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The Rotary Fountain, Downtown Beaumont

Photo by Mark Low Imagery



Photo by Steve Buser

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## Oliver Luck, CEO, Harris County-Houston Sports Authority



Oliver Luck was sworn in as the Chief Executive Officer of the Harris County - Houston Sports Authority on December 3, 2001. In this role, he oversees the daily operations of the administrative office, public/media relations, marketing, and outreach program initiatives for the Authority.

A record-setting quarterback at West Virginia, Luck was selected in the second round of the 1981 NFL Draft by the Houston Oilers and went on to play five seasons with the club. He earned a B.A. Degree in 1982 from West Virginia University, graduating with highest honor. He received a J.D. in 1987 from the Uni-

versity of Texas School of Law, graduating with honors (Order of the Coif).

Before joining the Authority, Luck served as Founder and President of The Luck Group, LLC, with offices in Austin, Texas and Arlington, Virginia, and its mission was to serve clients in the area of international expansion and team services. Their client list included UFA Sports, a large sports marketing and rights acquisition company based in Europe, The Arena Football League, WUSA and Verizon.

Luck's career includes nearly a decade of sports related experience. Before joining the Authority, he was Vice President of Business Development for NFL Enterprises (11/99 to 3/01) and

President and Chief Executive Officer, NFL Europe (7/95 to 10/99) where he served as Advisor to the Senior Executives and was Senior Executive in charge of the organization bringing American Football to Europe. He improved bottom-line financial results by over 300% between 1995-1999, including doubling gate receipts, tripling TV revenue and quadrupling post-season revenue.

He is married to the former Kathy Wilson and they have four children: Andrew, Mary Ellen, Emily and Addison. In addition to his professional pursuits, Luck is actively involved as a coach for youth sports.

From the chef: Deli Day

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### PRE-MEETING MIXER

Wednesday, January 15<sup>TH</sup> -11:00 - Noon

Hosted by Azim Keramati's VFR, Inc.:  
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## District 5910 Mid Year Meeting

The Rotary Club of Cleveland hosted District 5910's Mid Year Meeting on Saturday, January 4th. Attending from our Club were **Alex Broussard**, **Lee Free-land**, **Azim Keramati**, **Chuck Mason** and **Alexine**.

Noel Bajat of Abbeville, Louisiana, Zone 26 Chairman for Polio Eradication addressed the group at large about Rotary's commitment to worldwide eradication by 2005.

**Azim** attended the Presidents-Elect Workshop led by District Governor-Elect Hugh Summers assisted by current Assistant District Governors including **Chuck** to get acquainted, discuss goals, expectations and the Presidents-Elect Training Session (PETS) to be held this spring.

**Alex, Lee** and **Alexine** attended the Presidents Workshop led by District Governor Charda Bronough to review the last six months and plan the next six months of the Rotary year.

We heard presentations about the following programs:

Ambassadorial Scholarships - we received the application and learned that the submission deadline is April 1st.

Rotary Centennial Community Project (registration deadline July 1st) -

1. Must fulfill a clearly identifiable community need.
2. Provide a solution that has measurable results.
3. Involve the active participation of Rotarians
4. Create a permanent sign or inscription at the project site that identifies the sponsoring Rotary Club and Rotary's Centennial Year

Deadline for project completion is February 2005

Roll of Fame nominations (must be submitted by March 1st)

Rotary International Permanent Fund

## Birthdays



**16th Bill Tyrrell, Jr.** (48) Retired. A Beaumont native, he is a graduate of the University of Iowa and the University of Colorado. Bill has two daughters Jeanne and Lynne, and is a member of First United Methodist Church. He enjoys playing golf and hunting. Bill is a Paul Harris Fellow.



**17th Kathleen Jackson** (97) Public Affairs Manager, Exxon Mobil Corporation. Born in Pensacola, Florida, she is a graduate of North Carolina State University. Kathleen and her husband Tom are the parents of Tommy, Kit and Thea, and are members of Amelia Baptist Church.



**17th Bill McNinch** (89) Chairman of the Board, Community Bank & Trust. Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, he is a graduate of North Carolina State University and Emory University. Bill is the father of Scott, Matt and Cory. He enjoys hunting and bike riding.

Community Action Grants and Matching Grants available from the Rotary Foundation

Presidential Citation guidelines

District Award requirements

Group Study Exchange (**Lee** addressed the Presidents as Chair of the Hosting Committee)

Noel Bajat stood in for Dr. James Shamblin of Shreveport, Louisiana, Rotary International Vice President, as the keynote speaker after lunch.

