

MEETING OF DECEMBER 18, 2007
Minutes of Meeting of December 4, 2007

- President Freddy Walter presided over the meeting.
 - Kris King offered the invocation and
 - Tom Potter led the Club in the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - Kris King welcomed guests and visiting Rotarians:
- ✓ District Govern Milton Wheeler and Kenneth West visited from the Petal Club.
 - ✓ John McDaniel was a guest of Holt McMullan.
 - ✓ Gary Breeland was a guest of Joe Riley.
 - ✓ Trent Webb was a guest of Robert Cummings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Steve Ramp gave a final report on the Christmas Party. More than 80 Hattiesburg members and guest will attend. Seventy members and guests from the Petal and Sunrise Clubs will also attend. There will be no noon meeting next Tuesday, December 11, because of the Christmas Party.
- 2) Milton Wheeler announced that the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has contributed one-hundred-million dollars to the Rotary Foundation. The grant is to be matched by the Rotary Foundation and the funds will be used to eradicate polio. The disease remains in only four countries throughout the globe. They will be the focus of this effort.
- 3) Freddy offered thanks to the Rotarians who participated in the White Thumb cake and cookie sale today. Francis Farmer auctioned off the treats with the proceeds being contributed to the Rotary Foundation.
- 4) Rotary members raised \$969.74 ringing the Salvation Army Bell 12/08/2007.

- 5) **After this week's meeting there will be no meeting of the club until January 8, 2008.**

PROGRAM FOR DECEMBER 4, 2007

Joe Riley introduced the guest speaker, Bobby Halford, Head Baseball Coach at William Carey University. Bobby has been the head baseball coach for the past twenty-two years. He's worked on the William Carey campus for the past thirty-five years.

According to Coach Halford, baseball players today are bigger, faster and stronger and they play or workout almost year round. In fact, the William Carey team began practice on December 2nd this year and will play their first game on January 25th. Bobby says many players today have tutors, play more than one sport and workout year round.

William Carey University's baseball program is unique, according to Bobby, in that the program can't generally recruit a "ready made" player. Because of the University's position, it finds what Bobby describes as diamonds in the rough; good students who have good baseball potential. During the years the students are at William Carey, the program develops the baseball skills, the academic skills and the life-skills associated with a Christian teaching program. Many of the Carey players have gone on to regional and national playing and coaching positions. When a player leaves the William Carey baseball program, Coach Halford says, even if a player doesn't go on to play professional baseball, they are equipped with a good knowledge of the business world and they are equipped to find, create and support a family.

Bobby thanked Rotary members and others from the community who have supported the baseball program over they years. William Carey has one of the best playing fields in the country. Needs and goals of the program in the coming years include a new indoor dressing and weight training facility.

NAIA limits William Carey's scholarship to twelve scholarships. Recently they loosened the

restrictions on academic scholarships for players if the player maintains a 3.6 Grade Point Average. William Carey is currently working with ten scholarships. Most of those are partial rather than full scholarships. William Carey's baseball program focuses recruitment within a 100 mile radius of Hattiesburg.

Coach Halford concluded his remarks by once again thanking Rotary members for their long-term support of the William Carey baseball program. He noted that baseball is the second highest revenue sport in college athletics these days.

**CHRISTMAS PARTY TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 11TH**

The three clubs of the Pinebelt met at Southern Oaks for a most pleasant evening of fellowship, food, and entertainment from William Carey University's Carpenter's Wood ensemble. No other minutes for Dec. 11th.

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

Chris Bowen is the speaker.

Brief Biography:

Forrest County Supervisor Elect – District 5

May 2000 – present:

Executive Director – Pat Harrison
Waterway District

Chairman – Southeast Mississippi
Resource & Conservation District

Prior Experience and Endeavors:

Governors' Barbour and Musgrove
Appointee – MS Water Resources
Advisory Council

Governor Fordice Appointee –
Mississippi State Parole Board

Environmental Hydrogeologist -
Mississippi Dept. of Environmental Quality

Petroleum Geologist – North Louisiana
and South Mississippi

Education: 1984: B.S. – Geology – USM

PERSONAL:

Married – Lisa Tyner – Petal Middle
School Counselor

Father – Richard Bowen – 30+ year Rotarian

Editor: Gary Garner