

## **MEETING OF FEBRUARY 20, 2007**

### **Minutes of Meeting of Feb. 13, 2007**

- Conrad Welker presided.
- The invocation was provided by Kris King and
- ✓ Perrin Lowery led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Kristy Gould introduced our visiting Rotarians and guests:
- ✓ Jack Gay was a visitor from the Petal Club and Mary B. was a visitor of Bob Riley.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 1) Thanks to James Duncan and Suzy Steen for serving as our greeters.
- 2) Conrad reported that Frances Olgetree is greatly improved.
- 3) He also reminded members that raffle tickets for the District drawing continue to be on sale.
- 4) He also noted that several Paul Harris Fellowships would also be won in the drawing. Members are encouraged to purchase their tickets while they still remain on sale.
- 5) Kristy announced that a golf tournament is to be held on March 3. Benefits of the tournament will help the Children Center for Communications and Development. Anyone interested should contact Kristy or the Center for more information. The registration fee is \$60.00.

### **LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM**

Kristy Gould introduced Matt Martin, a Hattiesburg Friend of the Zoo board

member who introduced today's speaker, Lori Banchero, the Hattiesburg Zoo Director.

Lori reported that they have now filled the Zoological Education Curator position, which was a major hurdle along the road to reaching national accreditation. She is now in the process of beginning the paperwork required to file an accreditation application. The process could take most of the remainder of the year. Out of 2,100 zoos in America only just over 200 are accredited. One major benefit of this process will be the opportunity to apply for corporate and foundation grants. Non-accredited zoos do not qualify for these grants.

Some of the major projects on the drawing board at the Zoo include a \$3 million Big Cat Exhibit. Preliminary plans have been drawn for the project. When completed, the Big Cat Exhibit will have an Asian venue, a Mississippi Cat venue and an African Cat venue. However, the Zoo is a long way away from being able to reach the \$3 million mark needed to fund the project. Contributions made to the Friends of the Zoo are tax deductible. The Friends currently hold four fund raising events annually. Those include Lunch with the Keeper, a Membership Social, Zoo Boo during Halloween and Zoo Lights during the Christmas season. Sponsors are needed to continue these events.

The Hattiesburg Zoo has approximately a \$1 million annual operating budget. Additionally there is about \$150,000 appropriated each year for capital improvements. All of the current budget funding comes from Hattiesburg tax payers. Tickets sales have brought in

about \$100,000 during the past two years. This money is kept in the Kamper Park Improvement fund which is a revolving fund. Money in the fund is to be used for capital projects when needed. Lori's plans are to continue saving these proceeds to offset any major repairs or renovations that may be necessary in the future.

She reports that a great deal of repair work has been completed after Katrina, however, there is still work that needs to be done. Katrina did extensive fence damage throughout the zoo, damaged the boardwalk and almost destroyed the tropical bird exhibit. It is hoped that the Tropical Bird exhibit will be reopened by September. Only one small animal escaped due to Katrina damage and it was captured and returned without incident.

## **THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM**

**[To be announced]**

## **ROTARY INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **About PolioPlus.....**

Despite tremendous progress in reducing the incidence of polio, it still exists. Polio will continue to threaten children everywhere as long as it exists somewhere. In this age of global travel, a new outbreak of polio might only be a plane ride away.

Did you know that . . .

- Polio is a highly infectious disease that primarily affects children under the age of three and can cause paralysis within hours.

- Before eradication efforts began in 1988, polio paralyzed more than 1,000 children a day, which totaled about 350,000 children annually. The incidence of polio has since declined by more than 99 percent.
- Vaccinations easily can stave off polio. Vaccinations have prevented an estimated 500,000 children per year from contracting polio. A child can be protected against polio for as little as 60 cents (US) worth of vaccine.
- Only four countries are still polio endemic — an all-time low: Nigeria, India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.

- Rotary International is the spearheading member of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative and is the largest private sector donor. It has contributed more than US\$600 million to the polio eradication activities in 122 countries. In addition, tens of thousands of Rotarians have partnered with their national ministries of health, UNICEF, the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and with health providers at the grassroots level in thousands of communities.

A polio-free world is within our grasp. Join Rotary's effort to end this crippling disease. Learn more about Rotary's [ongoing effort](#) to eradicate polio and

how you can help through [contributions to PolioPlus](#) and [PolioPlus Partners](#).

The PolioPlus Division of The Rotary Foundation supports Rotarians' efforts to achieve Rotary International's and its Foundation's goal of the certification of the eradication of the wild poliovirus. This support includes the provision of quality education and information to promote the efforts of Rotarians directly involved in polio eradication activities, and the membership at large; facilitation of interaction, particularly between Rotarians in polio free and polio affected countries, collaboration with Rotary's partners in the Polio Eradication Initiative, and grants to Rotarians and partner organizations.

**A WORD FROM NAPOLEON HILL FOUNDATION**

DON'T BLAME CHILDREN WHO ARE BAD. BLAME THOSE WHO FAILED TO DISCIPLINE THEM.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once observed, "Our chief want in life is somebody who will make us do what we can." Although children doubtless do not recognize it at the time, they crave discipline, particularly during their formative years.

Discipline defines boundaries for them, provides security, and is an active expression of a parent's love. Most important, it prepares them for the challenges of adulthood. If your childhood was less than perfect, you are in good company.

Most of us have experienced difficulties at one time or another, and we all make mistakes from time to time. The good news is that while our environment as a child will have a profound influence upon the person you become, it is not the sole determinant. The person you choose to be is entirely up to you. Only you can decide who and what you will become in life.

.....**Napoleon Hill Foundation**

**Editor: Gary Garner**