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THE BEAUMONT ROTARY CLUB



A Publication of the Rotary Club of Beaumont, Texas - Club 72

Vol. 97 No. 9, September 5, 2007

WILLIAM R. RATLIFF FORMER TEXAS LT. GOVERNOR



Bill Ratliff grew up in Sonora, Texas, where he graduated from the Sonora public schools. He attended the University of Texas at Austin and received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1960. In 1990 he was named a Distinguished Graduate of the University of Texas School of Engineering. In 2004 he was named a

Distinguished Alumnus of the University of Texas at Austin.

Upon graduation from the University of Texas, Governor Ratliff spent the next 40 years as a practicing consulting engineer in Texas and the Mid-western United States. In 1981 he served as President of the American Consulting Engineers Council headquartered in Washington, D.C.

(Continued on page 2)

HEAD TABLE



INVOCATION
MICHAEL CLAYTON



PLEDGE
JENNIFER NGUYEN



4-WAY TEST
ULIANA TRYLOWSKI



GUEST INTRODUCTION
STEPHANIE WILLIAMS

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 Meets Wednesdays at Noon
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 International Ballroom

Program Schedule

September
 12th Bill Weiff - Blue Bell Creameries
 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 AUGUST 29TH PROGRAM

“Significant Milestones and Economic Impact of Ford Park” was topic of last week’s speaker, John Hughes, Senior Marketing Manager for Ford Park Event Center. A Nederland native, Mr. Hughes has held marketing positions in BIG cities like New York and Los Angeles and is now back home in Southeast Texas.

According to our speaker, in measuring economic impact and tickle down effect, did you know that since Ford Park’s opening in 2003...

- 500 events or 150 annually have been held
- 2 million people with estimated 300,000 out-of-towners have attended
- 100,000 hotel/motel stays have been generated (“heads and beds”) with \$7 million in room sales
- An estimated \$75 million in taxable sales have gone to local businesses
- \$200,000 media “plants” have been generated annually
- \$1.8 million in utility costs have been paid

(Continued from page 1)

In 1988 Governor Ratliff was first elected to serve in the Texas Senate to represent the First Senatorial District which constitutes the northeast corner of the state. He served as Chairman of the Senate Education Committee from 1993 to 1996, and as Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee from 1996 until December 28, 2000. On that date he was chosen by his Senate colleagues to serve as Texas’ 41st Lt. Governor succeeding then Lt. Governor Perry when Perry assumed the Governor’s office vacated by President George W. Bush.

After serving two years as Lt. Governor, he returned to the Senate to

Mr. Hughes explained the concession stands program sharing which is a fundraising opportunity for area schools, Lamar student organizations, church groups and other groups. Ford Park also provides complimentary tickets, primarily to underprivileged children and donates items for local auctions.

Upcoming events for fall schedule include Labor Day event with Ronnie Millsap, Mark Chestnutt, Zona Jones and other entertainers; world-class Tennis event with Pete Sampras, THE Anna K, Shandra Rubin and Todd Martin on September 21st; a national softball tournament for October (signed up recently) and the YMBL Fair which had some 400,000 attendees in fall 2006.

Rotarian **Dean Conwell**, Executive Director of the Beaumont Convention and Visitors Bureau, introduced Mr. Hughes. **President Angela** described Dean as “proprietor of the newest and finest building in downtown Beaumont, i.e. the new Beaumont CVB facility.” **Ivy Pate** arranged for our speaker’s presentation.

serve in the 78th regular session of the Legislature as Chairman of the Senate State Affairs Committee. At the conclusion of that legislative session, he announced his retirement effective January 10, 2004.

During his eight legislative sessions, he was named one of Texas’ Ten Best Legislators by Texas Monthly magazine an unprecedented six times. In 2005, he was honored as a recipient of the prestigious Profiles in Courage Award, presented in Boston by the John F. Kennedy Library.

Lt. Governor Ratliff and his wife Sally have been married 47 years. They have three children and eight grandchildren

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BOARD ACTION

Your Board of Directors met on Tuesday, August 28th and approved the following action:

New Members:

Paul Koester
General Manager
Munro's Dry Cleaning
"Laundering, Cleaning &
Dyeing – Laundries"
Proposed by Chad Blanchard

Gethrel Williams-Wright
Retired Auditor
U.S. Postal Service
"Retired – Government –
U.S Postal Service"
Proposed by Beverly Hatcher

Unless written objection addressed to the Board of Directors is received by Friday, September 14th, the candidates listed above will be considered elected to membership.

Resignations Accepted with Regret:

Leslie Patrick
Moved out of area

Glenn Shoemake
Business Transfer

COMMITTEE NEWS

30 Somethings Committee

The 30 Somethings name refers to the number of new club members, or "Red Badges" at any given time within the club. The group's activities are designed to help new members earn service points towards their blue badge.

Monthly breakfast meetings afford members the opportunity to meet fellow Rotarians in a more intimate setting, learn more about Rotary, and earn one service hour. Hosting an event earns two hours. A breakfast

BIRTHDAYS

7th Becky Ames (98)
Executive Director,
Atria Senior Living Group -
Collier Park



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

8th Benny Hughes, Jr. (66)
Attorney,
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.

9th Mark Theobald (93)
Vice President and Trust Officer,
Capital One Bank



Born in Beaumont, he is a graduate of Lamar University. He and his wife Julie are the parents of Sarah and Abby, and are members of Westgate Memorial Baptist Church. He enjoys hunting, fishing, playing golf, running and, most of all, being a Dad.

meeting counts as a make up meeting two weeks before or after. Blue badges are welcome to attend and highly encouraged to do so.

If you are interest hosting a breakfast meeting, please contact Cindy.

Mark your calendars next meeting on September 18th, 7:30 a.m. at LIT with **Paul Szuch** hosting.

Cindy Westfall, Chair
833-3860

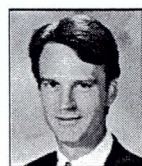
10th Gerald Condon (98)
President/CEO,
Collision & Classics



Born in Beaumont, he is a graduate of Lamar University. He and his wife Jennifer are the parents of parents of Molly, and he is also the father of Michelle.

They are members of St. Mark's Episcopal Church. He enjoys playing golf, motorcycles, gardening and wood-working. Gerald is a Paul Harris Fellow.

11th Ben Thacker (99)
CFO,
Amtex Bancshares



Born in Beaumont, he is a graduate of the University of Houston, Lamar University and the University of Texas. He and his wife Lisa are members of

Christ Community Church. He enjoys working with the non-profit boards he is on, gardening, church work and going to the movies.

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.

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.

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