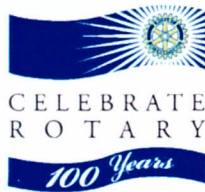
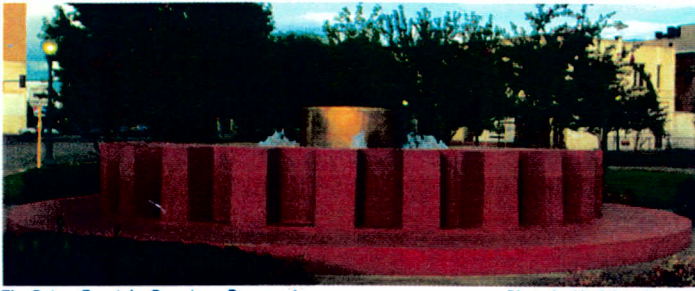


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The Rotary Fountain, Downtown Beaumont

Photo by Mark Low Imagery



Photo by Steve Buser

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Vol. 94 No. 7 August 18, 2004

Paul Serff - Texas Tourism



Paul Serff serves as President of the Texas Travel Industry Association and the Texas Tourism Foundation. TTIA represents a wide range

of attractions, historical and cultural sites and events, convention and visitors bureaus, guest ranches, game preserves, zoos, and many other organizations that are found in every corner of Texas.

Prior to joining TTIA, Paul spent nearly the last 30 years managing sports and entertainment facilities in

Hershey, Pennsylvania and San Antonio, Texas (most recently, Fiesta Texas). Along the way, he has gained a national reputation, not only in attractions and facilities management, but in travel and tourism as well.

Paul served as President of the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions and continues to serve on its board.

He currently serves on the UTSA Development Board and is a member of the Texas Parks & Wildlife State Park Advisory Board, as well as a board member of the Travel Industry Association of America and

chairs its communications committee. He was a member of the U.S. Congressional Tourism Caucus Advisory Board, a gubernatorial appointee to the White House Conference on Tourism, Chair of the Tourism Advisory Committee of the Texas Department of Commerce, Chair of the Greater San Antonio Chamber's Tourism Council, a member of the San Antonio CVB Board, and Chair of TIA's Tourism Works for America Committee.

Paul and his wife Kathy live in Austin.

From the chef: Meatloaf



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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

Future Programs

August

25th Ricky Dixon, Blue Bell Ice Cream

Make-ups

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.....Sanderson's

On-line: www.rotary5450.org/eclub
(limit 3 times in each quarter)

Program Review

We were honored and enriched by our featured speaker, State Representative Allan Ritter. Representative Ritter was introduced by **Angela Baker**, who described Representative Ritter as one of the "good guys."

Representative Ritter is currently serving his fourth term in the Texas Legislature. He represents District 21. His current committee assignments are Chair of the Pensions and Investments, Ways and Means, and Select Committee of Public School Finance.

The 78th Legislature session was the longest recorded session in Texas history. It consisted of the regular session, three special sessions for redistricting, and one special session dealing with public school financing reform. He stated he could not have been able to accomplish his goals and kept the business going without his supportive family and wife.

The challenges addressed in the 78th Legislature were reducing costs to balance the \$10 billion deficit and reform tort laws. Both challenges were accomplished successfully. He stated, "This is either the hardest part-time job or the worst paying full-time job I've ever had since baling hay in the 1960s."

The challenges to be addressed in the next legislative session per Represent-

tative Ritter are the increasing medical costs associated with the Medicaid Program and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), public school finance reform, and twenty-two agency Sunset Commission reviews such as the Public Utility Commission. If interested in the list of agencies under review, please contact Representative Ritter or visit the State website.

Public School financing needs to be reformed. Representative Ritter stated, "Real Public School refinancing must begin with real tax reform." The State must implement a fair and balanced method of allocating costs to the 21 million Texas residents. One area being targeted for reform is lowering property taxes. However, in order to do this, new revenue sources will need to be identified. Approximately 70,000 new students enter Texas schools each year at a cost of approximately \$500 million. Reform of Worker's Compensation system will be reviewed as well. We are approaching a crisis when physicians no longer accept workers comp patients.

Representative Ritter then answered questions from the members about such subjects as the status of the "sin tax" in the legislature, specifics about workers comp reform, which individual agencies would be reviewed by the Sunset Committee and the funding of public education by the lottery system.

Thank you, **Bessie Chisum**, for arranging the program.

