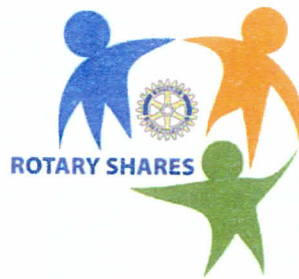
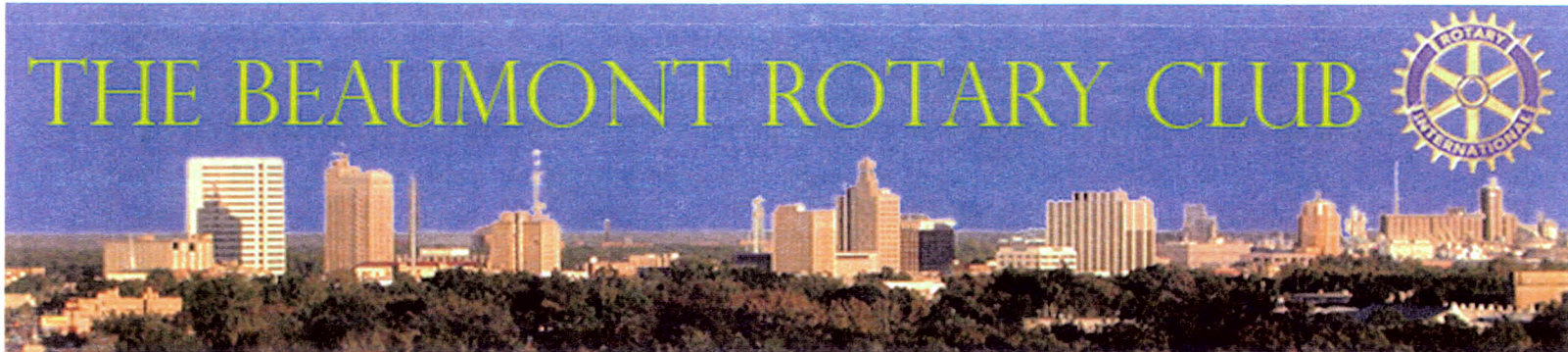


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BILL WEISS - BLUE BELL CREAMERIES



Bill Weiss was born and raised in the rolling hills of Washington County near Brenham, Texas, home of Blue Bell Creameries. During high school, and while attending Blinn Jr. College he worked part-time at Blue Bell in cold storage and shipping.

was acquired by Dillard's Department Stores and Bill continued working in store management for 10 years, mostly in Austin, Texas.

In 1997, Bill returned to Brenham as a media buyer for Blue Bell Advertising Associates, Blue Bell's in-house advertising agency. During that time he also served as Blue Bell's United Way coordinator. In 2003, Bill was named Blue Bell's corporate public relations manager. His responsibilities include media relations, employee communications,

(Continued on page 3)

Upon graduating from Texas A&M University in 1986 with a degree in Marketing, Bill moved to San Antonio, Texas to work for Joske's Department Stores as a manager trainee. Four months later Joske's

HEAD TABLE



INVOCATION
FLOYD MCSPADDEN



PLEDGE
DAN MIKOLAY



4-WAY TEST
MARY ELLEN ROBERTSON



GUEST INTRODUCTION
CAROLYN HOWARD

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www.beaumontrotaryclub.org

Meets Wednesdays at Noon

MCM Elegante' Hotel • 2355 IH-10 South International Ballroom

Program Schedule

September

19th Allen Ritter - State Representative

26th John Ratcliffe - U.S. Attorney

Make-ups

Monday noon:

No. Port ArthurHoliday Inn Hwy 69
 Vidor.....Hibernia National Bank

Tuesday noon:

Spindletop.....Elegante' Hotel
 Orange.....Sunset Grove
 Port Neches.....Pompano Club

Wednesday noon:

Groves.....Pompano Club

Thursday 7:30 a.m.:

Hardin County.....
 Cowboy Reds, Lumberton

Thursday noon:

Port Arthur.....Holiday Inn Hwy 69

Friday:

Nederland.....Holiday Inn Hwy 69

On-line: www.rotaryclubone.org

(limit 3 times in each quarter)

The Pledge to the Texas Flag

Honor the Texas Flag,
 I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas,
 One state under God,
 One and indivisible.

