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The Rotary Fountain, Downtown Beaumont

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ALLAN RITTER - State Representative - District 21



Allan Ritter is a member of the Texas House of Representatives from District 21, in the western part of Jefferson County (includes portions or all of Beaumont, Port Arthur, Nederland, Port Neches, Groves, Nome, China, Hamshire-Fannett, and other incorporated areas).

In 1999, as a first-term representative, Ritter was elected "Freshman of the Year" by his House colleagues in a bipartisan vote. He is chairman of the House Committee on Pensions and Investments and is a member of the influential Ways and Means Committee.

Ritter has already proven to be an active state lawmaker, passing legislation in areas ranging from criminal justice and tax policy to economic development and higher education. He worked tirelessly his first two terms to secure an appropriations increase for the Lamar campuses. As a member of the Corrections Committee, he passed bills that protect crime victims and ensure that violent offenders remain behind bars. He also sponsored legislation which requires the TNRCC to adopt rules regarding tax exemptions for pollution control property, and he authored a bill to create the Jefferson County Waterway and Navigation District. And as a member of the Ways

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Head Table



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 SENIOR PASTOR,
 CALDER BAPTIST CHURCH

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 VICE PRESIDENT,
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Future Programs

June
25th UT Chancellor Mark Yudof
July
2nd Installation of Officers & Board
9th Beaumont Main Street

Makeups

Monday:
No. Port ArthurHoliday 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

If the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determines that our area is "severely" out of compliance with air quality standards, the effects will be dramatic, Ralph Marquez told our club Wednesday.

Marquez, a Commissioner of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, indicated that the change in our EPA status is likely to occur later this year, although it is possible that we will only be bumped up one notch, to serious, rather than two notches, to severe.

Commissioner Marquez told us that, if the severe designation is made, the state would have 120 days to reconcile any disagreement and, if the new status sticks, two changes would occur immediately.

First, we would automatically have to use reformulated gasoline in our cars and trucks, he said. Second, new plants and businesses would have their maximum allowable air emissions reduced from 100 tons to 25 tons. If the new status was only "serious", the tonnage would be reduced to 50.

At the same time as this process is going on, the standard for measuring air pollution is changing from a one-hour standard to an eight-hour one, i.e. the average pollution is measured over a longer period, Marquez said.

"There is no question that the eight hour standard is more protective of human health," he told us, adding that there is some question as to how best to transition to the new measurement.

Texas officials had convinced the EPA that our area should be cut some slack in meeting air quality deadlines because of the negative effect Houston has on Southeast Texas.

However, Commissioner Marquez said, the courts knocked out the easing of the deadline from 2005 to 2007 because, the courts ruled, the EPA

lacked the authority to make that change.

The Commissioner compared the changing guidelines with playing a game where the rules are being made up as you go along and no one knows how to keep score.

For those of us who like to drive 70 miles per hour, our speaker had some good news. The Texas Legislature has prohibited the Texas Department of Transportation from lowering speed limits for environmental reasons.

Commissioner Marquez also said he doubted that a result of a "severe" designation would be the expansion of vehicle inspections to include air quality emissions testing. He said he believes there is an exception available for our area.

Nevertheless, such programs are now in effect in Houston, Dallas and surrounding counties with no problem whatsoever, he told us. "This is a small price to pay for clean air," he said.

Marquez emphasized that the state is not "backing down" on clean air standards and, indeed, funding in the 2003 legislative session for the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission was close to what the agency requested.

The Commissioner was introduced by Carl Griffith, the County Judge of Jefferson County, who called Ralph Marquez a great friend of our area.

In response, Marquez predicted that Judge Griffith will be an elected official for as long as he lives.

Editor's Notes

It was good to have **Jerry White** back in the audience, returning from Brisbane where he attended the Rotary International Convention with **Becky** and **Chuck Mason** who are still traveling.

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Birthdays

18th Ralph Martin (99)
President,
Grace Communications



Born in Port Arthur, he is a graduate of Lamar and the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminar. He and his wife Charlotte are the parents of Shaun, Shane, Steve, Stacey, Selena and Sharla, and are members of Memorial Christian Church. He enjoys playing golf.

