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The Rotary Fountain, Downtown Beaumont

Photo by Mark Low Imagery



Photo by Steve Buser

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Dave Morrow



Dave Morrow has been a financial advisor for the past eleven years, most of that time with UBS PaineWebber. Born in Dayton, Ohio, he is a graduate of the

University of Minnesota with an emphasis in economics.

For the past seven years, Dave has hosted a radio show on KLVI every Saturday morning called Moneytalk.

A resident of Beaumont for the past fourteen years, he is married and has three children. He currently serves as President of School Board, Diocese of Beaumont Catholic Schools.

Head Table



INVOCATION
 EMILY COMPTON,
 GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF SOUTHEAST
 TEXAS AND SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA

PLEDGE

ELAINE SHELLENBERGER,
 NUTRITION & SERVICES FOR SENIORS



4-WAY TEST
 LARRY BROCK,
 EVERETT BROCK ENTERPRISES

GUEST INTRODUCTION
 JEFF NOBLE,
 BEAUMONT ENTERPRISE



SPEAKER INTRODUCTION
 JIM RICH,
 BEAUMONT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

From the Chef: Deli Day

Bell Ringers



If you plan to make a donation to the Salvation Army this season, please bring your check or money to this week's meeting. Salvation Army Board Members **Bill Benning, Margaret**

Cherb, Phil Dunlap, Lupe Flores, Captain Dan Ford, Dohn LaBiche, Floyd McSpadden, Jerry Nathan, Peg Towers, and David White will be "ringing the bell" before and after the meeting.

Also, please remember to bring your toy donations to the Holiday Party on December 17th. The toys will be given to the Salvation Army for distribution.



United Way
 of Beaumont & North Jefferson County

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**Pre-Meeting Mixer
 Hosted by Ron Baumer
 and Beaumont
 Travel Consultants
 Wednesday, December 11th
 11:00 - noon**

**Holiday Party
 Tuesday, December 17th
 11:30-1:30
 Beaumont Country Club
 \$25 per person**

**ROTARY CLUB OF BEAUMONT
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BEAUMONT ROTARY FOUNDATION, INC.

Harland Merriam, President
Roger McCabe
Azim Keramati
Eric Meadows
Peg Towers
Michael Wolf

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Office Hours: Weekdays 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
409-842-1913 • Fax: 409-842-5613
rotarybmt1@yahoo.com
Meets Wednesdays at Noon
Beaumont Hilton • International Ballroom
2355 IH-10 South • Beaumont, Texas

Future Programs

December

17th Holiday Party
25th No meeting

January

1st No meeting
8th Pending
15th Oliver Luck
22nd Congressman Kevin Brady

Makeups

Monday:

No. Port Arthur.....Holiday Inn Hwy 69
Vidor.....Hibernia National Bank

Tuesday:

Spindletop.....Holiday Inn 11th St.
Orange.....Sunset Grove
Port Neches.....Pompano Club

Wednesday:

Groves.....Pompano Club

Thursday:

Port Arthur.....Holiday Inn Hwy 69

Friday:

Nederland.....Garden Tea Room

Program Review



Rotarians line up for additional information following Dr. David Teuscher's program.

Rotary had a great speaker with an interesting topic this past week. David Teuscher M.D. spoke about the medical malpractice crisis in America. Texas, in particular, has the unfortunate distinction of being one of the ten most expensive states in which to purchase medical malpractice insurance. Another factor making the malpractice problem even worse for our community is that Jefferson County was chosen as one of 13 "Hell Holes" in our State. Five years ago there were over 15 insurance companies providing medical malpractice insurance in Texas. Today there are only five.

On average, medical malpractice premiums have increased 400% in five years. This rise in premiums was not due to an increase in the frequency of claims. In

fact, 8 out of 10 claims are dropped (after physicians spend, on average, \$25,000 defending themselves). The main factor causing the increase in premiums is the severity of the claims. The average claim award has doubled over the last five years. Most of the increase in the size of the awards has been in the "non-economic" area. Non-economic damages include pain and suffering, mental anguish, and loss of consortium. In ten years, the portion of the awards attributable to "non-economic damages" has grown from 36% of the award to 66% of the award.

One solution to this problem would be to implement tort reforms similar to those now in place in California. These reforms include: 1) a cap of \$250,000 for non-economic damages, 2) plaintiffs can only recover from one source, and 3) attorney contingency fees are limited to \$200,000 of the first \$1,000,000 awarded. It is important to note that there would be no cap on economic damages such as loss of wages, etc.

According to Dr. Teuscher, these reforms should help keep trauma centers open and allow doctors to stay in the "high risk" professions that all of our communities need.



