MEETING OF APRIL 22,2008
Minutes of Meeting of April 15, 2008

- President Freddy Walter presided over the meeting.
- Maura McLaughlin offered the invocation.
- Mike Ratliff led in the salute to the flag.
- Valerie Sartin welcomed guests including:
  - Susan Higgs was a guest of Susan Steen.
  - Jack Gay was a guest from Petal Rotary.
  - Peggy Carlin was a guest from Rotary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1) Thanks to Terry Miller and Kris King for serving as our Greeters today.
2) Freddy announced that due to the storage building brake in, the Night in Italy event is canceled. Any ticket that has not been sold may be returned. Everyone is asked to consider donating the ticket money that has been sold to date. We are giving a 100% donation to the Children's Center for Communication and Development. Refunds are given if needed. The Night in Italy event will continue next as planned.
3) We will have our regular luncheon meeting next week due to cancellation of Night in Italy.
4) Richard Topp would love to have the support of anyone interested in helping with the Food Fest Friday night at the District Conference. Set up will begin at 4 pm.
5) Freddy reminded everyone about the scholarship program. Please summit applications early.

LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Perrin Lowrey introduced Betsy Rowell, the executive director of the Historic Hattiesburg Downtown Association. Since 1997, the purpose of the Historic Hattiesburg Downtown Association is to reorganize and rebuild our historic downtown area. Funding for the association comes primarily from private citizens. The city and county have increased their funding from $24,000.00 to $30,000.00 this year. This makes up approximately one third of the funding needed. The budget of $200,000.00 a year receives $50,000.00 a year in membership fees. The old Library has been remodeled for events. They have even had a wedding there. The street lighting project is set for completion by end year. Every Friday at the Town Square Park, Live After 5 is held from April until October. There is a great turn out for this, several 100 people. The website has been

redesigned adding the newsletter and graphics. The Art Walk is scheduled for the last Saturday in April.

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This month in Rotary: 103rd anniversary

During the first Rotary club meeting on 23 February 1905 in Chicago, Paul Harris, Gustavus Loehr, Hiram Shorey, and Silvester Schiele met to talk about their personal experiences. Harris then unfolded his general plan for their club meetings.

This was the simple beginning of the world's first service club, the Rotary Club of Chicago. It was created because of Harris' wish to capture in a professional club the same friendly spirit he had felt in the small towns of his youth. The Rotary name derived from the early practice of rotating meetings among members' offices.

Rotarians continue to take pride in their history. In honor of that first club, Rotarians have preserved its original meeting place, Room 711 in Chicago's Unity Building, by re-creating the office as it existed in 1905. For several years, the Paul Harris 711 Club maintained the room as a shrine for visiting Rotarians. In 1989, when the building was scheduled to be demolished, the club carefully dismantled the office and salvaged the interior, including doors and radiators. In 1993, the RI Board of Directors set aside a permanent home for the restored Room 711 at RI World Headquarters in the Chicago suburb of Evanston.

Sydney tots get a head start

According to developmental scientists and early childhood educators, the cognitive, social, and emotional development of children begins at birth and continues at home long before they enter school. To this end, the Rotary Club of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, donated US$160,000 to an innovative, early-childhood educational enrichment program offered at La Perouse Public School, located in a nearby suburb.

The Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters works with refugees, migrants, isolated rural community members, and other disadvantaged groups throughout Australia. Through a two-year curriculum, specialists at La Perouse teach parents of three- to five-year-olds how to develop their child's school readiness, communication abilities, and relationship skills before they begin their education in the classroom. By training as home tutors,

parents gain confidence in their role as their child's first teachers. Families also receive educational books and games that emphasize reading and math skills.

"Thanks to Rotary, the children of La Perouse are more likely to succeed at school, hold down a job, buy a home, and enjoy good physical and mental health in their adult years," says Tony Nicholson, executive director of the Brotherhood of St. Laurence, which runs the program.

Sydney club member Gerry Rihs says his club is pleased to support projects that help reduce poverty and promote universal primary education.

Sherri Longbottom, coordinator of the La Perouse program, is grateful for the club's contribution. "Thanks to Rotary Sydney for their much-appreciated donation. This now means we will be able to continue to work with more parents and their children in our community." *This story was adapted from* Rotary Down Under.

Thought for the Day

MOST OF US DON'T MIND BEING TOLD OF OUR FAULTS IF THE CRITIC IS GENEROUS ENOUGH TO MIX IN A FEW OF OUR VIRTUES AS WELL.

It's a normal reaction to defend ourselves and our behavior when someone criticizes us-even if we secretly recognize that what we're being told is correct. Those who achieve great success in life, however, are those who have learned to set aside their emotions and learn from others, even when the message is unpleasant. If you find yourself being evaluated by someone else, tell yourself that criticism of some aspect of your performance is not a personal attack. Control your emotional reaction and adopt useful ideas even though you may dislike the manner in which the information is delivered.

This positive message is brought to you by the Napoleon Hill Foundation.

Editor: Gary Garner