

MEETING OF FEBRUARY 19, 2008

Minutes of the Meeting of Feb. 12, 2008

- President Freddy Walter called the meeting to order at 12:23PM.
- Richard Jones offered the invocation.
- Kris King led the Club in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Valerie Sartin welcomed today's guests.
 - Patrick Ward and Harold Nicholson were guests of Johnny Stevens.
 - T.J. Norris was a guest of Billy Scruggs.
 - David Owens was a guest of Gene Owens.
 - Leslie Farmer was a guest of Francis Farmer.
 - Ryan Israel was a guest of Tom Potter.
 - Dr. Johsua Otaigbe was a guest of Susan T. Light.
 - John Whitaker was a guest of Todd Mixon.
 - Jody Corts was a guest of Ric Corts.
 - Charles Greer V was a guest of Charles Greer.
 - Sherri McCain was a guest of Kristi Gould.
 - Tina Ignatiev represented Association Management Systems.

- 1) At fifty dollars, T.J. Norris was named highest bidder for a fedora donated by Jerry Buti. Proceeds will benefit the Rotary Foundation.
- 2) Walter thanked greeters Michael McMullan and Valerie Sartin.
- 3) He reminded members of the food festival event scheduled for April 18 as a part of the District Conference.
- 4) He also reminded members of the Night in Italy event coming up on April 22. Walter also announced that Bob Warner, who headed up the effort to assist the Gulfcoast, is now asking for support of the tornado relief effort.

LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Hayden Mitchell introduced the guest speaker, Larry Fedora, head football coach at the University of Southern Mississippi. Athletic Director, Richard Giannini, also attended.

Fedora reviewed USM's football program over the past few months. He thanked members for creating the buzz that made this recruiting class successful. Fedora asserts that football is all about the players, and that's why he's recruiting aggressively. Up and coming players have to want to attend Southern Miss. That sort of good reputation is built by former students,

ANNOUNCEMENTS

current faculty, and the community surrounding the college. Fedora is confident that any recruit can reach every dream and goal right here in Hattiesburg through the University of Southern Mississippi. He has only to cite Brett Favre to prove his point.

Fedora has been working hard over the past months to select the right recruits for next year's team. No stone has been left un-turned; Fedora joked about the strange place-names he's encountered in his travels such as Hot Coffee, Dlo, and Itawamba. He will lead USM Football staff to connect with high school players beginning their freshman year, to build the relationships that make students and parents comfortable selecting Southern Miss. Fedora knows that it's these relationships which guarantee the cream of recruits for Southern.

Part of introducing potentials includes a tour of the grounds, the buildings, the field, the weight room—but Fedora asserts that, "It's not the stuff, not the glitter," that draws recruits. Fedora sells the staff, not the stuff, to high school players. USM Football Staff make sure students get to class, get tutoring when they need it, and act as a second family. Even though some of our football players seem like giants next to grown men, they're still somebody's baby. They will make mistakes, and they will need a support

system. Fedora emphasized that college players are between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one, asking Rotarians to recall the same age of their own youths. Fedora's second goal is to get to know the current players, with whom he is restricted to two hours meeting time each week. Right now, he has divided the coaches into three teams: offense, defense, and a special team. USM staff, including Fedora, have gone over a month without seeing their families. This sort of dedication makes plain that college football is a passion, not a job.

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

Daniel P. Henley, Executive Director of The Family YMCA of Southeast Mississippi, Inc. is our speaker.

Dan was born and raised in Brandon, Mississippi

Received a four year Baseball Scholarship to Belhaven College in Jackson, Mississippi

Earned a Masters of Sports Administration from the University of Southern Mississippi

Immediately after Graduate School, went to work for the Metropolitan YMCA in Houston Texas where he spent 4 years

He has been with the YMCA for eighteen years, also working at the

Birmingham, Alabama Metropolitan YMCA and the Montgomery, Alabama Metropolitan YMCA before coming to The Family YMCA in January 1999.

Dan's wife, Christine, is a Registered Nurse with Forrest General Hospital Homecare and they have four children Lauren 15, Zack 14, Danielle 11, and Braxton 7 years.

Gary Garner: Editor