

## MEETING OF JANUARY 23, 2007

### Minutes of Meeting of Jan. 16, 2007

- Conrad Welker presided.
- Gene Owens gave the invocation.
- Lamar Evans led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Gene Owens filled in for Kristi Gould and introduced visitors.
  - ✓ Two Petal Rotarians attended today's meeting but had to leave early.
  - ✓ George Karnes was a guest of Frances Karnes and Jeff Stewart was a guest of Mike Ratliff.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Thanks to Jeff Bowman for serving as our Greeter today.
- 2) Following the death of Governor-elect Raymond Hymel it was necessary, by Rotary rules, to identify someone who has attended the District Governor's Training Sessions to serve as District Governor for District 6840 for the Rotary year 2007-2008. Milton Wheeler has accepted the challenge and will be our District Governor. We are all deeply indebted to Milton for his willingness to serve us in this manner. Milton previously served as our District Governor in 1989-1990.
- 3) Conrad welcomed Joe Spell back to our Club. Joe has been recovering from hip surgery that resulted in the placement of four pins into his hip. He is doing well and says the pain level is now

about 5 percent of what it was immediately after the break and the surgery. It's great to have you back in the Club, Joe.

- 4) Conrad drew members' attention to the SPOKES this week. There is information in the newsletter about the need to increase the meal cost by one dollar per week. The Club is absorbing the increase for the first quarter but will include the increase in the fourth quarterly billing statements.
- 5) Conrad reported that he and Joe Riley represented the club at last week's District Disaster Seminar and Food Fest. More than 200 Rotarians showed up for the event. The Bay St. Louis club expressed gratitude for the monetary support provided by our Club.
- 6) The District's Mid-Year check up is scheduled for January 20 in Pass Christian. Conrad will represent the Club.

### LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Billy Scruggs introduced the speaker, Forrest and Perry County District Attorney, Jon Marks Weathers. Mr. Weathers reported that, as we all are aware, crime is up and the resources to deal with crime are on the decline. He specifically mentioned the recent explosion in drug related crimes in this area as a primary concern. Additionally, he noted that his office has been focused recently on bringing "career criminals" to justice. He believes by devoting limited resources to getting the career criminals off the street he is causing a reduction in future crimes caused by young people who are being influenced by the career criminals. Forty-six career

criminals were convicted last year and received three years to life for their crimes.

Mr. Weathers praised the progress of the new Drug Court program and noted that a DUI component will soon be added to that project. He also noted that the Community Corrections program, although struggling for resources, has gained great success in recent months. Additionally, the District Attorney's office has one full-time position devoted to domestic violence and one full-time position devoted to crimes against women and children. For the future, Weathers says he is excited about the new partnership being developed between his office and the University of Southern Mississippi. This project should produce a new CSI program. According to Weathers, the State Crime Lab does an excellent job with its limited resources however, the Lab is severely overloaded. The new CSI project should bring some relieve to the Lab's workload.

In other comments, Weathers noted that violent crimes have increased since Katrina. He believes that is likely to the influence of gangs in the area. There has also been a significant increase in the murder rate. Weathers suggest that the Mayor, the City Council and the Hattiesburg Police Chief reach some way to resolve the loss of Hattiesburg police officers. He stressed that the loss is much greater than just the loss of numbers. He is concerned with the loss of experience within the department.

## **THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM**

**Bill Ray is our speaker.**

PERSONAL: Family - Married to Charlotte Ann Carroll Ray; Two Daughters: Robin D'Neve Martin & Jennifer Keri Travis  
Six Grandchildren

Birth date: August 21, 1936  
Military United States Marine Corps  
Service: 1955-1959

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Present: President & Chief Executive Officer  
Asbury Foundation of Hattiesburg, Inc.  
1977 – 1999 - President & Chief Executive Officer  
Wesley Health System, Inc., Hattiesburg, MS  
1964 – 1977 - Executive Director  
Northwest Mississippi Regional Medical Center  
Clarksdale, MS

