

## MEETING OF DECEMBER 4, 2007

### Minutes of Meeting of Nov. 27, 2007

- President Freddy Walter presided over the meeting.
  - Steve Ramp offered the invocation.
  - Gene Winters led the Club in the Pledge of Allegiance.
  - Kris King welcomed guests and visiting Rotarians:
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- ✓ Tom Light was visiting from the Sunrise Club and was a guest of Susan Light.
  - ✓ Terry Miller was a guest of Freddy Walter.
  - ✓ George Clark and Demetrica Smith were guests of Skippy Haik.
  - ✓ David Pumford was a guest of Suzy Steen.
  - ✓ John McDaniel was a guest of Holt McMullan.
  - ✓ A number of media guests were also welcomed.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Freddy reported that the John Ed Thomas died on Friday, November 24. His services were held Monday, November 26. He asked that members keep the family in their prayers.
2. Freddy also reported that Kristi Gould's child has been released from the hospital and is greatly improved. Kristi has just returned back to work.
3. Freddy also reminded members that, Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, is the date for the Christmas Party at Southern Oaks. All members are asked to report if they will or will not be in attendance by **today**. Steve Ramp reported that 74 club members and guests have indicated they will attend. No response on numbers from the Petal and Sunrise Clubs as

of yet. The event will begin with a social time at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7:00, and entertainment begins at 7:30. The Members meal is paid by the club and guest meals are \$25. There is a choice of two entrée's of Beef or Pork. Let's set a record in attendance from our club as we celebrate Christmas with Petal and Sunrise rotary members. The event should conclude between 8 and 8:30.

4. Freddy also noted that we still need volunteers from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM to ring the bells on Saturday, December 8, at Sam's Club. The club will also accept donations to the Salvation Army at the club Meeting on December 4 and the night of the Christmas Party on December 11. We will accept cash, checks made payable to the Salvation Army or unwrapped children's gifts for either boys or girls.
5. Most important is this Tuesday, December 4, when we will have a **WHITE THUMB DAY (Bake Sale)** as our auction to raise money for the Rotary Foundation. Members are encouraged to bring baked goods to be auctioned. These goods can be used to meet needs at member offices or to carry home. If members do not bring baked goods, they should bring their check book to make a purchase. So be ready to participate in the fun one way or another. It has also been suggested that members bring copies of their favorite recipes with their baked goods. Francis Farmer will conduct the auction for the baked goods.
6. Freddy also challenged all of us to bring a new member into Rotary in the new year.
7. The District Conference will be held April 17 - 18 in New Orleans. The

Night in Italy event is scheduled for April 22.

8. Bill Pace was then introduced and asked to introduce today's speaker, Richton native and the newly confirmed Hattiesburg Chief of Police, Frazier Bolton.

## **LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM**

Chief Bolton comes back to Hattiesburg from Atlanta. He jokingly says the number one motivation for his return to Hattiesburg was less traffic. On a serious note, he expressed his pride in being able to come back to his hometown area and lead a police department that is one of the finest in the nation.

Chief Bolton gave club members a brief update on recent crime statistics. Robberies are up in October over September, commercial burglaries are up but residential burglaries are down. He reported that the department just this week solved two recent bank robberies. The department is approved for 144 officers. Today there are 127 employed with 15 of those out on military leave. Chief Bolton plans on adding additional K-9 officers, three new motorcycle traffic officers, and a new DUI officer. A new recruitment class has been approved and scheduled for March 2. A new substation was recently opened across from the Train Depot. A great deal of positive feedback from the surrounding neighborhood has been expressed as residents have already seen a decrease in illegal activities.

As for the future, he plans on working with Hattiesburg Public Schools to get a School Officer program started. The program will teach students about citizenship and the law. The program, if approved, will be targeted to the middle school students. Chief Bolton

will also add a volunteer program that will use citizens in volunteer rolls to help in crime prevention. He intends to utilize a Community Policing strategy. Residents will know who their patrol officers are and the patrol officers will know the residents of their area. Both will then be better able to identify potential problems before they occur.

In closing, club members were reminded to take a few extra steps of precaution during the upcoming holiday season. If you leave your home for any length of time, make sure it is secured and that it appears someone is at home. Have your newspapers removed from the front yard by a neighbor if you're going to be gone for a day or more. When shopping, park in well lit areas where there is lots of foot traffic. Place all valuables in the trunk and make sure it is locked. If you drink, don't drive, and if you see something suspicious, call the department at (601) 544-7900.

## **THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM**

Bobby Halford, Head Baseball Coach at William Carey University, is our speaker.

Bobby is an instructor in Health, Physical Education, and Recreation. He was an assistant coach nine seasons under John Stephenson, head coach 22 years with a record of 762-444, held 15 Conference Championships, 17 Regional Appearances, 4 Runner-up Regional Finishes, 35 players in Professional Baseball, and serves on two NAIA Baseball committees.

He is married to former Kathy Pittman from Slidell, LA, a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Oak Grove Upper Elementary. They have four

daughters: Kelly Bates, Brittany, Leslie, and Lori.

As a teacher in the Health PE and Recreation Dept in 2002, he received the H.E.A.D.W.A.E. award for outstanding Faculty Member as recognized by the State Legislature.

Bobby and Kathy are members of Temple Baptist Church. He was also a deacon at First Baptist for many years.

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*President Freddy received the following information in a letter from a fellow president of a club in Hawaii.*

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**ENTER TO WIN 5 NIGHTS IN MAUI, HAWAII**

The President of the Rotary Club of Upcountry Maui, announces their annual fundraiser by offering a First Class Round Trip Airfare for two Deluxe Accommodations at Waillea or Ka'anapali for the lucky winner of a \$50 donation. It must be used before Jan. 1, 2009. Only 1,000 entries are available. Drawing is to be held on or before Jan. 3, 2008. Enter as often as you like. Interested members can donate online at <http://www.upcountry-rotary.org>, or at the following mailing address:

**Rotary Club of Upcountry Maui**  
**District 5000**  
**P.O. Box 880833**  
**Pukalani, HI 98788**