19th Rick Barrilleaux (02)
Director of Economic Development,
Beaumont Chamber of Commerce



Born in Port Arthur, he is a graduate of Upper Iowa University. He and his wife Vicki are the parents of Drue and Clayton, and are members of St. Charles Catholic Church. He enjoys playing golf.

19th Alex Broussard (54)
Chairman of the Board,
Broussard's Mortuary



A Beaumont native, he is a graduate of Texas A&M. He and his wife Marie are the parents of Dale, Tom, David and Marian, and are members of St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church. Alex is a Paul Harris Fellow.

20th Roger McCabe (81)
Shareholder,
Mehaffy & Weber



Born in Taylorville, Illinois, he is a graduate of Marquette University and the University of Iowa. He and his wife Sharon are the parents of Danny, Michael and Jonathan, and are members of St. Anne's Catholic Church. He enjoys hunting, water sports and travel. Roger is a Paul Harris Fellow.

This Week's Program

(Continued from page 1)
and Means Committee, he passed a bill to allow Jefferson County to raise money to promote the tourism in Southeast Texas.

A Beaumont native, he graduated from Forest Park High School (now Westbrook) in 1972. He is president of Ritter Lumber Company, his family's 55 year-old business, and serves on the board of Allied Building Stores, a wholesale building supplies company.

He is currently an ex-officio board member of Mid and South Jefferson County Crimestoppers and Communities In Schools, and is a trustee for the Nederland Senior Citizens Trust Fund Board. He has served as the director of the Texas Construction Industry Council, and is a member of the Coastal Conservation Association, the Texas and Southwest Cattlemen's Association, and the Young Men's Business League. He is a former trustee of the Lumbermen's Association of Texas political action committee and former chair of the association's legislative committee. He has participated in the Governor's Council of Small Business.

He was named Small Businessman of the Year by the Nederland Chamber of Commerce in 1997, and in 2001, was named "Mr. Nederland" in recognition of his service to the city. He is a recipient of the Julie Rogers Special Service Award from the Jefferson County Mental Health Association. In 1999, he was honored by the Association of Texas Professional Educators for his commitment to public education, and was given special recognition from the Texas Classroom Teachers Association for his work on behalf of Texas teachers during the 76th Legislative Session. He was recently appointed by Speaker Pete Laney to serve on the Fiscal Affairs Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Members of First Baptist Church, Nederland, he and his wife Peggy have four children - Will, Peyton, Anney, and Whitney and one grandchild - Abbey.

In Memorium

Ade Majiyagbe, wife of RI President-elect Jonathan Majiyagbe, died on 6 June 2003 in England, having suffered a stroke a few weeks earlier. Known and loved throughout the Rotary world for her warmth, good humor, and dedication to Rotary, Ade was very active in Inner Wheel in her homeland of Nigeria and served on the organization's international board of directors.

An insurance claims adjuster by profession, she also sang in her church choir and enjoyed sewing and fashion design. She is also survived by her son, John.

Ade Majiyagbe was a familiar presence with her husband at RI conventions, the International Assembly, and other meetings. Leading the spouses' session at the 2003 International Assembly, she reinforced her husband's message of addressing the world's most pressing problems, saying: "As privileged people and spouses of Rotarians who are known for humanitarian services, we must team up to give back to society what society gave us. We must *Lend a Hand* in helping to clothe the naked; *Lend a Hand* in feeding the poor; *Lend a Hand* in healing the sick; *Lend a Hand* in caring for the aged and comforting the bereaved."

"Together with her husband, Ade Majiyagbe served and represented Rotary with devotion and faith," said Gay Maloney, who served as her aide during the 2002-03 Rotary year. "Most of all, I witnessed her commitment to serve those less fortunate throughout the world. Because of her beautiful spirit and selfless nature, she inspired me and all others who had the privilege of knowing her."

Rotarians may send condolences to President-elect Majiyagbe in care of the President's Office at RI World Headquarters. Memorial contributions in honor of Ade Majiyagbe can be made to "Ade's Hope Fund for the Education of Women and Children" c/o The Rotary Foundation, P.O. Box 75133, Chicago, IL 60675-5133 USA.

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