### CURRENT PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Fellow American College of Healthcare Executives

### PAST PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Mississippi State Board of Health representing Fifth Congressional District, 1992-1998;  
**Member**, Mississippi Blue Cross/Blue Shield Board of Directors (1975 - Present), Vice Chairman (1987-1993), Chairman (1994-1999), Chairman (2001-2005); Chairman.  
Mississippi Hospital Association, 1974  
Member Mississippi Hospital Association Board of Governors 1969-1972 and 1973-1975  
President, 1974; Member, Membership Committee, American College of Healthcare Executives  
1984-1987 Fellow American College of Healthcare Administrators;  
President, Mississippi Affiliates  
American College of Hospital Administrators  
1978-1979; Member, Mississippi Comprehensive Health Planning Commission, 1966-1976,  
Served as  
Vice Chairman and Chairman

### CIVIC AFFILIATIONS

Member, Hattiesburg – Laurel Regional Airport Authority Board Chairman; Member, Board of Directors, Hattiesburg Chamber of Commerce  
President, 1990-1992, Area Development Partnership, First President; Member, Hattiesburg Rotary Club

### PAST CIVIC AFFILIATIONS

Member, Board of Directors, Trustmark National Bank – Jackson and Hattiesburg;  
Chairman, Hattiesburg Convention Center Commission 1991-1994; Member William Carey College Board of Trustees; Member American Heart Association in Mississippi, Chairman, 1990-1991, Immediate Past Chairman & Board of Directors,

1992; Member Clarksdale Chamber of Commerce; President, Clarksdale Rotary Club; Vice Clarksdale Committee Concerned Citizens on Drug Abuse; Chairman, President, American Heart Association, Forrest County (1985-1986) President, Forrest-Lamar United Way, 1984-1985

Member, University of Southern Mississippi Foundation Board of Directors

#### RECOGNITION

“Administrator of the Year,” National United Hospital Wesleyan Association (Presentation on April 2, 1995, Kansas City); Recipient of “Healthcare Executive of the Year,” 1994; Mississippi Affiliates of American college of Healthcare Executives; Selected for “Who’s Who, South and Southwest,” 1973-1974; Selected for “Personalities of the South,” 1975; Selected for “Distinguished Service Award,” Clarksdale Jaycees, 1968-1969

Recipient of “Distinguished Service Award” presented by the Medical Staff of Northwest Mississippi Regional Medical Center 1976

Recipient of Appreciation Award, presented by the Medical Staff of Methodist Hospital, 1980; Recipient of Communication Achievement Award, presented by The Hattiesburg Toastmasters, 1980; Recipient of Hattiesburg Sales and Marketing Executive of the Year, 1990; Mississippi Industrial Development Council volunteer of the Year Laureate, 1991

#### CURRENT OFFICIAL CHURCH ACTIVITIES/RESPONSIBILITIES

Chairman of the Building Committee; Past Chairman of Deacons, First Baptist Church, Hattiesburg; Member, Long Range Planning Committee, First Baptist Church, Hattiesburg; Past Chairman, Finance Committee, First Baptist Church, Hattiesburg; Past Deacon, Oakhurst Baptist Church, Clarksdale, Mississippi  
Past Member, Pulpit Search Committee, First Baptist Church.

#### EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science, Business Administration  
Mississippi State University, Delta State University

Diploma, Hospital Administration, University of Alabama

**Bill, we know all about you and we’re glad you are one of us! Welcome!!**

#### THE ABCs OF CHARACTER

Act instead of argue.

Build instead of brag.

Climb instead of criticize.

Dig instead of depreciate.

Encourage instead of envy.

Fight instead of faint.

Give instead of grumble.

Help instead of harm.

Invite instead of ignore.

Join instead of jeer.

Kneel instead of kick.

Love instead of lampoon.

Move instead of mold.

Nurture instead of neglect.

Obey instead of object.

Pray instead of pout.

Qualify instead of quit.

Rescue instead of ridicule.

Shout instead of shrink.

Try instead of tremble.

Undergird instead of undermine.

Vindicate instead of vilify.

Witness instead of wit.

EXterminate instead of excuse.

Yield instead of yell.

Zip instead of zigzag.

**Editor: Gary Garner**