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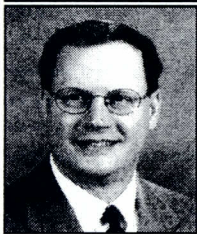
The Rotary Fountain, Downtown Beaumont

Photo by Mark Low Imagery



Photo by Steve Buser

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Our speaker this week will be Chris Fisher, the Executive Port Director of the Port of Beaumont. Most recent statistics place the Port of Beaumont as the sixth busiest U.S. seaport in total

foreign trade. The Port of Beaumont is projecting a record year in revenue tonnage as well as revenue.

Fisher, 40, joined the Port of Beaumont in 1981. After serving four months as Interim Port Director, Fisher was appointed as the Executive Port Director on May 20, 2002.

As Manager of Administration from 1999 until May 2002, Fisher supervised capital construction projects under two major port expansion programs. He also super-

vised accounting and management information systems and coordinated a \$27 million general obligation bond election.

In 2001, Fisher was appointed Secretary-Treasurer of the Foreign Trade Zone of Southeast Texas.

A native and lifelong resident of Southeast Texas and a Lamar University graduate, Fisher and his wife, Melissa, reside in Beaumont.

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From the chef: Spaghetti with meat sauce

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the Rotary office
by Friday, September 5th to be included



New Members

Please join us in welcoming two new members who joined our club last week:



Scott Hall,
 Manager of Engineering & Development,
 Lower Neches Valley Authority,
 Proposed by Roger McCabe
 "Civil Engineering"

A Beaumont native, he is a graduate of Texas Tech University. He and his wife Melanie are the parents of Caroline, Abby, Jack and Sam, and are members of Trinity United Methodist Church. His interests and hobbies are "presently children, children, children", and playing golf, camping, hiking, fishing and hunting.



Gary Linthicum,
 Partner,
 Wells, Peyton, Greenberg & Hunt,
 "Law - Litigation"
 Proposed by John Quigley

Born in Port Arthur, he is a graduate of Lamar University and South Texas College of Law. He and his wife Rachel are the parents of Travis and Shannon, and are members of St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church. He enjoys being involved in youth athletics including coaching soccer and basketball.

Gary celebrated a birthday on August 31st so he just missed being included on the birthday list in a recent issue.

Welcome to the Rotary Club of Beaumont!

Program Review

Sen. Tommy Williams - August 20th

To set the stage for his remarks, we were reminded that Senator Williams has a degree in accounting from AggieLand, is a CPA, with one son at UT, all of which earned whistles from the audience.

In his view, the Big Story of the 78th session was the budget. He reminded us that sales tax revenues drive the Texas biennial budget in the range of \$115 - \$117 billion. According to Williams, Texans cannot "tax our way into prosperity" and believes that this current downturn is temporary.

He highlighted three issues of local interest to Beaumont, including:

Access to affordable health care (SB 541) which particularly benefits small business owners with "a consumer choice" for a "mandates light" alternative;

Junior Water Rights - our Senatorial delegation in SETX worked closely with TNRCC Committee Chair and Lt. Gov. to continue protecting one of SETX most valuable natural resources;

Prop 12 - believes that passage of this proposition can have a major impact on the economic environment in SETX.

Regarding special sessions, the Senator was unhesitating in his belief that "elected legislators" should "be there" to conduct the business of their constituents.

Without a doubt, Texans are participating in another chapter of unique Texas history...something to share with our grandkids in the future. The program was arranged by **Bessie Chisum**.

Note from the Program Committee: It is customary for our SETX legislative delegation to share their perspectives at the conclusion of each biennial legislative session. Rep. Ritter spoke to Rotary in June. Senator Williams' presentation was the second program in this series. Rep. Deshotel is scheduled to speak in October.

Joan Walker - August 27th

The Executive Director of the Upper Texas Coast Water-Borne Education Center (WBEC) shared accomplishments of one of best kept secrets in SETX this week. The purpose of this 5-year old non-profit, hands-on experience is to get in touch with our marine resources and habitats - rivers, wetlands and bays in our area. Unique is the how - aboard two U.S. Coast Guard Buoy Tenders which were converted to floating classrooms with a capacity of 25 students. For the safety conscious, the teaching vessels are U. S. C. G. certified, piloted by licensed captains.

Ms. Walker explained that trained volunteer interpreters think about alligators and cottonmouths, but don't worry about them. Safety is paramount for classroom participants. It was gratifying to learn BISD students were among the earliest field trips to Anahuac and the WBEC. The scope of student visitors includes senior citizens, industry and economic development decision makers, regional elected officials, regional leadership classes and Three Rivers Council Boy Scouts to earn oceanography badges.

Joan deserves kudos for a professional presentation even though her Power Point equipment had technical issues. Log on to www.trinityra.org, Trinity River Authority of Texas, for a chronicle "Trinity River Travels" of a WBEC tour. The best news was possibility of introducing the WBEC program to the Beaumont-Port Arthur area for the Sabine-Neches Waterways. Discussions are under way with Mayor Lord and others, so stay tuned. WBEC has already expanded into Houston Ship Channel. Perhaps WBEC will be heading east soon. For more info, call 267-3547.

