

# the HELICOPTER



The Rotary Club of Pensacola District 6940 Club 4248

## WEEK IN REVIEW 07/14/2020

The July 14 Zoom meeting of the Rotary Club of Pensacola was called to order by President Sally Fox at 12:02pm. Rev. Frank Beall led the prayer and pledge for the assembled Rotarians (54 participants, including one guest). President Fox reminded attendees to mute their microphones except when asking a question. She announced that Zoom meetings would continue for the foreseeable future. If anyone is not receiving the weekly Zoom invitations, or hears that another member is not, please let her know.

Chris Kelly, program chair, introduced the guest speaker, Pensacola Police Department Chief Tommi Lyter, who joined the PPD in August 1990, was promoted through the ranks, and named chief of police in May 2017. He attended Pensacola State College and Troy State University, receiving a master's degree in public administration, and graduated from the FBI National Academy in 2013.

Chief Lyter's presentation was on the topic of police reform, a subject of increased interest since the May 25 killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers. According to Lyter, "We have got to embrace police reform. It's been a long time coming." He said that the murder of George Floyd by the Minneapolis officer was "very hard to watch" and might have been avoided if common sense reforms had been implemented—like a ban on chokeholds, de-escalation mandates, duty of intervene, etc. The Pensacola Police Department has implemented all of the "8 Can't Wait" recommendations and was one of the first agencies in Florida to embrace body cameras. He sees the new Citizens Advisory Committee as a positive thing, and it's actually the third such board during his career. He said, "I'm not so naïve as to believe racism doesn't exist in law enforcement," but he thinks race is not the only factor. In Pensacola, TSDR tracking data suggests to him that Black people are not disproportionately targeted, but because there is no national use-of-force database, "I can't speak for other departments." The FBI only started requesting standardized data from agencies in February 2020, and it's voluntary.

The current environment has made it very hard to recruit police officers, especially to meet diversity goals, and many officers experience "burnout" after 5-6 years and leave the force to start a new career. It's a very high-stress job, with the PPD receiving 300 service calls per day, and an officer might have multiple traumatic encounters in a single day. One initiative he's very proud of is an "officer wellness program" focused on mental health. He said it's also been a

challenge to offer competitive pay, but Mayor Robinson has been working on changing that.

In closing, Chief Lyter implored Rotarians, "If you see one of my officers, especially if they're young, tell them you appreciate them." Program chair Chris thanked Chief Lyter for his time and announced that the speaker for next week's program would be UWF football coach Pete Shinnick.

Rotarian Charles Beall was responsible for the week's Sunshine. He noted that many college football programs are pessimistic about the outlook for a fall football season, joking that FSU would not be affected because they haven't had a serious football program for years. He also noted that the Washington NFL team finally decided to change its name because so many people find the name "Washington" offensive.

President Fox welcomed the only guest, Bob Perkins. Rotarian Collier Merrill introduced our newest member, Robert Stephens, who is headmaster of Episcopal Day School. Stephens was hired two years ago after a national search. "He's unconventional in some ways but has been perfect for the school and will be a perfect addition to Rotary," Merrill said. Robert thanked Collier and the Rotary members and discussed his experiences in Pensacola and during the pandemic. "Even the angry people in Pensacola FL are nice and courteous," he said. He noted that teachers, like police officers, have a hard job that has gotten harder over the last 5 months.

President Fox reminded everyone that July 23 at 10am will be the first virtual coffee networking event. She introduced new committee chairs, but said we still need a military/law enforcement chair. The first board meeting of the year will take place on June 21. She announced that Rotarian John Appleyard's wife Eleanor recently passed away and encouraged Rotarians to send their condolences. There is a Rotary Rewards app has all sorts of discounts for Rotary members, or you can add your local business to the app. She asked Rotarians to bring any community concerns to her attention, because after all, "We're all about do-goodery."

President Fox closed the meeting with a quote from Winston Churchill: "Healthy citizens are the greatest asset any country can have." The meeting was adjourned at 12:55. Submitted by Joe Vinson.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ROTARY

On-Line Zoom Meetings every Tuesday at noon. You will receive your invitation to join the meetings on Monday's. The meetings can be accessed with your computer, tablet or your smart phone. If you have any questions please feel free to give me a call. 850-619-0679. Chris

Our first Rotary Club Coffee Break will be this coming Thursday, July 23 at 10:00am. Watch for your Zoom invitation on Wednesday. Hope to see you there.

As many of you already know Mrs. Appleyard passed away last week. If you would like to send a card or a note to John and his family I'm sure it would lift his spirits in his time of grief. His address is 741 Gerhardt Drive, Pensacola, FL. 32503.

## 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	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 <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>

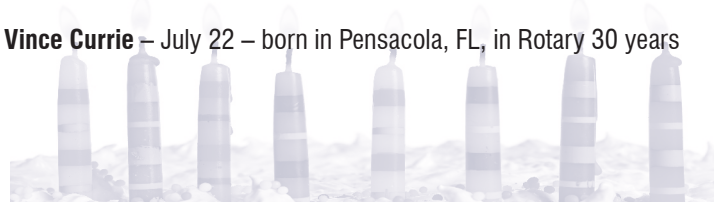
## Assistant District Governor

Daniel J. Sulger

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthdays for the week of  
July 14th through July 20th

**Vince Currie** – July 22 – born in Pensacola, FL, in Rotary 30 years



## Prayer/Pledge And Sunshine

### July 21

Prayer/Pledge - LaVonne Agerton      Sunshine - Alexis Bolin

### July 28

Prayer/Pledge - Ted Brown      Sunshine - Vicki Campbell

## Program Schedule

### July

21 - Coach Pete Shinnick, UWF Football  
28 - Martha Saunders, UWF, President

## What's Happening in Rotary

### July - New Leadership Month

21 - Noon On Line Virtual Meeting  
1:00pm On Line Virtual Board of Directors Meeting  
23 - 10:00am Virtual Coffee Break with President Sally  
28 - Noon On Line Virtual Meeting

The Rotary Club of Pensacola  
P. O. Box 528  
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