

the HELICOPTER



The Rotary Club of Pensacola District 6940 Club 4248

WEEK IN REVIEW 8/29/2023

On what some consider to be the most splendid Rotary day of the year, Pensacola luminary Dan Shugart talking college football, President Charles Beall welcomed Rotarians and friends to the August 29, 2023, meeting of the Rotary Club of Pensacola.

Prior to leading the Prayer & Pledge, Rotarian Al Coby asked all to lift up those in the path of Hurricane Idalia as the storm was making its way across the Gulf of Mexico towards the Big Bend region of Florida. Immediate Past President Bruce Partington was able to recognize Rotarians Rick Fountain, and Craig Hindsman for their service on the Club's Board of Directors. Prior to Rotarian Andrea Krieger claiming \$7 of the \$764 raffle, President Charles shared that the September 5, 2023, meeting will be at the Wesley Abbey on the campus of the First United Methodist Church of Pensacola located at 2 E. Wright Street.

Sunshine for the day included extending a warm welcome to Visiting Rotarians Roger Matthews (Rotary Club of Cantonment) and Tim Kinsella (Five Flags Rotary Club). Guests of Rotarians in attendance included Will Moore, Gil Fried, Coach Jack Crowe, and Benjamin Bostwick. A joyful rendition of "Happy Birthday, You All" was bellowed in honor of Rotarians Kathy Horton-Brown, Lynne Tobin, Bob Benz, and Aaron Bercovitch. Before giving way to Rotarian Ed Wonders for him to introduce WEAR TV Sports Director Dan Shugart, the Rotarian providing Sunshine gave his take on the upcoming college football season by reading "An Ode to College Football."

Dan began his annual talk by giving his thoughts on the topic du jour: the impact of the three-headed monster that is Name, Image & Likeness (NIL), the Transfer Portal, and Conference Realignment on college football. With respect to NIL and the Transfer Portal, the NCAA has shown itself to still be blindly incompetent as it has failed to provide coherent guidelines for member institutions. The beauty that is tradition & pageantry and rivalries is being stripped away because of Conference Realignment. Gone are the days of in-state rivalry games and in their place are intracontinental matchups. Oregon/Rutgers doesn't capture one's attention like Oregon/Oregon State.

Head Coach Mike Norvell and Florida State were able to utilize the Transfer Portal to become the second most experienced team in the nation. The Seminoles are only behind the Jayhawks of Kansas in terms of experience. The offensive line has been bolstered and will be a strength for this year's team. With both Jordan Travis and Jared Verse returning and helping create instant buy in to what is being built in Tallahassee, this year has the potential to be exciting. It will be interesting to see how Florida State navigates a schedule that is backloaded with tough games.

In the world of the Southeastern Conference Football, it is hard to build a program that shows signs of improvement. A team can get better from one season to the next, but it may not be seen in the record. Such is the case for the Gators of the University of Florida. Head Coach Billy Napier will be leading the least experienced team in the country this season through what is considered the toughest 2023 schedule. (Of note, Georgia and Alabama are the second and third least experienced teams, respectively, in the SEC). Fifth-year redshirt junior and Wisconsin transfer Graham Mertz was named the starting quarterback on August 11, 2023. There wasn't a lot of lamenting out of Madison when Mertz transferred. Mertz being named the starter may be an indicator that Jack Miller III has not progressed enough for Coach Napier's liking.

The squad that calls Athens, Georgia, home will be looking to do what only the 1935 University of Minnesota Golden Gophers have accomplished – win a third consecutive National Championship. While Head Coach Kirby Smart and the uber talented University of Georgia Bulldogs will be breaking

in a new quarterback and replacing key defensive starters lost the NFL Draft, they are once again being picked by virtually every pundit and his Mama to run the table this year and once again be top dawg in the world of College Football. As Dan pointed out, however, it is difficult to repeat. If certain plays aren't made or timeouts called, UGA can go from having a truly historical season to having a merely good season.

The biggest question out of Tuscaloosa is who Head Coach Nick Saban will tap as starting quarterback. A well-coached Crimson Tide will be looking to establish the run and play a punishing style of defense that harkens back to the days of joyless murderball. Critiquing more recent versions of Alabama football finds one comparing it to previous iterations of Nick Saban-led Alabama football teams: nitpicking at a high level. Nonetheless, questions persist of how the offense will function as it replaces Heisman winner Bryce Young and what will the defense look like with All Universe Will Anderson now in the NFL. The September 9th game against Texas will be an early season tone setter for the Crimson Tide.