Thanks to **Alan Sampson** for arranging this informative program.

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Board Action

Your Board of Directors met Tuesday, August 17th, and approved the following:

NEW MEMBERS:

Don DeMartino,
President, DDM Marketing & Consulting
Proposed by **Azim Keramati**
"Advertising/Public Relations - Advertising
Manager"

James Ellis
Site Manager, DuPont Beaumont Works
Proposed by **Sam Lord**
"Chemical Industry - Chemical Production"

Ronnie Jones
Vice President, Architectural Alliance, Inc.
Proposed by **Leonard Juncker**
"Architural/Engineering - Engineering"

Juan Zabala
Director, Office of Alumni Affairs,
Proposed by **Camille Mouton**
"Education - University Development"

Unless written objections to the Board of Directors are received by Friday, September

12th, the candidates listed will be considered elected to membership.

REINSTATEMENT OF MEMBERSHIP:

Gary Marks
Proposed by **Ken Ruddy**
"Automobiles - Retailing"

RESIGNATIONS ACCEPTED WITH REGRET:

Jay Derrick – business pressures
Jay Johnston – business transfer
Carolyn Oliver - job change

Ramblings

"Love our lawyers" was the theme at the head table this week – **Alan Sampson, Roger McCabe, John Quigley** & new member **Gary Linthicum**...all representing "prestigious Beaumont law firms". We love 'em when we need 'em, don't we?

Announcing the **Foxworth's** family new addition – baby boy, on August 23rd. Congrats to **Charlie, Jr. & Blair**. Another Rotary member for the next generation.

Birthdays

3rd Sheri Arnold (99)

President, Sheri Arnold Properties



Born in Orange, she is a graduate of Sam Houston State University. She and her husband **Eddie** are the parents of Holly and Carolann, and are members of Forest Park Methodist Church. She enjoys playing golf and racquetball.

3rd Sharen Kirksey (89)

Designer, Ethan Allen



Born in Dayton, she is a graduate of the University of Texas and Parson's Art Institute of New York. She and her husband **Leonard Juncker** are members of Cornerstone Church of Christ. She enjoys traveling and entertaining.

3rd Polly Matlock (98)

Administrator, Horizon Health Care



Born in Silsbee, she is a graduate of Lamar University. She and her husband Robert are the parents of Kristi Ann and Derrick Lee. They are members of Westgate Memorial Baptist Church.

5th Chester Weber (46)



Born in Beaumont, he is a graduate of Rice University. He is the father of Chester, Jr. He enjoys fishing, collecting antiques and playing the violin. Chester is a Paul Harris Fellow.

7th Becky Ames (98)

Regional Director of Operations, Texas Region, ARV Assisted Living



Born in Newport News, Virginia, she attended Texas A & M University. She and her husband Rodney enjoy traveling, and she also enjoys cooking and gardening.

8th Benny Hughes, Jr. (66)

Of Counsel, Orgain, Bell & Tucker



Born in Beaumont, he is a graduate of the University of Texas. He and his wife Allison are the parents of Seth Edward, **Gene** and John Charles, and are members of St. Stephens Episcopal Church. He enjoys fishing and playing handball. Benny is a Paul Harris Fellow.

ROTARY CLUB OF BEAUMONT OFFICERS

Azim Keramati.....President
Maurine Gray.....President-Elect
Paula Bothe.....Vice President, Programs
Terry Bourdier.....Secretary, Membership
Ben Orgain, Jr.....Treasurer
Lee Freeland.....Sergeant at Arms
Larry Beaulieu.....Past President, Advisor

DIRECTORS

Eddie Arnold.....Int'l & District Service
Danny Babineaux.....Fellowship
Travis Brewer.....Vocational Service
Jim Broussard, Jr.....Int'l & District Service
Gerald Condon.....Administration
Carol Flatten.....Vocational Service
Roy Huckaby.....Club Service
Becky Mason.....Youth Service
Harland Merriam.....Foundation
Camille Mouton.....Community Service
Jim Rich.....Membership

BEAUMONT ROTARY FOUNDATION, INC.

Maurine Gray
Azim Keramati
Eric Meadows
Harland Merriam
Peg Towers
Michael Wolf

Bessie Chisum, RotaryGram Committee Chair

Alexine Boutin, Executive Director
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

Future Programs

September

10th Chester Jourdan - Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission

Attendance

The attendance percentage on your address label for the next few issues reflects your attendance from July 1st of this year through last week's meeting.

Remember, one of **President Azim's** goals for his year is to raise our club's overall attendance to over 60%. Please plan to join us every week!

9th Mark Theobald (93)

Trust Department, Hibernia National Bank



Born in Beaumont, he is a graduate of Lamar University. He and his wife Julie are members of Westgate Memorial Baptist Church. He enjoys hunting and fishing.

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