

the HELICOPTER



The Rotary Club of Pensacola District 6940 Club 4248

WEEK IN REVIEW 3/30/2021

President Sally kicked off the second in person meeting with over 30 on Zoom so it was a full house. Sad news included the passing away of former member Glenn McDonald and the passing of LaVonne Agerton's husband, Archie.

Laura Gilliam led all in the prayer and pledge and you can tell that singing is something we are all rusty with.

Betty Roberts invited special guest, District Governor Jan Pooley, who mentioned a few things that are going on across the district and that the District Conference is coming up and will be held on a little over four hours away in Calloway Gardens in Georgia – she encouraged all to attend. The event is May 14-16. President Sally thanked Jan for her support to Pensacola and the Club following Hurricane Sally.

And we were off to the program: Chris Kelly introduced Chris Warner who has written a book about a place most all are familiar with --- the Flora-Bama and its proprietor, who needs no introduction, the infamous Joe Gilchrist.

Chris Warner is a Ph.D and author of several books--his most famous being a book about SEC tailgating and other SEC football folklore. And another on the HealthSouth CEO called "Wagon to Disaster" which has brought much notoriety. Chris went on to describe how he was introduced to Joe (by his brother) and why he was writing the book. Meeting Joe in 2010 in the immediate aftermath of the recession where Joe was suffering some devastating real estates losses and about to lose the Flora-Bama, Chris knew that this was a story that needed to be told about how Joe had come to acquire the bar that is an institution. Following a

statement made to Chris by Joe, "You could be a lot more useless in life" Chris, who was also going through some personal issues, began to document the beginning of the bar in the early 1960's and how Joe ended up with it. Not going into all the details, but basically the Flora-Bama was the only bar in the area from 1964-78 and became famous for its live music and eclectic performers and crowds. In a nutshell, Joe bought the bar in 1978 from the original family that started it and took it to new levels when in 1984 a ex-navy man Pat, joined as the marketing guru. The rest is history following events like the mullet toss and the skinny dipping following hurricane Fredrick in 1979. Back to 2010, Joe was able to save the bar from the creditors through new partners and adding additional properties across the street – currently it stands as premier destination on the Key. Book is available on Amazon and is a must read for all locals ...

Al Colby led Sunshine and we had a few guests which was a nice change. Ed Wonders asked all to review the newly revised bylaws which will be voted on next meeting. Any comments please let President Sally know soonest. The very lucrative 50/50 was up to \$1861 but a queen was pulled by Roger Vinson so next week the search for the Joker continues.

Ethics in business nominations are due by April 30th and please reach out to Scott Grissett for nominations for the new John Appleyard award nominations and for details on what this new award is about. President Sally thanked the Greeters and 50/50 raffle workers and the meeting was adjourned. Respectfully submitted, M. Clark Merritt.

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

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, **Chopping with a Rotarian** is for you! This is a President Sally & Rotarian Scott collaboration, **Chopping 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 **Chopping 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

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|-----------------|---|--------|----------|
| 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
April 6th through April 12th

Handsel Butts – April 8 – born in Natchez, MS, in Rotary 58 years, Paul Harris +8

Chris Kelly – April 8 – born in Landstuhl, Germany, in Rotary 11 years, Paul Harris Fellow

Barry Cole – April 8 – born in Jackson, MS, in Rotary 13 years

Cedric Durre – April 10 – born in Pensacola, in Rotary 9 years

Charles Thornton – April 11 – born in Dothan, AL in Rotary 1 year

Clif Payne – April 12 – born in Pensacola, FL, in Rotary 28 years, Paul Harris +1

Greeters and Ticket Sales

April 6

Greeters: David DelGallo & Jerry Kindle

Ticket Sales: Vicki Campbell & Charles Thornton

Prayer/Pledge And Sunshine

April 6

Prayer/Pledge: Verdel Hawkins

Sunshine: Rick Fountain

April 13

Prayer/Pledge: Adam Principe

Sunshine: Dale Jordan

Program Schedule

April

6 - Dr. Ed Meadows, Pensacola State College, Update

13 - Melissa Bode, UWF, German MBA Program

20 - Dr. KC MA, UWF Investment Group

27 - Jerry Maygarden, Term Limits

What's Happening in Rotary

April

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

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

1:00 Board Meeting

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

27 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting and On-Line Virtual Meeting Only