

MEETING OF JANUARY 22, 2008
Minutes of Meeting of January 15, 2008

- Vice President Richard Topp presided over the meeting in Freddy Walter's absence.
- John Guice offered the invocation.
- Bill Pace led the Club in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Gene Owens, substituting for Valerie Sartin, welcomed guests and visiting Rotarians.
 - Ken Lee and Mike Darby are visiting from the Sunrise Club.
 - Pierce Stevens is visiting from the Petal Club.
 - Erik Graham introduced his guest, Jason Townsend.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Todd Bradley was introduced for a brief presentation. He then presented one-half of the golf tournament proceeds to the Sunrise Club. The tournament generated just over \$5,400 in net income this year. Our club's proceeds of the event will be used to fund at least one defibrillator unit for the Lamar County Fire Department.
- 2) Topp reported that he and Freddy attended a District mid-year check-up meeting this past weekend. They reported that our Club is functioning well thus far this year. However, a number of other clubs in the District have accepted a goal of surpassing our membership numbers. Topp encouraged club members to become more diligent about asking their friends and fellow-workers to consider membership in the Hattiesburg Rotary Club.
- 3) Francis Farmer then conducted the monthly auction. Allen Anderson

provided a rug that produced \$150 and Conrad Welker donated a sweater dryer rack that he crafted which brought in \$25 dollars. Proceeds from the auction will be donated to the Rotary Foundation.

- 4) Joe Spell presented the program at a Kiwanis Club meeting on January 8. This was a service to the community and we know Joe did a great job.

LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Annie Wimbish introduced the guest speaker, Christy Harrison, project coordinator at the Institute for Disability Studies at USM. Christy presented club members with information about the Share Care Bank program under her supervision.

Share Care Bank was founded to provide assistance and support to the caregivers of citizens who are taking care of the elderly and persons with disabilities. Based on 2004 numbers, Mississippi has 280,000 individuals who are currently giving care to this population. Christy maintains that the number is probably higher than the 280,000 because many families take care of other family members and never reach out for assistance or report their efforts.

The Share Care Bank allows any citizen to provide a service to a member in need and earn time credit for that time. The time dollars can be used to purchase other services from other members. As an example, a member may have available transportation that can be provided in exchange for assistance with home clearing or home maintenance. The time collars can be used to provide caregivers and those in need assistance to meet the challenges they face.

Share Care Bank currently has 79 members. It was previously supported by proceeds through the University but now it exists only as a result of contributions and personal commitment from area citizens and organizations. The Bank has a listing of 53 services that can be provided and reported the exchange of 1,600 time hours last year. Members range in age from four to eighty-five. Other examples of the time dollar purchases include respite care, transportation, shopping, clerical assistance, yard work and home repairs.

Christy concluded her remarks by encouraging club members to consider donating their time and talents to the project. The primary focus of the Share Care Bank is to extend support to those who need it from just family members to a community support concept. Anyone can become a member by calling 601-266-5163. If you know of a family that could use assistance, call that number and share the information. If you can or know of someone who can assist, let Richard know. Topp adjourned the meeting by announcing that the District Conference will be held in New Orleans April 17-19. Volunteers are being sought now to assist with the Friday night skit that the club will be responsible for organizing. Conference registration information will be available soon.

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

Annie Wimbish has the program and will introduce the speaker, Violinist Jorge Ivan Gonzalez, a native of Monterrey, Mexico, who holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Music Performance from the University of Southern Mississippi. He is a teacher and conductor of the Hattiesburg High and N.R.Burger Middle School string orchestras, serves as adjunct professor at

USM as founder and conductor of the Southern Mississippi Youth Orchestra, Assistant Concertmaster of the Mobile Symphony Orchestra, Principal Second Violin of the Gulf Coast Symphony Orchestra, Principal Second Violin of the Meridian Symphony Orchestra, co-founder and first violin of the Hattiesburg based Stretto String Quartet and second violin of the Mobile, AL based Horizon String Quartet.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Foundation looks to the future with new goals

By Ryan Hyland
Rotary International News - 16 January 2008
Monika Lozinska-Lee/Rotary Images

Enhancing Rotary's public image and asking clubs and districts to partner more with The Rotary Foundation are just two of the new 2008-09 Foundation goals.

Foundation Trustee Chair-elect Jonathan Majiyagbe asked the more than 530 district governors-elect attending the International Assembly in San Diego, California, USA, to accept the duty of achieving the goals and to *Make Dreams Real* .

The 2008-09 Foundation goals are:

1. Keep our promise to [eradicate polio](#) .
2. Embrace the two pillars of support for The Rotary Foundation: the Annual Programs Fund through [Every Rotarian, Every Year](#) and the [Permanent Fund](#) .

3. Participate in Your Foundation/Our Foundation, a "lend a hand" program for sharing funds from club and district foundations to permanently establish the [Rotary World Peace Fellows](#) program and support global polio eradication.

4. [Enhance Rotary's public image](#) .

5. Support the [Future Vision Plan](#) of The Rotary Foundation.

The first two items are similar to the 2007-08 goals of eradicating polio and ensuring contributions to the Foundation. The last three, however, are new.

If Rotarians work together toward the third goal of supporting Your Foundation/Our Foundation, Majiyagbe believes the Foundation can both permanently endow the Rotary World Peace Fellowships program and help eradicate polio.

"Many Rotary clubs and districts have their own endowment funds or foundations, some of which have greater funds than our Rotary Foundation," he said. "In the past, The Rotary Foundation has sometimes viewed these entities as competitors for Rotarian

contributions, but I would like to change that perspective. I would like to see our relationship move from that of competitors to partners."

The Foundation can accomplish much more if club and district foundations contribute at least 10 percent of their funds to the polio eradication effort and the peace fellowships program, said Majiyagbe. He also urged Rotarians to use their [affinity credit cards](#) , which have raised US\$5.5 million for the Foundation since the program's inception in 2000.

With so much to accomplish, now is the ideal time to work on the fourth goal of enhancing Rotary's public image, a task that must be carried out at the grassroots level. "Better public acknowledgement will help us attract new members to our Rotary clubs, and it will help us attract new donors to our Foundation," he said.

The last goal of supporting the [Future Vision Plan](#) will help keep the Foundation viable, make it more efficient, and "meet the needs of the ages," said Majiyagbe.

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