Pictured above are this year's recipients of Vocational Excellence Awards. Left to right: Bill Leger nominated by **Gene Hughes**, Evelyn Lord nominated by **Jolene Ortego**, Brenda Clairday nominated by **Maurine Gray**, Julia Hardy nominated by **President Harland Merriam**, Stanley Nobles nominated by **Paula O'Neal**, Steve Pieper nominated by **Terry Bourdier**, Harry Fuselier nominated by **Ken Dollinger** and Alexine Boutin nominated by **Maurine Gray**. Not pictured is Mike Feagin nominated by **Maurine Gray**.



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Newly Elected Board Members

Congratulations to **Danny Babineaux**, **Travis Brewer**, **Jim Broussard**, **Jr.** and **Becky Mason**, elected last week to serve three-year terms on the Board of Directors. They will be sworn into office next July.

We wish to thank the Nominating Committee for selecting such a strong slate of candidates and all the candidates for agreeing to stand for office.



The Rotary Club of Beaumont
invites you to a
Reception before the Game

Lamar University Cardinals
vs.
Southeastern Louisiana Lions

Saturday, January 4, 2003 6:00 - 7:00 pm
Cardinal Club Room - Montagne Center

Gerald Condon, **Mark McKinnon** and new member **Pat Anderson** have been manning the table signing up Rotarians for the Reception and Lamar University Basketball Game on Saturday evening, January 4th in the Cardinal Club Room of the Montagne Center. The Cardinals will be hosting the Southeastern Louisiana Lions. Tickets are \$15 (\$12 for season ticket holders) and include game admission, parking and a Mexican buffet. A cash bar will also be available.

Camille Mouton reminds Lamar Rotarians that they must have a ticket to attend the Reception. Thanks, too, to **Camille** for providing the Cardinal banner and the Lamar t-shirts that **Gerald** has been giving away at the meetings.

Gerald, **Mark** and **Pat** have already sold more than 40 tickets, so we should have a good group of Rotarians cheering on the Cardinals.

Please bring your family and join us for a great evening!

Holiday Party

Make your plans now to attend our Holiday Party on **Tuesday, December 17th** from 11:30 to 1:30 at the Beaumont Country Club, by reservation only.

Our thanks go to **Becky** and **Chuck Mason** who have been finalizing the plans. The **Rotary Chorus** will be well-practiced and in fine voice, and will be joined by **Galen Wixson** and **Earl Hines'** talented wife Betsy to present the entertainment.

We will feast on sirloin of beef, garlic mashed potatoes, mixed salad, and fresh vegetables. For dessert, the BCC special - pecan ice cream ball with chocolate sauce!

All this for only \$25 per person.

Please make reservations for yourself and your spouse, friends and family. Sign up outside the ballroom December 11th, call (842-1913), fax (842-5613) or e-mail (rotarybmt1@yahoo.com) the Rotary office to reserve your tickets now.

Once again, we will collect new, unwrapped toys to be distributed by the Salvation Army.

Rotary Chorus

If you enjoy singing, please join the Rotary Chorus in rehearsal for the Holiday Party on the next two Monday evenings, December 9th and 16th from 6:00 to 7:00 in the Choir Room of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 1350 North 23rd Street.

Becky Mason reports, "Josh Zona, Symphony of Southeast Texas assistant conductor, will direct us. But don't worry - our reputation precedes us. He's not expecting anything other than people who enjoy singing for the fun of it. No musical talent required!"

Please join us...the more the merrier! It's a great opportunity for new members to get to know other Rotarians and it counts as a make up!!!

Birthdays



3rd Regina Lindsey (01) Executive Director, Southeast Texas Arts Council. Born in Lufkin, she is a graduate of Lamar University. Regina and her husband Tracy are the parents of Kayla and Krista. Regina enjoys backpacking, rock climbing, reading and historical research.



13th Henry Strait (88) President, Southeast Texas Water Conditioning. Born in Russellville, Kentucky, he is a graduate of Lamar University. Henry and his wife Fran are the parents of Harvey, April and Matthew, and are members of St. Anthony Cathedral. Henry enjoys flying and baseball.



16th James Mann (56) Retired President, Gulf Supply. Born in Monroe, Louisiana, he is a graduate of the University of Texas. James and his wife Sue are the parents of Stephen, and are members of Trinity United Methodist Church. He enjoys golf, hunting, fishing, and writing. James is a Paul Harris Fellow.

*You are invited to a
Rotary New Member Event*

*Thursday, Dec. 12
7:00 - 8:00 a.m.*

*Southeast Texas Food Bank
3845 Martin Luther King Parkway
Beaumont*

*Stop by for coffee and pastries
on your way to work, and
meet some of your fellow Rotarians.*

*In the spirit of the season,
you are encouraged to bring
a donation of non-perishable food.*

*RSVP to the Rotary Office
by Wednesday, Dec. 11*

*Board hosts:
Gary Rothenberger and Jeff Beaver*

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