

the HELICOPTER



The Rotary Club of Pensacola District 6940 Club 4248

WEEK IN REVIEW 3/16/2021

The March 16, 2021 meeting of the Rotary Club of Pensacola was called to order at 12:03pm by President Sally Fox. The meeting was held via Zoom and had 47 participants. She led the Four-Way Test and reminded everyone of her "REEFS" goal: Recognition, Education, Engagement, Fun, and Service.

Rotarian Howard Reddy led the prayer and pledge and shared St. Patrick's Day greetings. Rotarian Betty Roberts introduced Rick Owen, from the Tallahassee Sunrise Rotary Club, to speak about the district conference to be held at Calloway Gardens on May 14-16. Rick talked about a food pantry service project coordinated by FOCUS (Fellowship of Christians United in Service) that will take place during the conference. Rotarians will participate by donating and sorting nonperishable items. To help ensure an even distribution of food types, our club's item of focus is mac and cheese. We can start collecting mac and cheese at our first in-person meeting next week.

Program chair Chris Kelly introduced the week's speaker, Karen Worcester, executive director of "Wreaths Across America," which was established in 2007 as a non-profit but goes back to 1992, when her husband donated an excess of 5,000 holiday wreaths to Arlington Cemetery. They tried to do it every year as a family activity until 2005, when a Pentagon photographer took a photo for the Pentagon newsletter that went viral. By January 2006, their company received thousands of emails of people asking to help and/or expand the program to other ceremonies. They created new ceremonial wreaths that year for every branch of the military plus POW/MIA and in December expanded to 30+ different stops on the way to Arlington. Last year they served 2,325 locations, and this year will be the 30th year. The organization is non-political and is focused on sharing stories about the men and women who serve in the military. They ask their volunteers to keep the memories of these individuals alive by repeating their names. Karen shared some of the emotional experiences she has shared with people who have lost family members and loved ones. Every year they pick a theme, which this year is "Live Up to Their Legacy." Last year they placed 1.7 million wreaths, 2.2 million the year before. There are thousands of fundraising groups ranging from the Gary Sinise Foundation to local Girl Scouts groups who help support this project. There are 130 locations in Florida served by Wreaths Across America, and they try to work toward a universal goal.

Chris Kelly's father's grave at Barrancas was decorated by a wreath a few months ago, and he was deeply touched and thanked Karen for speaking to us. He asked about the new "flag waving" initiative, which was

started by the Freeport Flag Ladies to commemorate 9/11. They did it every Tuesday for 18 years but recently had to retire due to health, so Wreaths Across America took over the project. Karen said that any cemetery where a veteran is buried is eligible to receive ceremonial wreaths, with the only requirement that observances be non-political and all-inclusive. The website wreathscrossamerica.org also has a lot of teaching tools that people can use. President Fox thanked Karen and reminded everyone that a single person can start a major initiative like this.

Brian Wyer led Sunshine. He asked everyone to take a time machine back to 1965 and listen to The Temptations' "My Girl" and the opening phrase, "I've got sunshine on a cloudy day." He wished happy birthday to Rotarians Andrea Krieger, DeDe Flounlacker, Wylie Hogeman, and Lew Doman, and welcomed guest Gay Nord, CEO of West Florida Hospital. He mentioned that his middle name is Patrick for St. Patrick and shared some different ways to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

Next week is the first hybrid meeting with in-person lunch, but reservations are required by Friday before at 5pm. Chris Bridwell will send the link by email. Amy Miller from the Port of Pensacola will be next week's speaker. President Fox reminded everyone to update their photo and contact info for the member directory. Rotarian Sorna Khakzad Knight talked about the collaboration with the Boys and Girls Club to build a community garden. On Friday afternoon, March 26 and over that weekend, we will be volunteering to clean the site and prepate the garden. On Monday, March 29 we will plant with the kids. Please email Sorna if you would like to participate. They are taking steps to do it safely and responsibly. President Fox called on sergeant-at-arms Scott Grissett for "Choppering with a Rotarian." This Rotarian was a state junior champion in the 100 yard sprint, was the only civilian on the NAS Pensacola soccer team, developed and built the Navy Exchange on Hwy 98, and was responsible for the Ever'man Coop. Paul Tobin guessed correctly it was Ray Jones. President Fox asked for nominations for the Rotary Ethics in Business Award. President-elect Ed Wonders asked people to sign up for committees for the coming year.