Rotary Cares

Bill DeMore has had additional surgery on his leg that was severely burned at a church fund raiser more than a year ago. He is recovering at St. Elizabeth Hospital and hopes to be home soon.

Our condolences to **Carol Flatten** and **Michael Wolf** who have lost their fathers recently and to **Leonard Juncker** and **Sharen Kirksey** on the loss of his mother and her mother-in-law.

Foundation Board

President Maurine has nominated **Benny Hughes, Jr.**, **Floyd McSpadden** and **David Gaultney** to serve as 2004-05 Trustees for the Beaumont Rotary Foundation.

She requests that you confirm her three nominees when we vote at this week's meeting.

Wathen,
DeShong
& Juncker,
L.L.P.

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Konica TOSHIBA  SHARP

Welcome, New Members

Please welcome these new members who were inducted into the club on August 11th:



Frank Alegria
Senior Pastor,
First United Methodist Church
"Religion - Methodist"
Sponsor: **Maurine Gray**

Born in Corpus Christi, he is a graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University, Perkins School of Theology of SMU and The Theological School of Drew University. He and his wife Edna are the parents of Paula, Francisco (Frankie) and Stephen, and are members of First United Methodist Church. He enjoys horticulture, computers, reading, wood working and calligraphy.



Cheryl Carson
Sales Manager,
Beaumont Hilton
"Hotel Management - Sales"

Born in Port Arthur, she is a graduate of Lamar - Port Arthur. She has two children, Chip and Cara, and is a member of United Methodist Temple in Port Arthur. She enjoys outdoor sports, playing golf, reading and gardening. Cheryl is a returning member of our club after a three-year absence.

dening, cooking and entertaining.

Birthdays

18th Chris Colletti (98)
Executive Vice President,
Young Men's Business League



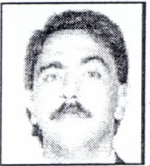
Born in Beaumont, he is a graduate of Lamar University. He and his wife Colleen are the parents of Hannah, Carina and Aaron, and are members of Cathedral in the Pines. He enjoys camping and playing golf.

19th Robert Edgar (94)
Principal,
Edgar, Kiker & Cross



Born in Beaumont, He is a graduate of Baylor University and the University of Texas, Arlington. He and his wife Ellen are the parents of Sarah, Daniel, John and Nathan, and are members of Cathedral in the Pines. He enjoys jogging, hiking and canoeing.

19th John Johnson (94)
Partner,
Orgain, Bell & Tucker



Born in Kinder Louisiana, he is a graduate of Louisiana State University and the University of Texas School of Law. He and his wife Lori are the parents of Jacob and Abigail, and are members of St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church. He enjoys sailing.

21st Brock Brentlinger (69)
Assistant to the President,
Lamar University



Born in Flora, Illinois, he is a graduate of the University of Illinois. He and his wife Barbara Jean are the parents of Gregory, Gary, Garth, Bobbie Sue and Geoffrey, and are members of Calder Baptist Church. He enjoys camping, jogging and gardening. Brock is a Paul Harris Fellow.

21st Michael Clayton (97)
President/CEO,
Better Business Bureau



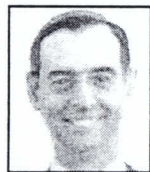
Born in Dallas, he is a graduate of Dallas Baptist University. He and his wife Dee are the parents of Chris, Kim and Kendal, and are members of Calvary Baptist Church. He enjoys playing baseball, and working on his lawn and garden.

21st Elaine Shellenberger (02)
Executive Director,
Nutrition & Services for Seniors



Born in Liberty, she is a graduate of Lamar University. She and her husband Don are the parents of Angie and Collin, and are members of Unity Church of Beaumont. She enjoys gar-

22nd Michael Wolf (86)
Financial Professional,
MONY



Born in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, he is a graduate of Texas A&M University (BBA) and Texas Tech University (MBA). He and his wife Cynthia are the parents of Natalie, Sallye and Marc, and are members of Temple Emanuel. He enjoys fishing, hunting, swimming, playing bridge, and youth activities. Michael is a Paul Harris Fellow.

24th Tiger Polk (73)
Retired



Born in San Augustine, he is a graduate of Texas A&M University. He has three sons, John, Scott and Leland, and is a member of First Methodist Church in Vidor. He enjoys doing woodcrafts and bowling. Tiger is a three-time Paul Harris Fellow.

24th Thomas Williams (89)
Thomas F. Williams, D.D.S.



Born in Beaumont, he is a graduate of the University of Texas at Houston. He and his wife Marlys are members of First United Methodist Church, and he has one child, Noel.

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