The Galveston delegation made a presentation about the District Conference to be held at the Moody Gardens Hotel, May 2nd - 4th. Contact **Alexine** for information and registration packets.



**21st Lum Edwards, Jr.** (57) President, J.S. Edwards & Sherlock Insurance. A Beaumont native, he is a graduate of the University of Texas. Lum and his wife Mary are members of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. He enjoys playing golf and tennis. Lum is a Paul Harris Fellow.



**21st Mark Low** (99) Owner, Mark Low Imagery, Photography. A Beaumont native, he attended Lamar University and Stephen F. Austin State University. Mark and his wife Allison are members of Trinity United Methodist Church. He enjoys the outdoors, hiking, boating, 4-wheeling, and fishing, and is working on a book about his travels.



**21st Mary Ellen Robertson** (93) Owner, Mary Ellen Robertson, CPA. A Beaumont native, she is a graduate of Lamar University. Mary Ellen and her husband Denny are the parents of Annie, Erin and Jody, and are members of Trinity United Methodist Church. She enjoys shopping for antiques, reading, sewing and skiing.

## Sunshine Committee

The Sunshine Committee cares for members during personal crises, including sickness and death of family members. This may be by way of personal phone call, greeting cards, or flowers.

If you know of a fellow Rotarian who needs our attention, please notify the Sunshine Committee Leader **Tom Lamb, Jr.** (835-7658 or [tklamb@aol.com](mailto:tklamb@aol.com)), Co-Leader **Mary Parmer** (899-4392 or [parmfost@ih2000.net](mailto:parmfost@ih2000.net)) or **Alexine** at the Rotary Office (842-1913 or [rotarybmt1@yahoo.com](mailto:rotarybmt1@yahoo.com)).

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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  
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**Future Programs**

**January**

22<sup>nd</sup> Congressman Kevin Brady  
29<sup>th</sup> Ken Hoagland

**February**

5<sup>th</sup> Stephen Reap  
12<sup>th</sup> Better Business Bureau  
19<sup>th</sup> Representative Allan Ritter  
26<sup>th</sup> Rotary Goes to School

**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**

Dan Lambe educated our Club about Texas Watch, a consumer research and advocacy organization. The primary goal of the group is to get consumers involved in legislative issues. Dan said the only way to solve the problems is by finding common solutions. His organization targets insurance issues and consumer law issues as well as monitoring the Texas Supreme Court.

Texas Watch is concentrating on Property & Casualty and Medical Malpractice insurance reform. Dan said consumers have brought the tremendous hike in Homeowner insurance premiums to the front burner. The challenge is to make real reforms pass the legislature.

Because of a loophole in the rate making process, only 5% of current homeowner policies are regulated by the State Insurance Commissioner. The remaining 95% of homeowner policies are written by unregulated (Lloyd's) companies. If homeowner policies were once again written with regulated

insurance carriers, Jefferson County homeowners would see a 47% drop in rates. Texas Watch is pushing for 100% rate protection so rates are reasonable and justified.

Medical Malpractice is another source of high insurance pricing. Dan said there is a need to increase oversight over rates and force insurance companies to justify premiums they are charging.

Insurance Reform, Medical Reform and Legal Reform are all needed to "fix" the medical malpractice problems. Dan suggested weeding out bad doctors and repeat offenders and that the medical community was looking like a "Medical Enron" as it appears information is being hidden from the public.

Frivolous lawsuits are another problem. There is a need to streamline the system so the public is aware of what is being paid out and how many cases are filed.

He stressed that the public must get involved and let their legislators know their views.

**Board Action**

**President Harland Merriam** announced the following actions approved by the Board on December 11th:



**2004-05 President-Elect:  
Maurine Gray**  
Director of Community Services  
City of Beaumont

**Proposed New Members:**

Unless written objections to the Board of Directors are received by Friday, January 24th, the candidates listed below will be considered elected to membership.

Kari Dolan, Program Director  
"I Have a Dream" Program  
Proposed by Carolyn Howard  
"Assns - I Have a Dream"

Carolyn Johnson, Manager  
Jefferson Theatre

**Pre-Meeting Mixer**

**Azim Keramati** and his company VFR, Inc. will be hosting the Pre-Meeting Mixer this week from 11:00 until noon. Please plan to come a bit early and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea, light refreshments and fellowship with your fellow Rotarians.

**Members in the News**

**Jim Broussard** is the new Board Chairman for the Better Business Bureau of Southeast Texas.

Proposed by Arthur Berry  
"Assns - Jefferson Theatre"

David Teuscher, M.D., Shareholder  
Beaumont Bone & Joint Institute  
Proposed by Lauren Brooks  
"Medicine - Orthopedic"



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