

# the HELICOPTER



The Rotary Club of Pensacola District 6940 Club 4248

## WEEK IN REVIEW

Rotarians and visitors were greeted with a warm smile and a firm Rotary handshake by father and son Rotarians Will Merrill and Collier Merrill on a warm Tuesday after Labor Day in beautiful downtown Pensacola. Raffle tickets were sold by Rotarians Clark Merritt and Carl Mertins.

President Stafford called the meeting to order and asked the club to join him in reciting the Four Way Test. He then called upon Rotarian Roger Vinson to lead us in prayer and then the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our great country. President David Stafford then reminded Rotarians to make their pledge to the Rotary Foundation early. He then called upon Rotarian Bromley Dyson, our club's Interact chair, to introduce two members of the Interact Club at Washington High School, Anna Steffanini (President of Interact WHS) and Sarah Morrison (Interact Member and very active with 100% attendance). With future Rotarians like these fine young women, the future of Rotary is bright!

President Stafford next called upon Rotarian Chris Klotz to introduce our guests and provide us with some sunshine. Rotarian Chris introduced our lone military guest, Master Chief Grosso. After introducing Master Chief Grosso and describing his considerable service to his country and the United States Navy, Rotarians gave Master Chief Grosso a warm round of applause for his service while Rotarian Chris presented him with the perfect gift for a Master Chief - a Downtown Rotary Club coffee mug! Rotarian Chris then recognized our birthdays and led the club in singing "Happy Birthday You all." Thereafter, President David had our speaker, Rotarian Grover Robinson, pull the winning ticket for the raffle valued at \$64 which was won by Rotarian Jerry Kindle.

President Stafford then called upon our program chair, Jerry Maygarden, to introduce today's speaker, Rotarian and Escambia

County District 4 Commissioner, Grover Robinson. Grover noted that in recent weeks, Sheriff David Morgan had spoken to the Downtown Rotary Club about the transfer of jail operations to the county, among others, and that ECUA Board member Lois Benson had also addressed our club regarding recycling and the Perdido Landfill, among others. Grover indicated his pleasure at the opportunity to address the club on these and other matters noting that good people can certainly have different opinions on topics of common interest and his hope that all would continue to work on common issues in good faith to reach the best outcome for the citizens of Escambia County.

Regarding the pending transfer of responsibility for the Escambia County Jail operations from the Sheriff of Escambia County to the Escambia County BOCC, Grover noted that when he first took office, ad valorem tax receipts in Escambia County totaled \$125 million, but for the coming year those receipts are projected at just \$96 million due to reduced millage rates and reduced revenues (from declining property values). He noted that ad valorem tax burdens fall predominantly on businesses and that the BOCC is very sensitive to the cost to business owners of tax increases. The events leading to the anticipated transfer of jail operations to the county arose when the Sheriff asked the BOCC to dramatically increase his budget by \$18 million, largely to support the jail. That figure gradually dwindled to \$7.5 million. Even at that figure, the BOCC felt it could manage the jail for substantially less than this amount. Grover noted all counties are responsible for the operating jails by statute, but under the statute counties are allowed to assign that duty to other entities. He noted that it is expected the person in charge at the jail would remain in charge after the transfer of operations to Escambia County and that the Department of Justice (DoJ) is working with

the BOCC to address issues raised in a report on the jail DoJ released earlier this year.

Grover then discussed the Perdido Landfill operated by the county and described the facility as "state of the art." While the public is typically focused on the cost of trash collection (is what is billed), the real revenue is in landfill operations and recycling. The point of collection is simply getting "product" to the landfill which is where it can be converted to revenue. He told members that the landfill is a closed cell facility with a lined pit to protect the environment. The landfill's partnership with Gulf Power recovers enough methane gas to power 1100 homes in the county and has the potential for an even greater recovery of resources. He indicated that the gas driven electrical generating facility at the landfill is the most successful venture of its kind in all of the Southern Company. He expressed disagreement over the decision of the ECUA to seek a contract with another firm to dispose of ECUA collected waste through a recycling facility elsewhere indicating that this would harm citizens of Escambia county. He expressed the hope that the dialogue could continue and that solutions to the differences between entities could be found which best protect the interests of the citizens of Escambia County. Grover was asked about the status of the BP settlement and he told us that the U.S. Treasury will be sending out some preliminary rules for distribution and utilization of BP funds which would be very useful in planning for the eventual release of fund.

After thanking all those who contributed to today's meeting, President Stafford declared our meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Lewis

## 2013-2014 Club Officers

◆ President	David Stafford
◆ Past President	Innes C. Richards
◆ President Elect	John Shaffer
◆ Secretary	Claudia Simmons
◆ Treasurer	Donn Scott
◆ Sergeant At Arms	Tim Kane
◆ Historian	John Appleyard

## Bulletin Information

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## 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.	5:30 pm
Perdido	Triggers Restaurant	Wed.	7:30 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		
Pensacola North	Asbury Place	Friday	12:00 pm
	Cokesbury Methodist		

## District Governor

**Ted Kirchharr**  
[www.rotary6940.org](http://www.rotary6940.org)

## Assistant District Governor

**Robert W. Schuster**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### Birthdays for the week of September 10th through September 16th

**Ellis Bullock** – September 11  
born in Birmingham, AL, in Rotary 37 years

**Earle Bowden** – September 12  
born in Altha, FL, in Rotary 47 years

**Charles Kahn, Jr.** – September 14  
born in San Antonio, TX, in Rotary 2 years

**Chris Pate** – September 14  
born in Macon, GA, in Rotary 33 years

**Tommy Smith** – September 16  
born in Fayetteville, NC, in Rotary 2 years

## UPCOMING SPEAKERS

### September

10 - Clerk's Office, Pam Childers  
17 - State Attorney's Office - Bill Eddins  
24 - District Governor Ted Kirchharr

## GREETERS AND TICKET SALES

### September 10

Greeters: Charles Michaels  
Ticket Sales: Robert Mills and William Mitchem

### September 17

Greeters: John Mobley and John Monroe  
Ticket Sales: Alan Moore and Calvin Moore

## PRAYER/PLEDGE AND SUNSHINE

### September 10

Prayer/Pledge: Charles Sherrill  
Sunshine: Rodger Doyle

### September 17

Prayer/Pledge: Al Stubblefield  
Sunshine: Hugh Hamilton

The Rotary Club of Pensacola  
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