

the HELICOPTER



The Rotary Club of Pensacola District 6940 Club 4248

WEEK IN REVIEW 3/28/2023

At precisely 12:07 pm, President Bruce Partington welcomed those in attendance in person and via Microsoft Teams to the March 28, 2023, meeting of the Pensacola Rotary Club at the Pensacola Bay Center. Rotarian Allison Hill recited Mother Teresa's Anyway poem. If you haven't had the opportunity read the poem, find a few moments to do so. Great reminders of what is important. After Rotarian Allison led the Pledge of Allegiance, President Bruce called Past President Ed Wonders to the front of the room and recognized him with a Paul Harris, plus 1 for his contributions to the Rotary Foundation.

Prior to providing Rotarians and friends with a litany of "This Day in History" factoids for March 27, 2023, President Bruce reminded all of the looming deadlines for Community Grants applications (March 31, 2023) and District Conference (April 15, 2023). Rotarian Bob Perkins was the lucky winner of the raffle, pocketing a nifty profit of \$1 as he took home \$4. While not taking home the entire pot of \$120, always good to walk away a winner. Congratulations, Rotarian Bob!

Next up was Rotarian Dale Jordan to provide a radiant dose of Sunshine. Rotarian Dale's arsenal of witty jokes included a ditty about Forest Gump and making the choice between Red Wine or White Wine. He also provided a nice anecdote that tied a Civil War Battle in Alabama to the program presented during the March 21, 2023, meeting of the Pensacola Rotary Club. As he concluded his time at the podium, Rotarian Dale referenced a Wall Street Journal that highlights the shifting priorities of Americans. Highly interesting read. ("America Pulls Back From Values That Once Defined It, WSJ-NORC Poll Finds" March 27, 2023).

District Governor Dan Sulger was able to share a reminder about the upcoming District Conference. Great rates are available, and a great time is planned for those attending.

The day's program was Warden Kelly Watkins of the Century Correctional Institution. The Century Correctional Institution houses 1,345 adult male inmates. Warden Watkins helps oversee 30 plus programs designed to rehabilitate prisoners and prepare them for re-entry into society. From education to mental health to substance abuse to spiritual, each of the programs are aimed at improving the life of a participating inmate. Eighty percent of prisoners return to their community, and it is the goal of Warden Watkins to help each be a productive tax paying member of society.

During his discussion, Warden Watkins described a "pendulum swing" in the view of the prison system. It swings constantly from punishing those

in prison to rehabilitating those in prison. To persevere the swing, Warden Watkins is guided by the belief of treating everyone the same, which is treating everyone with respect and being constant in the respect shown. The recruitment, hiring and development of professional officers also helps Warden Watkins and the Century Correctional Institute in the pursuit of being able to rehabilitate its population. These officers must be "thinkers" and not merely doers, able to handle situations in the proper manner.

Warden Watkins' presentation offered an extensive question and answer period. It was during this time that attendees were able to gain insight into various aspects of the Century Correctional Institute. Takeaways from this time include:

- Successful re-entry to society for a prisoner requires a solid support system be in place. Forty percent of violent offenders often time return to prison on a lesser charge.
- "Loose" escapes have occurred at the Work Release Center because participating inmates do not realize they must still abide by the restrictions in place and be where they are supposed to be.
- If money was not an obstacle, Warden Watkins would develop more programs for prisoners.
- There are prisons designed to house the aging prison population with certain medical conditions.
- There are over 100 regular volunteers (300 total volunteers) that support the Century Correctional Institute programs.
- The goal of the Work Release Program is a successful transition to regular employment and only thing needed for inmate is to find a place to live.
- Family visitation is highly encouraged as a way to help build relationships between the prisoners and their families. Warden Watkins described Show Me the Father, a movie about fathers reconnecting with their children that was shown within the Institute.
- There is a thriving GED program in place that has helped over 40% of prisoners who entered without a high school diploma achieve their high school diploma. Warden Watkins will soon be starting a GED program for the work release program.