REVIEW OF SEPTEMBER 5TH PROGRAM

Our program was presented by Bill Ratliff, chair of Raise Your Hand Texas. A former Texas State Senator representing District 1 from 1988 to 2004 and Texas' 41st Lt. Governor for two years (2000-2002), Mr. Ratliff returned to Beaumont at the invitation of the Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce to speak about public education.

Improving public education is a legacy of much of his service in the Texas Senate as chair of the Senate Education Committee, Senate Finance Committee and Senate State Affairs Committee. When asked "How do you feel about your neighborhood schools", polling data shows that many Texans respond with "pretty good." However, state polls also tell us Texans believe that public schools statewide are failing. Governor Ratliff cited examples of how comparisons in achievement rankings nationally between states are calculated and assessed with Texas appearing often in the bottom quartile. As Paul Harvey says "let me tell you the rest of the story...."

Why was Raise Your Hand Texas founded in 2006? Because there was no collective voice statewide saying that Texas is doing a much better job in the public schools (supported by data) than we the public believe. Because there was no collective voice with a positive message to counteract the critics of public education.

Ratliff said it is time to "quit the blame game about educators' shortcoming. We should help, not punish our teachers." There was scattered applause and nods of agreement from club members when Ratliff said that no one should claim to be an expert on public education unless that person has spent at least two years professionally in a school class room.. He confessed that his stance on "Friday Night Lights" has changed somewhat from his position some 20 years ago: "I have come around and have come to understand that athletics keep thousands of kids in school plus instills discipline and gives rewards."

Raise Your Hand Texas is a not-for-profit

grassroots advocacy organization dedicated to supporting public schools in Texas. It is a bipartisan group of business and community leaders, parents and taxpayers committed to three points of action: (1) Celebrate outstanding work done by Texas teachers, administrators and students; (2) Defend public schools against criticism that is unfair or inaccurate; and (3) Strengthen public schools by seeking additional state resources and making commonsense suggestions that will help provide safe and effective learning environment for all Texas children

Governor Ratliff invited club members to lend their voices as members of the Advocacy Council (no dues) by logging www.raiseyourhandtexas.org or returning brochure by mail. He praised Beaumont who has the most business leaders to date registered for the Advocacy Council than any other city in Texas. It is a fact, not fiction nor opinion...Bill Ratliff is a champion of public education for all Texas children.

Ed. Note. There is curiosity about what our speaker meant in referring to club member Dale Dowell as "Dirty Dale" when Governor Ratliff was reminiscing about UT Austin. Appreciation to Keith Rogers of Expert Leadership Solutions for introducing our speaker.

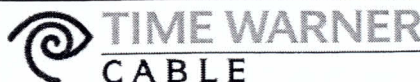
COMMITTEE NEWS

Rotaract Lamar has 24 active members and from the looks of our first meeting that number will be growing. Service Above Self is the motto that this group upholds with great standard. In 2006-2007 they went on a crusade and raised \$7,000 in scholarships for Belize children in the Village of Chunox. They are active in Habitat for Humanity here in Southeast Texas and The American Cancer Society Relay for Life. Rotaract is always looking for guest speakers during their Friday meetings. Meetings will be held bi-weekly beginning with the first Friday of each month. The meetings are from 12:30pm - 1:30pm in the Lamar University Dining Hall. If you are interested in working with this group and/or speaking at a meeting, please contact either Josmery Ramirez, Rotaract

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NEW MEMBERS

We welcomed two new members into our club at the September 5th meeting:



Glenn Bjornaas

General Manager,
Bill Clark Pest Control
"Chemical Industry - Pest
Exterminating Service"

Proposed by **Buz Brown**

Born in Houston, he attended Sam Houston State University. He and his wife Anita are the parents of Erik, Kyle, Randi and Kelly. He enjoys playing percussion instruments, the Dallas Cowboys, working on church projects and going to the beach.



