

MEETING OF FEBRUARY 6, 2007

Minutes of Meeting of Jan. 30, 2007

- Conrad Welker presided.
- The invocation was provided by Freddy Walter.
- Bob Riley led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Kristy Gould introduced our visiting Rotarians and guests:
 - ✓ Valeri Sarth was a guest of Tina Lowrimore.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Thanks to Jalil Buti and Felicia Warren for serving as our greeters.
- 2) Bill MacLauchlan reported that the last visitation and reading session of the Bag, Book and Bear literacy project at Woodley Elementary School was a great success.
- 3) Conrad thanked Bill Hughes for the work he has completed on updating the Past Presidents list for the club.
- 4) Conrad announced that a monetary gift would be given in memory of District Governor Elect Raymond Hymel who died December 27, 2006.
- 5) Freddy Walter announced that The District Conference will be held May 17-19 at the Beau Rivage Casino Hotel. We are looking for volunteers to participate in the Food Fest. Rotarians, spouses, children or grandchildren. We will also need support people that can help us get costumes, props and other items together. We will need people to serve as well as

participate in the skit. Believe me, we will keep it Simple and operate under the KISS principle. Being there will be the most important contribution. If people can attend the Food Fest only, we need them.

At this point, We are going to turn in Field of Dreams (Base Ball) for our choice. We need some corn stocks or maybe a tub of growing corn. We will probably serve hot dogs and corn on the cob. We will need some boilers and hot plates. We may also serve hot popcorn, so we will need a large pop corn popper. We might need people to be in the stands in addition to "Ball Players". The food servers may walk around with trays of popcorn or peanuts and Cracker Jacks. We are wide open to suggestions. We could change movie and/or themes. We need participation.

LAST WEEKS PROGRAM

Billy Scruggs introduced the speaker, Niki D. Cleveland, a physician at University Medical Center. She spoke about the Mississippi Children's Museum.

The Mississippi Children's Museum will provide a unique and exciting educational experience that ignites and inspires a thirst for discovery, knowledge and learning in all children. The project was born due to a belief that Mississippi should have a museum that celebrates our rich history and tradition, providing exhibits and programs that are fun, creative and imaginative.

The museum begins with giving children

a sense of place, or home. The signature exhibit will be a 5,000 square foot Mississippi Climbing Map. Children will be able to crawl over, under and through a topographical map of Mississippi to help anchor them in a sense of their own history and heritage. The museum will sponsor outreach programs including traveling exhibits to ensure that every child in Mississippi has an opportunity to be a part of the experience. To date they have raised 13 million dollars of the 22 million needed to complete the facility.

The museum will be accessible to disabled children. The Mississippi Children's Museum will break ground in LeFluer's Bluff State Park in Jackson in the fall of 2007.

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

Margaret Buttross-Brinegar, Director of the Children's Center for Communication and Development, is our speaker today. She will be providing us with updates regarding the Children's Center and its goings-on since she visited last spring. She will also be bringing some special guests with her.

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, our certified staff supervises undergraduate and graduate students from a variety of disciplines within the University.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Coverage of 2007 International Assembly

Foundation enjoying 'greatest moment,' says Giay

By Antoinette Tuscano
Rotary International News

1 February 2007

[The Rotary Foundation](#) has surpassed its 2006-07 goals, garnering recognition for its credibility and reliability, said Trustee Chair Luis Vicente Giay yesterday at the [2007 International Assembly](#) in San Diego.

"There's no question about this — our Foundation is enjoying the greatest moment in its history," said Giay.

More than 200,000 foundations operate in the United States, and The Rotary Foundation now ranks among the top institutions. This year, foundation

evaluator [Charity Navigator](#) put The Rotary Foundation on its list of 50 best organizations with a maximum rating of four stars.

The reasons for the accolades include the Foundation's efficient administration, sound investments, and excellent control over its programs, said Giay. "Today, one word clearly defines our Foundation and that word is credibility."

More important than attention, the organization's credibility has attracted new donors, raising the bar on fundraising initiatives. In fact, in 2006-07 the [Annual Programs Fund](#) set its most ambitious goal to date — US\$120 million.

Giay stressed that these fundraising initiatives give the Foundation the ability to push priorities such as the organization's peace programs — the [Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution](#) and [Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies](#). "We're working to end war, because we believe peace is possible," said Giay.

Giay listed the Foundation's recent successes:

- The contributions and revenue from investments in 2005-06 totaled \$162.1 million.
- The [Permanent Fund](#) quickly surpassed the \$500 million mark and should reach its goal of \$1 billion sooner than predicted.
- Excluding investments in PolioPlus, 2,640 [Humanitarian Programs](#) grants totaling more than \$30 million were approved, a record amount.
- The number of [Matching Grants](#) approved that were sustained by the World Fund increased 19 percent, the average amount of each Matching Grant increased 28 percent, and the use of the District Designated Funds grew by 24 percent.
- Since the creation of Matching Grants, more than 25,000 projects have received financing from the Foundation.
- [Group Study Exchanges](#) participants surpassed 515 this year, the most in the program's history.

In addition, the Foundation counted more than 1 million [Paul Harris Fellows](#). "Soon our Paul Harris Fellows will outnumber our Rotarians," joked Giay.

Editor: Gary Garner