

# the HELICOPTER



The Rotary Club of Pensacola District 6940 Club 4248

## WEEK IN REVIEW 3/2/2021

The March 2, 2021 meeting of the Rotary Club of Pensacola was called to order at 12:04pm by President Sally Fox. The meeting was held via Zoom and had 51 participants. She led the Four-Way Test and reminded everyone of her "REEFS" goal: Recognition, Education, Engagement, Fun, and Service. She also shared the sad news that Rotarian David Galloway passed away.

Rotarian Charlie Sherrill led the prayer and pledge. The week's speaker was Rotarian Verdell Hawkins, the economic development manager at Gulf Power. He previously served with Mississippi Power for many years and as an urban planner in Atlanta. Verdell said that every meeting at Gulf Power begins with a safety briefing, and he wanted to do the same here. He gave an update on what's been going on with Gulf Power since changing from Southern Company to NextEra to Florida Power & Light (FPL), their investments in cleaner energy and a smarter grid, a commitment to strengthening the community, their COVID-19 response, storm season preparations, and other highlights.

He said that FCL's being home-based in Juno Beach, Florida is a benefit to the local company. FPL's power bills are among the lowest in the nation, and the company is committed to renewables (like the "30-by-30" solar plan) and is also innovating in battery storage. The Gulf Power name will continue to be used throughout 2021 but will change to FPL on Jan. 1, 2022. A rate structure change is expected to make the typical power bill lower than it is today. Three solar installations: Blue Indigo now in service, and Cotton Creek and Blue Springs will begin construction soon. Each installation can generate 74.5 MW, which is enough to power 15,000 homes. Solar trees have been installed in Destin, Ft Walton Beach and Pensacola. Plant Crist is being renamed "Gulf Clean Energy Center" as it transitions from coal to all natural gas, reducing carbon emissions by 40%. The North Florida Resiliency Connection (176-mile 161 kV transmission line) will start construction in next few months, enhancing reliability and resiliency. All wooden structures are being replaced with concrete or steel poles with smart grid equipment that notifies system of outages with limited "self heal" capabilities. Customer service is being improved with new mobile app with self-service and bill pay. The transition to FPL means 50% better reliability. In response to Covid-19, Gulf Power has offered a one-time 40% bill decrease in May 2020, suspended disconnections, and offered bill relief credits up to \$200. They've contributed over \$1 million in United Way donations, small business grants, and other initiatives. Thanks to partnerships, crews were able to restore power to nearly all customers within five days of Hurricane Sally, and they are always focused on improving storm response. They believe in economic development and recently hosted a virtual Economic Symposium out of Covid safety concerns. The next in-person Economic Symposium is scheduled for Sept. 14-15 at the Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort. Gulf Power still has a local external relations team and is committed to helping the Northwest Florida community.

Rotarian John Tice asked if it's true that Walton County rejected a proposal

for a solar energy installation. Verdell said it's true. They're hoping that feedback from Jackson County will educate officials and plan to present a revised proposal. Rotarian Ed Ranelli asked about plans for the Gulf Power building on Bayfront Parkway. Verdell said they're not planning to sell it at this time, but have been talking to like-minded industries that might lease the property. President Fox thanked Verdell and said a book would be donated to a local elementary school in his name.

Paul Tobin presented a resolution recognizing the life and contributions of Paul Leonard Young (1944-2021), who was a Rotary member for 25 years and a Paul Harris Fellow before moving to Maryland to be closer to family. Scott Sallis presented the Sunshine and welcomed visitors Gay Nord, CEO of West Florida Hospital, and Jeffrey Von Stein with Pensacola Public Adjustors. He wished happy birthday to Joe Vinson before Alexa took away his Zoom connection. President Fox said we are planning to return to in-person meetings on March 23 and asked for help from any technology-savvy members who can help with offering a virtual solution. Rotarian Andrea Krieger volunteered to help but said that the Internet connection at the Yacht Club is unreliable. Using a cell phone hotspot can help, but others may need to offer their hotspots. New member orientation will take place on Zoom, Thursday, March 4 from 5-7:00 pm. President Fox reminded everyone to update any information and photos for the member directory.

Sergeant-at-arms Scott Grissett was charged by President Fox to come up with a new way (in addition to Member Moments) to highlight individual members, which he has named "Chopper" after the Helicopter. The concept is to give three little-known facts about an anonymous Rotarian and try to guess their identity. The first example: was a capable T-ball player, was an athlete at Suwanee, and appeared on NFL Hall-of-Famer Terrell Owens' reality TV show. The Rotarian in question was Scott himself, to show how easy and fun this new exercise could be.

President Fox thanked Betty Roberts for her efforts to get us in the Rotary district newsletter. Ed Wonders spoke about Rotary license plates. We need to have at least 3,000 people who will sign up for it and pay a \$30 application fee. President Fox mentioned that Ethics in Business Award nominations will open soon, and she reminded everyone that community grant applications are due on March 15. If anyone has ideas for district grants, please let the committee know about them.

Rotary has a program called Rotary Works, with the next seminar on March 10 on "essential tools for marketability." There's a Rotary app that can provide local discounts. Closing quote: "Never doubt a thoughtful group of committed citizens can change the world." Meeting adjourned at 1:02pm. Minutes submitted by Joe Vinson.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ROTARY

**WE HAVE A DATE AND A PLACE. Starting Tuesday, March 23** we will meet in person for the regular weekly meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club. Initially, we will be restricted to only 42 people attending. You will be required to RSVP each week in order to attend. The first meeting reservations will open on Saturday, March 13. and will close on Friday, March 19th. A reminder will be sent at a later date. We will be following safety measures with 4 people per table and staff serving meals cafeteria-style. And don't forget the raffle. The jackpot is up to \$1,787.

**We will continue to have On-Line Zoom Meetings every Tuesday as well.** 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

**If you have any changes that need to be updated** in the Rotary Club Membership Directory please send your information to Chris at rcopens@bellsouth no later than March 15, 2021.

**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>

**Due to the increased needs in the community, The Rotary Club of Pensacola Community Grant** application process has begun and ends on March 15. If you know of an organization that qualifies, the following is the link listing the requirements and the application.

[http://www.pensacolarotaryclub.org/page/community\\_grants/?grants](http://www.pensacolarotaryclub.org/page/community_grants/?grants)

**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.

**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 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](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 Andrews Institute	Tues.	7:00 am
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  
March 9th through March 15th

**Clark Merritt** – March 10 - born in Pensacola, FL, in Rotary 18 years

**Doug Werber** – March 13 – born in Cleveland, OH, in Rotary 14 years, Paul Harris +1

**Charlie Sherrill (Jr.)** - March 15 – born in Lawton, OK, in Rotary 27 years, Paul Harris Fellow

## Prayer/Pledge And Sunshine

### March 9

Prayer/Pledge: Henry Roberts      Sunshine: Zack Smith

### March 16

Prayer/Pledge: Howard Reddy      Sunshine: Brian Wyer

## Program Schedule

### March

9 - David Hart, Executive V. President Florida Chamber  
16 - Karen Worcester, Founder, Wreaths Across America  
23 - Amy Miller, Port of Pensacola

## What's Happening in Rotary

### March

9 - Noon On-Line Virtual Meeting  
1:00 Virtual Board Meeting  
16 - Noon On-Line Virtual Meeting  
23 - Noon Pensacola Yacht Club Regular Weekly Meeting and On-Line Virtual Meeting