

# the HELICOPTER



The Rotary Club of Pensacola District 6940 Club 4248

## WEEK IN REVIEW 1/12/2021

The January 12, 2021 Zoom meeting of the Rotary Club of Pensacola was called to order at 12:04 by President Sally Fox. She led the Four-Way Test and reminded everyone of her meeting goal, REEFS: Recognition, Education, Engagement, Fun, and Service. Rotarian Eric Bostwick led the prayer and pledge. There were 60 Zoom participants.

Program chair Chris Kelly introduced the speaker, Rotarian Nicole Gislason, who is executive director of the Haas Center at UWF. Founded in 1994, the Haas Center curates data from a number of sources and provides analysis to its clients and the community. Raymond Haas, the early donor for whom it was named, would be proud of the legacy and the statewide resource the center has become. It has a number of projects with the state chamber, like the "Florida Gap Map." Nicole discussed how the Pensacola metro area compared with others of similar size. We have a lower median household income, and she holds up Huntsville's exports as an aspirational target of where Pensacola should try to be. In educational attainment, we have more associate degrees than national average. The credits the success of UWF's Center for Cybersecurity is part to the strength of our area's veterans. Looking at labor force participation, jobs increased by 9%, outpacing national growth rate by a considerable amount. Nicole (who was the first webmaster of the Haas Center) encourages everyone to check out the graphical dashboards on the website and give feedback. Looking at data since pandemic started, she said there are lots of concerns throughout economy, and Pensacola needs to meet the needs of employers seeking high-skill (and high-wage) jobs.

Chris Kelly asked about growth of breweries and how the entire hospitality industry has fared during the pandemic. Tourism and hospitality are feeling a lot of pain, not just from COVID — Hurricane Sally also impacted this area because of bridge being out. Nicole hopes to fund an impact analysis of the bridge and other factors. Chris also asked how do we coordinate to help the unemployed? By providing resources like retraining and child care. Many caregivers have had to drop out of the labor force. President Fox asked about resources for new or struggling businesses. Nicole recommends reaching out to Small Business Development Center, which connects with loans from SBA and others. Haas Center's role is to provide data to support their business plan. They have data for every county and MSA in the US, so they can provide (for

a cost) polygon analysis that can be valuable if deciding where to locate grocery or restaurant. Rotarian Betty Roberts asked how Haas is funded. Nicole said state funding is no longer available, so they conduct private research for municipalities, county governments and private businesses. Many student researchers are supported by donations. David Stafford asked if the Haas Center is tracking the trend of people working remotely. Nicole said not yet, but they hope to formally study that.

Chris Kelly led sunshine and gave his congratulations to Alabama and other teams who were celebrating victories. He led the club singing happy birthday to Rotarian Carter Herman and President Sally Fox. There were no guests. He relayed a story about Coach Nick Saban and his wife Terry visiting their West Virginia hometown. When they saw Terry's ex-boyfriend's name above a gas station, he said, "See? If you'd married him, your husband would be pumping gas for a living." She responded, "Nope, if I'd married him, he'd be the winningest coach in college football history."

President Fox said that thanks to efforts of Chris Bridwell and Bryan McCall, we will soon be able to accept payments by credit card on the website. She is looking forward to returning to in-person meetings and thanked those who have helped explore venue options. Pensacola Yacht Club is one possibility, since they've invested into AV equipment for Zoom, but we still need to work out a reservation system to meet occupancy limitations. 2020 was a very successful contribution year with significant funds to help the local community as well as Rotary International. She offered a closing quote: "Breathe. This is just a chapter in your life, not the entire book." Meeting was adjourned at 12:48. Minutes submitted by Joe Vinson.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ROTARY

**On-Line Zoom Meetings every Tuesday at noon.** You will receive your invitation to join the meetings on Mondays. The meetings can be accessed with your computer, tablet, or your smartphone. 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>

**Congratulations Rotarian Alexis Bolin.** Alexis won CRS (CERTIFIED RESIDENTIAL REALTOR) of the year awarded by the Florida Real Estate Council, nationally recognized for local Sales Success. She had record-breaking sales in 2020.

**Scott Grissett has suggested a committee to recognize outstanding Rotarian with a John Appleyard Spirit of Rotary Award.** Contact Scott if you are interested in participating and becoming a member of this committee. [sjgrissett@gmail.com](mailto:sjgrissett@gmail.com)

**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.

**It is not too late to make your annual pledge** to our local Foundation and Rotary International. If you need a pledge form, send an email request to [rcopens@bellsouth.net](mailto:rcopens@bellsouth.net).

**In an effort to raise funds for our Rotary Club's Foundation, Sergeant of Arms Scott Grissett** is looking for Rotarians to participate in **Member Moments**. **Scott has increased the time to a five-minute platform** for a member to share such facts as an occupation (now/in the past), hobbies, community passion, and something no one knows about the Rotarian. In order to get the opportunity to participate in what surely will be a fun and informative activity simply make the winning bid in the Member Moment auction. The winning bid will go to our Club's Foundation. The bid begins at \$20. for each auction. If you are interested in participating, please e-mail Scott Grissett ([sjgrissett@gmail.com](mailto:sjgrissett@gmail.com)) with your bid by 5 pm on Fridays.

## 2020-2021 Club Officers

•President	Sally Fox
•Past President	John Trawick
•President Elect	Ed Wonders
•Secretary	Lisa York
•Treasurer	C. Ray Jones
•Sergeant At Arms	Scott Grissett
•Historian	John Appleyard

## Bulletin Information

Joe Vinson email: [joe@akabaka.com](mailto:joe@akabaka.com)  
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	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.	4:15 pm
Perdido	13660 Innerarity Point Road	Wed.	7:15 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 - Check <a href="http://navarrerotary.org">navarrerotary.org</a>		
Pensacola North	Asbury Place	Friday	12:00 pm
	Cokesbury Methodist		

## District Governor

Jan Pooley  
<http://www.rotary6940.org>

## Assistant District Governor

Daniel J. Sulger

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthdays for the week of  
January 19th through January 25th

**Mort O'Sullivan** – January 19 – born in Pensacola, FL, in Rotary 36 years, Paul Harris +2

**Trey Poirier** – January 19 – born in Saddle River, NJ, in Rotary 3 year

**Chuck Michaels** – January 21 - born in Columbia, PA, in Rotary 19 years, Paul Harris Fellow

**George Biggs** – January 23 - Pensacola, FL, in Rotary for 21 years

**Al Coby** - January 23 - Muskogee, OK, in Rotary for 31 years, Paul Harris Fellow

**Ron Jackson** – January 23 - Marianna, FL, in Rotary for 20 years, Paul Harris +1

**Courtney Dell** – January 24 - Birmingham, AL – in Rotary for 10 years

## Prayer/Pledge And Sunshine

### January 19

Prayer/Pledge: Lee Elebash Sunshine: Scott Grissett

### January 26

Prayer/Pledge: Scott Adams Sunshine: Morgan Crawford

## Program Schedule

### January

19 - Tim Gleason, Facilities Mgmt Director, NAS Whiting  
26 - Hon. Tom Feeny, President/CEO Assoc Indust of Florida

## What's Happening in Rotary

### January

19 - Noon On Line Virtual Meeting  
26 - Noon On Line Virtual Meeting