President Fox reminded everyone to send in opportunities for "do-goodery," thanked everyone involved in the meeting, and gave a closing quote from Walt Disney: "Happiness is a state of mind. It's just according to the way you look at things." Meeting adjourned at 12:59pm. Minutes submitted by Joe Vinson.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ROTARY

We will continue to have On-Line Zoom Meetings along with the In-person meetings at Pensacola Yacht Club. The Yacht Club meetings are open to the first 42 people that RSVP Wednesday through Friday. 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

Welcome New Member Jeff Von Stein. Jeff is a native of Hollywood, Florida. He has an MBA in Finance and Real Estate from the University of Florida. Jeff is the principal owner of Pensacola Public Adjuster. He is a volunteer in numerous professional, civic, and non-profit organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sister, The One Networking Group, and serves as a board member with Kids Connected. Jeff's sponsor is President Sally Fox.

A food pantry service project coordinated by FOCUS (Fellowship of Christians United in Service) will take place during the District Conference at Calloway Gardens on May 14-16. Rotarians will participate by donating and sorting nonperishable items. To help ensure an even distribution of food types, our club's item of focus is **mac and cheese**. **We will start collecting mac and cheese at our weekly meetings.** If you want to contribute and not planning to attend meetings, you can make a donation by going to our website and making a credit card donations or send a check payable to Rotary Club of Pensacola and Chris will make the purchase for you.

The Combined Rotary of Pensacola and the University of West Florida College of Business are promoting The 2021 Ethics in Business Awards. These awards are presented to outstanding leaders in the Community. To request information and/or the nomination forms contact Chris at rcopens@bellsouth.net or if you have any questions contact Rick Fountain at 850-474-2866 or Ted Kirchharr at 850-341-4674.

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 stating the size ad you wish to place. Proceeds to benefit the Rotary Club of Pensacola Foundation. Since we will be meeting in person these ads will go to print.

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.

Ever find yourself wanting to impress your fellow Rotarians with an interesting tidbit or three about yourself? Well, **Choppering with a Rotarian** is for you! This is a President Sally & Rotarian Scott collaboration, **Choppering with a Rotarian** is a creative way for Rotarians to get to know each other through the unveiling of unknown tidbits about Club members. How does it work? Each week, a Rotarian will be identified through a highly advanced randomization selection process. Rotarian Scott will then notify the selected Rotarian and together, they will place three unknown facts on a PowerPoint to be presented during the next meeting of the Pensacola Rotary Club. On the off chance that we do not have a **Choppering with a Rotarian**, President Sally & Rotarian Scott will serenade the audience with a medley of Donnie & Marie Osmond's greatest hits. So let the guessing begin!

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
Web Site: Pensacolarotaryclub.org
E-Mail: 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 navarrerotary.org		
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
March 23rd through March 29th

Stacy Robello – March 27 – born in Memphis, TN, in Rotary one year

Donnie McMahon - March 28 - born in Pensacola, FL, in Rotary 14 years

Judy Bense - March 29 – born in Morristown, New Jersey, in Rotary 12 years, Paul Harris Fellow

Daniel Almanza – March 29 born in Atlanta, Ga in Rotary less than one year

Greeters and Ticket Sales

Greeters: Judy Bense & Lynne Tobin

Ticket Sales: Scott Sallis & Charles Sherrill

Prayer/Pledge And Sunshine

March 23

Prayer/Pledge: Teshia Haynes Sunshine: Charles Beall

March 30

Prayer/Pledge: Laura Gilliam Sunshine: Al Coby

Program Schedule

March

23 - Amy Miller, Port of Pensacola

30 - Chris Warner & Joe Gilchrist - Flora-Bama Lounge

What's Happening in Rotary

March

23 - Noon Pensacola Yacht Club Regular Weekly Meeting and On-Line Virtual Meeting

30 - Noon Pensacola Yacht Club Regular Weekly Meeting and On-Line Virtual Meeting