

# the HELICOPTER



The Rotary Club of Pensacola District 6940 Club 4248

## WEEK IN REVIEW

It was a beautiful day in downtown Pensacola as Rotarians Julie Tippins-Parker and John Trawick greeted all Rotarians and guests to the New World Landing with warm smiles and a handshake. Raffle tickets were ably sold by Rotarians Martin Harwood and Tim Kane. Once inside, all were met by a second group of Rotarians signing up volunteers to ring the Salvation Army Bells. If you have not done so in the past, ringing the familiar Salvation Army bells is a very rewarding experience. Besides, there is only so much college football one can watch on the long Thanksgiving weekend, and ringing the bells is a great way to start the holiday season in a giving way. President Shaffer called the meeting to order and led the club in reciting the Four Way Test. President Shaffer then called upon John Trawick to offer a prayer and then to lead us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

President Shaffer next invited Scott Grissett to come to the microphone to solicit any Rotarians who may have successfully maneuvered past the Salvation Army Bell Ringing committee members without signing up for a time slot ring to please contact John Monroe (433-6581) or Scott Grissett (287-4079) to arrange a time slot for this great service which helps so many in our community. The winner of the raffle, a somewhat anemic \$40, was Marti Longworth. President Shaffer then called upon Scott Grissett for some good 'ole Rotary Sunshine and to recognize our guests of Rotarians and Rotarians with birthdays. There were no military guests today. Among notables, Rotarian John Appleyard (a/k/a "maestro") celebrates his birthday this week and has been a Rotarian for 49 years! Best wishes to all our Rotarians with birthdays and special thanks to John Appleyard for his 49 years of service above self!

President Shaffer then recognized Dr. Brendan Kelly to step the podium to introduce our speaker, Jay Patel. Jay Patel owns and operates a group of franchised hotels in the panhandle area of the Gulf

Coast. Trustee Patel received an Honorary Doctorate of Theology from the AP Clay Christian Theological College in Kenner, Louisiana. He served on the National Board of Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) that was founded by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1957. Patel was elected to serve on the National Board. Mr. Patel is co-developing, Project Green Leaf (PGL), an Electric Vehicle (EV) Pad which will be the first wireless charging infrastructure within the U.S. This wireless EV infrastructure will offer the ability to charge EV's and PHEV's (Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles) at multiple U.S. locations.

Mr. Patel started his remarks by noting that there are approximately 22,000 hotels owned by "Patels" in the United States, but he is related to very few of them! He indicated that he was a one of about one hundred founding members of the Asian American Hotel Association (AAHA) which had its origins after a independent hotel owner of Indian heritage was accused of arson and insurance fraud in south Florida. As a result, insurance companies dropped, or drastically raised insurance rates, on all independent hotel owners of Indian or Asian descent. By forming an association, the group was able to address discriminatory underwriting practices and maintain the insurance coverage necessary to operate their businesses. Mr. Patel is also a founding member of the National Black Hotel Owner's Association having been asked to take what he learned from the founding of the AAHA and assist in forming the new association. Mr. Patel pointed out that it was the Asian American Hotel Association which first spent about \$10,000 per hotel to install WIFI in its hotels. Other, nationally franchised hotels came late in adding WIFI. When those hotel brands began charging \$9.95 per night for WIFI, AAHA members began offering their WIFI as a free service to their guests.

Mr. Patel's interests have moved beyond the hotel business to Project Green Leaf. While there was an opportunity to have an electric car

manufacturer locate to northern Escambia County, Mr. Patel advised that his organization has been focused on developing technology related to electric cars and not to the manufacture of the cars themselves. The University of West Florida is a participant in a pilot program for use of electric cars where students will be able to swipe a magnetic activity card and use an electric car on campus, or within Escambia County, for free. UWF will license the activity on campus, but will not have a direct financial involvement. The program envisions the use of charging stations at various locations around the campus with each EV being equipped with GPS to monitor the use and travels of each car. Mr. Patel sees great market opportunities in all electric vehicles as financial incentives from the government and industry will make this profitable for universities and others.

In summarizing, Mr. Patel advised that the U S Department of Energy has set goals for going green and for energy savings to be met by the year 2030. We learned that electric cars offer a great way to achieve those goals. UWF and other universities have target savings that the government has set for them making this Project Green Leaf very attractive. Private sector businesses such as including convenience stores, and well known businesses such as McDonald's, Panera Bread, Starbucks and shopping malls are interested in installing charging stations to realize the benefit of customers coming to their businesses and charging their EV's while shopping or dining.

At the conclusion of his remarks, President Shaffer gave Mr. Patel some Rotary's family china and thanked him for bringing our club a very informative program. After thanking all of those who made today's meeting possible and giving special thanks to all of our club's military veterans, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeff Lewis

## ROTARY WHEELS

- ❖ A salute to President John for his addition of Veterans Day to the November 11<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda. Our club has a significant number of vets from several conflicts.
- ❖ Thanks go out to Bob Hart for his making the Walmart store a place for our Salvation Army Bell Ringers.
- ❖ Didjknow that Leanne Todd's Junior Achievement now has a Hall of Fame, recognizing some who have been close to the program?
- ❖ UWF is starting up basketball season, according to Judy Bense. That and half-a-dozen other sports keep rolling along. (Plan to go to a game or two.)
- ❖ A word about Thanksgiving: Back in 1917 the club had a celebration at Hughey's Restaurant on Palafox. The complete dinner cost 50 cents.

## 2014-2015 Club Officers

◆ President	John Shaffer
◆ Past President	David Stafford
◆ President Elect	Andrea Krieger
◆ 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

Dave Rauch  
[www.rotary6940.org](http://www.rotary6940.org)

## Assistant District Governor

Robert W. Schuster

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthdays for the week of  
November 18th through November 24th

*Ephimios, Issa* – November 22 – born in Egypt, in Rotary 10 years

*Skip Furlong* - November 23 – born in Muskogee, OK, in Rotary 28 years

*Bill Elebash* - November 24 – born in Pensacola, FL, in Rotary 23 years

## CENTENNIAL CLUB MEMBERS

Frank Beall, Bo Carter, Vince Currie, Earl Hutto, C. Ray Jones,  
Andrea Krieger, Susan O'Connor, Henry Roberts, Grover Robinson,  
John Shaffer, Margaret Stopp, Roger Vinson

## UPCOMING SPEAKERS

### November

18 - Historic Pensacola Village, Sheyna Marcey  
25 - Es Cty Schools Transportation, Rob Doss

### December

2 - Veterans Resource Center, Marc Churchwell  
9 - One Blood, Betty Roberts  
16 - Christmas Program  
23 - No Meeting  
30 - No Meeting

## GREETERS AND TICKET SALES

### November 18

Greeters: Chris Pate and Beverly Patteson  
Ticket Sales: Clif Payne and Jorge Pelaez

### November 25

Greeters: Charles Perkins and Betty Gail Peters  
Ticket Sales: John Phelps and William Phillips

## PRAYER & PLEDGE/SUNSHINE

### November 18

Prayer/Pledge: Pete Doyle  
Sunshine: Frank Beall

### November 25

Prayer and Pledge: Henry Roberts  
Sunshine: Scott Grissett

The Rotary Club of Pensacola  
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