as the unemployment rate remains high. Treasury borrowing is at an all time high and is becoming a concern for the overall economy.

Florida's economy is sputtering and will have a very slow recovery as a result of one of the highest housing inventories in the country

and a declining population. Dr. Harper predicted that Florida's unemployment rate will peak at 12% and is not predicted to stabilize until 2012. Job shrinkage will continue through 2011 and Dr. Harper predicted that until windstorm insurance legislation is passed growth of new businesses in the state will be stymied. The bright spots for the state's economy and the Northwest Florida area are the high concentration of military payrolls and installations, medical and healthcare facilities that serve a large area bringing dollars into Northwest Florida and excellent destinations for "drive-to" tourism. The problems associated with the housing bubble are less severe in Northwest Florida than in the rest of the state and recovery should come sooner to our area.

The future challenges for Florida's economy highlighted by Dr. Harper are the state budgetary crisis brought on by declining population, reduced property values resulting lower tax revenue for Florida's schools, the need for insurance reform and a need for stricter laws on collection of sales taxes from internet sales.

President Margaret thanked all those who needed thanking and closed with "The future of Rotary is in your hands".

Respectfully submitted by Claudia Simmons

ANNOUNCEMENT

District 6940's Group Study Exchange team left Tallahassee for Hyderabad, India (Rotary District 3150) on January 21. One of the team members is Scott Page, a journalist sponsored by the Gulf Breeze club. The team leader is PDG Ivan Johnson of Tallahassee. The team has a blog where you may read their postings, which are quite interesting: www.rotary6940gse.com/Contact.html. The team from District 3150 will travel to District 6940 in April, and will present the program at our club on April 27.

ROTARY WHEELS

- Linda Biller and Leigh Broxton continue their efforts in the Red Cross campaign to assist in Haiti. Nationally ARC has raised a huge amount.
- Cheers for Nathan Kahn, whose hard work helped save the downtown post office.
- Judy Bense and Janet Pilcher seem to hop from one hot spot to another these days. First it was operational dollars for the museum. Then came new student fees. Did

UWF ever expect to be in this kind of spotlight?

- Frances Yeo has completed initial studies to perhaps begin a new service to aid families where cancer has been diagnosed.
- Bob Rogers says that this year's frigid weather has more than doubled the needs of the homeless here.
- Our four Sherrills (two Charles, two

Richards) can look back over 90 years to when their ancestor began what were the first real auto service stations in Northwest Florida. The way such facilities are going it might be nice to have another Sherrill Oil Company running things.

- Jock Mobley and Centennial Imports won a trip to Miami to the Super Bowl with all the "percs" for being the top Mercedes Dealer in the region.

2009-2010 Club Officers

◆ President	Margaret Stopp
◆ Past President	Keith Bullock
◆ President Elect	Ray Jones
◆ Secretary	Innes Richards
◆ Treasurer	Ron Jackson
◆ Sergeant At Arms	Tim Kane
◆ Historian	John Appleyard

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Clubs Available for Makeup

Five Flags	New World Landing	Mon.	12:15 pm
Gulf Breeze	Legends Restaurant	Tues.	7:00 am
	Andrews Institute		
Milton	Red Barn on Hwy. 90	Tues.	12:00 pm
Seville	Seville Quarter	Tues.	5:30 pm
Perdido	Triggers Restaurant	Wed.	7:30 am
Cantonment	Scenic Hills Country Club	Wed.	12:15 pm
Cordova	Gulf Coast Kid's House	Thur.	7:00 am
Pace	Stonebrook Village	Thur.	7:00 am
Suburban West	Pensacola Yacht Club	Thur.	12:00 pm
Navarre	The Tuscan Grill	Thur.	12:00 pm
	Hidden Creek Golf Course		
Pensacola North	Asbury Place	Friday	12:00 pm
	Cokesbury Methodist		

District Governor

John Kuykendall
www.rotary6940.org

Assistant District Governor

Ted Kirchharr

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthdays for the week of
February 9th through February 15th

Grover Robinson – February 11
born in Gainesville, FL, in Rotary 14 years

Nancy Fetterman – February 12
born in Poteet, Texas, 2 years

GREETERS AND TICKET SALES

February 9th

Greeters: Charles Meadows and Audrey Young
Ticket Sales: Alexis Bolin and Nancy Fetterman

February 16th

Greeters: Scott Grissett and Barry Cole
Ticket Sales: Bill Dollarhide and Jeffrey Lewis

February 23rd

Greeters: Joe Maloney and Madison Currin
Ticket Sales: Lee Little and John Renfroe

The Rotary Club of Pensacola
P. O. Box 528
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