Additional tidbits from Dan's talk include:

- Head Coach Hugh Freeze and the Auburn University Tigers have a sold quarterback transfer from Michigan State, Payton Thorne. Thorne started two years in East Lansing and is a natural passer with a high football IQ. Auburn is capable of surprising folks this year.

- Dan considers Texas A&M to be the real sleeper in the SEC. Two factors contribute to this. Head Coach Jimbo Fisher pointed to this season as being "the year" for the Aggies after he signed the highly regarded top ranked 2022 recruiting class. Second, Bobby Petrino arrives in College Station as the Offensive Coordinator. How well Coach Fisher and Coach Petrino co-exist this year will be a closely watched storyline.

- The Green Wave of Tulane return talented players from last year's 12-2 campaign. Head Coach Willie Fritz has a talented and experienced team that is led by quarterback Michael Pratt as the Green Wave look to repeat as American Athletic Conference champions.

- Head Coach Caleb Nobles will be looking to expand on the success of the University of West Florida Argo football by balancing out the offense with a fair dose of runs and pass plays. The Argos have a group of talented receivers and play in the toughest Division II Conference in the Nation – Gulf South Conference.

- Louisiana State University's 2023 football team will face a tough schedule and be looking to build off the success of 2022. The Tigers have talent, are solid defensively, and will be extremely well coached.

- Ole Miss will score points this year but will also have to figure out how to stop the other teams from scoring just as many points.

- An Atlantic Coast Conference expansion that brings aboard Stanford and California would entice Notre Dame to join as a full-time member institution. Notre Dame currently participates as a member in all ACC sports but remains independent in football.

- Florida State has signed a contract with the ACC through 2026. If it were to leave the conference, it would owe the conference all media rights until 2036.

- Cole Tabb of Choctawhatchee, Xakery Weidner of Pace, Maddax Fayard of Niceville, and Zavier Hamilton of Navarre were among a handful of high school players Dan mentioned as ones to watch this season.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott Grissett

2023-2024 Club Officers

•President	Charles Beall
•Past President	Bruce Partington
•President Elect	Henry Roberts
•Secretary	Randall Richardson
•Treasurer	Lori Nesmith
•Communications Officer	Betty Roberts

Bulletin Information

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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

Kerry Anne Schultz
<http://www.rotary6940.org>

Assistant District Governor

Sally Fox

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ROTARY

PLEASE NOTE TODAY, Tuesday, September 5th, we will return to The Wesley Abbey, at First United Methodist Church, 2 E. Wright Street.

Welcome New Member Sigrid Rehrig. Sigrid is a native of Minneapolis, Mn. She received an A.S. degree in Cinematography from the University of Minneapolis and received her B.S. in Marine Biology and M.B.A. from the University of West Florida. She is the Education Programs Specialist at Emerald Coast Utility Authority. Sigrid and her husband Ian reside in Pensacola and her sponsor is Sarah Horne.

A New Procedure is now in place for taking the attendance at the weekly meeting, every week members will return their badge to the case and proper slot that it stored. THANK YOU!

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.

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
September 5 through September 11

Charles Beall – September 5 – born in Dublin, GA, in Rotary 26 years, Paul Harris Fellow +7

Jim Flournoy – September 6 – born in Memphis, TN, in Rotary 29 years, Paul Harris Fellow +3

John Tice – September 6 – born in Tazewell, VA, in Rotary 38 years, Paul Harris Fellow +8

Ellis Bullock – September 11 – born in Birmingham, AL, in Rotary 46 years, Paul Harris +2

Greeters and Ticket Sales

September 5

Greeters: Ron Martin and Kyle McChesney
Ticket Sales: Norris McMahan and Jane White

September 12

Greeters: Ed Meadows and Lori Menke
Ticket Sales: Collier Merrill and Clark Merritt

Prayer/Pledge And Sunshine

September 5

Prayer/Pledge: Ellen Vinson Sunshine: Stephan Wildish

September 12

Prayer/Pledge: Madison Currin Sunshine: David Henriquez

Program Schedule

September

- 5 - Erika Zambello - Beach Nesting Birds
- 12 - Ray Jones & Laura Piovesana - Italian Wine Tasting
- 19 - Rabbi David Henriquez & Steve Nissim - The Holocaust
- 26 - Ross Goodman - Fresh Start Village

What's Happening in Rotary

September

- 5 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Wesley Abbey at First Methodist Church and MicroSoft Teams
- 12 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club and MicroSoft Teams
- 19 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club and MicroSoft Teams
1:00 Board of Directors Meeting
- 26 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club and MicroSoft Teams

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ROTARY

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.**