Respectfully,
Scott Grissett
March 31, 2023

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ROTARY

This week's meeting will be at Pensacola Bay Center. 201 East Gregory St., 2nd floor

We will continue to meet at Pensacola Bay Center for our weekly meeting. Due to remodeling at Pensacola Yacht Club, for the next 3 months, we will be meeting at Pensacola Bay Center at 201 East Gregory Street (previously known as the Pensacola Civic Center),

Our regular weekly meeting on April 25th is cancelled and will be replaced with the Business in Ethics Award Ceremony April 27th, at Pensacola Yacht, 12:00pm.

You can now book your trip to the "Celebration of Clubs" District 6940 Conference for 2023! Click here to register for the conference: Start date: Friday April 28th, end date: Sunday April 30th, 2023. Cost of conference: \$210, and \$105 for any Rotarian a member for 1 year or less (50%). Last date to register for the conference: April 15, 2023

Registration for the Melbourne International Convention is open and information can be found at www.Rotary.Org or at www.rotarymelbourne2023.org

We are now streaming our meeting using Microsoft Teams. If you already have a Microsoft account, you can join the meeting just like any other. If you don't have a Microsoft account, there aren't any special downloads or requirements to join as a guest. Click here for a quick overview of accessing Microsoft Teams as a guest. The meeting join information 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

2022-2023 Club Officers

•President	Bruce Partington
•Past President	Ed Wonders
•President Elect	Charles Beall
•Secretary	Lisa York
•Treasurer	Lori Nesmith
•Sergeant At Arms	Scott Grissett
•Communications Officer	Betty Roberts

Bulletin Information

Web Site: Pensacolarotaryclub.org
E-Mail: cbridwell@pensacolarotaryclub.org
Chris Bridwell, Executive Secretary
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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.	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	Hyatt Place - Pensacola Airport	Fri.	12:00 pm

District Governor

Dan Sulgar
<http://www.rotary6940.org>

Assistant District Governor

Sally Fox

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ROTARY

Our Clubs Annual Pledge Drive continues. Along with our Club Foundation, Rotary International EREY and Polio Plus, a new category has been added to give. The **Hanwash Project** collaborative national initiatives to provide and sustain clean water in order to promote prosperity and better health to the people of Haiti. Pledge forms will be available at the weekly meeting every Tuesday or you can request a pledge form at cbridwell@pensacolarotaryclub.org.

In an effort to increase the membership of our club, at the most recent board meeting it was decided to extend the offer of 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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthdays for the week of
April 4 through April 10

Charles Sherrill, III – April 4 – born in Pensacola, FL in Rotary 9 years, Paul Harris Fellow

Handsel Butts – April 8 – born in Natchez, MS, in Rotary 60 years, Paul Harris Fellow +8

Chris Kelly – April 8 – born in Landstuhl, Germany, in Rotary 13 years, Paul Harris Fellow +2

Barry Cole – April 8 – born in Jackson, MS, in Rotary 15 years

Cedric Durre – April 10 – born in Pensacola, in Rotary 11 years

Greeters and Ticket Sales

April 4

Greeters: John Shaffer and Auby Smith

Ticket Sales: Terry Scruggs and Hill Turner

April 11

Greeters: Joe Vinson and Stephan Wildish

Ticket Sales: Jane White and Marjy Anders

Prayer/Pledge And Sunshine

April 4

Prayer/Pledge: Kelsey Powell Sunshine: Charles Kahn

April 11

Prayer/Pledge: Robert Stephens Sunshine: Chris Kelly

Program Schedule

April

4 - Captain Terry Shashaty - Commanding Officer, Pensacola NAS

11 - To Be Announced

18 - Rob Doss - Veterans Memorial Park

What's Happening in Rotary

April

4 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Pensacola Bay Center and MicroSoft Teams

11 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Pensacola Bay Center and MicroSoft Teams

18 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Pensacola Bay Center and MicroSoft Teams

1:00 Board of Directors Meeting

25 - Regular Weekly Meeting Cancelled

27 - Ethics in Business Luncheon - Noon at Pensacola Yacht Club