Judy Kelfstrom

Director of Development
The Salvation Army of Beaumont
"Associations – Salvation Army"

Proposed by **Sam Lord**

Born in Elgin, Illinois, She attended Northern Illinois University and is a graduate of Lamar University. She is the mother of Bruce, Susan and Steven. She enjoys producing Light Flight, writing devotional material and taking grandkids on weekend trips.

(Continued from page 1)

and corporate training. He oversees the activities of several regional public relations firms contracted by Blue Bell in selected markets. In 2002, he graduated from the Blue Bell Creameries Ice Cream Manufacturing Course, offered to key management employees of Blue Bell. He is also the chairman of Blue Bell Creameries 100th Anniversary celebration in 2007

Bill and his wife, Kathleen, have two children, Erik (13) and Rachel (10). When not at Erik's soccer games, Rachel's softball games or Scouting, the family loves to attend Texas A&M athletic events. Bill is also an avid outdoorsman.

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BIRTHDAYS

12th Jason Armstrong (06)

Owner/Partner,
The UPS Store



Born in Beaumont, he is a graduate of Lamar University. He enjoys computers, the internet, movies, fitness and weightlifting. Jason is a Paul Harris Fellow.

12th R.J. Demahy (96)

Partner,
Theobald, Demahy & Co.



Born in Port Arthur, he is a graduate of Lamar University. He and his wife Diana are the parents of Rod and Tammy, and are members of St. Pius X Catholic Church. He enjoys hunting.

13th Bill Brown (86)

Owner,
WFB Enterprises



Born in San Antonio, he is a graduate of Trinity University and the University of Texas. He and his wife Dorothy are the parents of Nancy, Billie, Anne and Mary. He enjoys collecting stamps and masks, photography and writing.

14th Jamie Hogge (98)

Owner,
Word Perfection



Born in Beaumont, she is a graduate of Southwestern University and Lamar University. She and her husband Mark are members of the Church of Christ.

14th Barbara Metzinger (04)

Rabbi,
Congregation Temple Emanuel



Born in Los Angeles, California, she is a graduate of California State University - Northridge, the University of Southern California and Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion. She is a member of Congregation Temple Emanuel. She enjoys biking, cooking, hiking and watching movies.

15th Nancy Carlisle (02)

Owner,
Quality Care Sitter Service



Born in Beaumont, she is a graduate of Lamar University. She and her husband Norman are the parents of Patty, and are members of First Christian Church. She enjoys reading, travel, fishing and sewing.

15th Russ Schultz (99)

Dean, College of Fine Arts &
Communication,
Lamar University



Born in Newark, New Jersey, he is a graduate of Eastman School of Music, the University of Memphis and the University of North Texas. He and his wife Susan are the parents of Jennifer, and are members of Temple Emanuel. He enjoys playing golf and plays a mean trombone. Russ is a Paul Harris Fellow.

15th John Thomasson (04)

Human Resources Director,
Brock Enterprises



Born in Douglas, Arizona, he is a graduate of the University of Arizona. He and his wife Donda are the parents of Elise Carol and Melanie Jan. He enjoys playing golf, running and martial arts.

18th Becky Mason (00)

Safety/Human Resources Director,
Mason Construction



Born in Beaumont, she is a graduate of Lamar University. She and her husband **Chuck** are the parents of Chad and Kristin, and are members of First Christian Church. She enjoys travel and music.

(Continued from page 2)

President, at 880-2329 or **Teresa Simpson** Rotaract Chair 880-8879.

Rotarians on this committee are: **Twila Baker, Donna Birdwell, Becky Mason, Chuck Mason, Melody Pettitt, Keith Rogers and Robert Turner.**

YOUR HOMETOWN

4 NEWS
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