

MEETING OF FEBRUARY 13, 2007

Minutes of Meeting of Feb. 6, 2007

- Conrad Welker presided.
- The invocation was provided by Wallace Weakley.
- Frances Karnes led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Kristy Gould introduced our visiting Rotarians and guests:
 - ✓ Doug Grayson was a guest of Kristy Gould.
 - ✓ Todd Hickman was a guest of Bill Pace
 - ✓ Phillip Hudson was a guest of Bob Riley.
 - ✓ Dr. Gloria Robinson was a guest of Annie Wimbish.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Thanks to Susan Light and Robert Cornett for serving as our greeters.
- 2) Conrad reported that RLYA has a location in LaRanger, LA. He also reported that Frances Olgetree continues to improve daily from her fall at her home.
- 3) Conrad also reminded everyone that the Grover Anderson scholarship award for the 2007-08 school year will be awarded in the near future and that nominations need to be turned in.
- 4) Freddy Walter reminded everyone to mark their calendars for the District Conference being held at the Beau Rivage May 17-19, 2007. There is still a need for volunteers. If you, your spouse or children would like to participate please contact Freddy Walter.
- 5) Rucker Howell announced that last week he became a grandfather of a healthy baby boy

LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Kristy Gould introduced today's speaker, Margaret Buttross-Brinegar, Director of the Children's Center for Communication and Development.

She provided updates regarding the Children's Center and its goings-on since she visited last spring. She also brought some special guests with her, Grace Davidson and her 1-1/2 year old son Brennan. Grace spoke briefly on how the Children's Center has been working with her son

who has a rare brain disease and his ongoing treatment.

The Children's Center for Communication and Development [CCCD] provides an interdisciplinary team approach to the assessment and treatment of communicatively- and developmentally-delayed children [birth - 5 years]. Services are either home-based or center-based, depending on a child's needs.

The Children's Center follows the calendar schedule of local public schools. Services are coordinated with each child's local school district and include speech-language pathology, special education, audiology, physical therapy, occupational therapy, psychology, augmentative/alternate communication, at-risk follow-up, parent education, and a resource loan library.

In addition to providing direct services to children and their families, their certified staff supervises undergraduate and graduate students from a variety of disciplines within the University.

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

Hattiesburg Zoo Director Lori Banchemo and Zoo Board Member, Matt Martin, will be our program speakers today. They will give us an update on the goings-on at the zoo.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL NEWS

In New Orleans, Rotarians chart ways to address calamities

By Vukoni Lupa-Lasaga
Rotary International News

A disaster response workshop in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, attracted more than 200 participants, many of them Rotarians with experience in providing emergency relief and rebuilding communities in distress. Senior Rotary leaders, including RI President William B. Boyd and RI President-elect Wilfrid J. Wilkinson, also attended.

The 11-13 January event was aimed at discussing best practices, strategies, and management skills that Rotarian volunteers can

apply to increase their effectiveness in responding to disasters.

"The workshop showed us that we need to coordinate, cooperate, and communicate among ourselves and other organizations wishing to respond in a disaster," explained RI Director Donald L. Mebus, who convened the workshop with RI Directors Barry Rassin and Robert Stuart Jr.

Donald Chauvin, who chaired the workshop, said the event was a great opportunity to share experiences and create more awareness about the different ways Rotarians can help when disaster strikes. He was governor of District 6200 (Louisiana) when much of the Gulf Coast, including New Orleans, was heavily damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005.

"We wanted to elicit an opinion on what Rotary's role should be in the event of a disaster and how to measure our response," Chauvin said.

Seven facilitators, including several past district governors with disaster response experience, led discussions during breakout sessions. Topics included defining Rotary's role, planning and preparing, working with other organizations, communicating and publicizing, harnessing the Rotary network, and utilizing district and club foundations.

The facilitators assembled a panel of experts to help answer audience questions and comment on participants' suggestions for addressing disasters. "It was important to hear what our diverse audience had to say about relief aid provided through Rotary," Chauvin said.

the workshop provided a great networking opportunity and was very well organized.

"I know from my conversations that many district governors and other Rotary officers greatly benefited from the conference and were going back to their respective districts and areas to reflect and plan for potential disaster relief," he noted.

One such leader is Richard McCombe, governor-elect of District 7020, which spans 10 countries and geographical areas, including the Bahamas and U.S. Virgin Islands. "Our plan is to have a disaster relief plan in place by the end of Rotary year 2007-08, which takes into account all the learned lessons from the workshop," he explained.

After the event, participants toured New Orleans neighborhoods and other Gulf Coast areas in Louisiana and Mississippi that haven't yet recovered from the hurricanes.

"The tour proved to be a sobering moment for all as they witnessed miles and miles of total devastation," noted Chauvin. "The reality of what had happened on August 29, 2005, began to sink in as a vivid picture of what a disaster in their hometowns might look like."

Editor: Gary Garner

Tom Henderson, a member of the Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard, England, and founder of the emergency relief organization ShelterBox, said