

MEETING OF JANUARY 29, 2008

Minutes of Meeting of Jan. 22, 2008

- President Freddy Walter presided over the meeting.
- Larry LeBlanc offered the invocation.
- Robert Cornett led the Club in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Valerie Sartin welcomed guests.
 - ❖ Kelly Bryant, a potential new member, was a guest of Freddy Walter.
 - ❖ Rod Entrikin was a guest of Conrad Welker.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Freddy Walter called three new members and their sponsors forward. He introduced the club to Heath Tillman, John McDaniel and Terry Miller. During the induction ceremony Freddy reminded the new members of the work that Rotary is doing worldwide. He also noted that they have four avenues of service available to them and encouraged them to consider which areas in which they will begin their Rotary service.
- 2) Members were reminded that the District Conference is scheduled for New Orleans April 17-20. Registration information should be coming

soon. They were also reminded of the Night in Italy event coming up on April 22.

- 3) Freddy announced that the Club is again helping to sponsor the Young Author's Program at William Carey University. Volunteers are needed for that event. Anyone interested in assisting should contact Joe Riley.

LAST WEEKS MEETING

Annie Wimbish introduced the program. Club members were entertained by the Hattiesburg High School's Chamber Orchestra.

Zack Jones, a member of the orchestra reported that there are 360 members of the Hattiesburg Strings program. Twenty-eight of those are represented in the Chamber Orchestra. The group competes nationally. A fundraising concert will be conducted at the Cultural Center in May 1. Dr. Wimbish will have ticket information available later.

Today's concert was conducted by Ms. Debra Dean, Department Chair for the String Department at Hattiesburg Public Schools and violinist Jorge Ivan Gonzalez, teacher and conductor of the Hattiesburg High and N.R. Burger Middle School string orchestras.

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

Maura McLaughlin will introduce the program in the absence of Dr. Annie Wimbish, who was unable to be here today.

Raphael Scott Waldrop is the Director of Forensics at Hattiesburg High School. The producer of every show that appears on stage at HHS, Mr. Waldrop is a veteran of the stage having played numerous roles across the Southeastern US. A high school and collegiate debate champion, he has been awarded the Margaret Walker Alexander Distinction for the Fine Arts. Recognized nationally for this work with the NO-AIDS TASK FORCE in Atlanta, GA, he has served on the Health Information Network of the National Education Association where he a senior member of the Human and Civil Rights Committee. Recently named a Diamond Coach in the National Forensic League Coach of the Year and the National Federation of High Schools Speech, Debate, and Theatre Educator of the Year. He serves as the Director and Moderator of the Biloxi Catholic Forensic League and Executive Director of Mississippi Youth Congress. His debate team has won the last 7 Mississippi Forensic League State Championships in a row!

Fast facts about Foundation Scholars

Former Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar Andy Stoll is on a two-year trip around the world in search of Rotarians and their projects. He's seen famous landmarks, slept in unusual places, and even climbed one the world's tallest mountains. The new *Interactive* issue salutes the Ambassadorial Scholarships program and the difference its alumni are making in the world.

- The first Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarships were awarded in 1947 to 18 students from nine countries. To date, 64 percent of the scholarships have been awarded to women and 36 percent to men.
- From Ambassadorial Scholar in 1960-61 to district governor of 6050 in Kirkland, Missouri, USA, to RI director and Rotary Foundation trustee, Ray E. Klinginsmith has taken Rotary to heart and around the world.
- The top five countries hosting Ambassadorial Scholars are the United States, England, Australia, Canada, and South Africa. And the top five countries sponsoring scholars are the United States, Japan, Korea, Germany, and Italy.

- The top field of study is international relations. The least-studied field is psychology.

3-H project shines the light of literacy in Brazil-

With support from the Foundation, Brazilian host partners in districts 4520, 4560, and 4760 and international partners in districts 6900 (Georgia, USA) and 7080 (Ontario, Canada) developed a US\$344,862 project that set up a CLE training center in Contagem, Minas Gerais. Today, more than 1,900 teachers and other educational experts have learned the method that has taught more than 72,600 beneficiaries how to read and write. Through CLE, students learn from group texts and activities rather than rote memorization and repetition. With low costs and a highly interactive aspect that is popular with students, CLE programs have proven effective in numerous developing countries.

“In this area, we’ve had a big problem with functional illiteracy,” says Gláucia Rosa Alves, a trainer at one of the centers. “We needed a low-cost and effective method, and then Rotary came.”

Dozens of local Rotary clubs are now promoting and supporting CLE methodology in Brazil. The active involvement of local Rotarians has also led to numerous non-grant projects to help schools with materials, meals, and health care. One school that adopted the method is Sônia Braga Ribeiro, an oasis in a crime-ridden area of Contagem. Many of the students come from destitute families who must collect trash to make a living.

“For many students, the school becomes a second home,” says Eduardo Krafetuski, a past District 4760 governor and coordinator of the project. “The CLE method is successful because students work in groups, so if one student is struggling, his classmates will help him out.”

Editor: Gary Garner