

MEETING OF JANUARY 9, 2007

Minutes of Meeting of Dec. 19, 2006

- Presiding: Conrad Welker
- Invocation: Joe Riley
- Pledge of Allegiance: Francis Farmer
- Kristi Gould introduced visiting Rotarians and guests.
 - ✓ Milton Wheeler of the Petal club visited.
 - ✓ Kim Bradley was a guest of Todd Bradley
 - ✓ Mike Ratliff has as his guests today Nancy Ratliff, Toxey and Virginia Morris.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Thanks to our Greeters Michael MacMillan and Bill Pace
- 2) Conrad announced a board meeting on January 9, 2007 beginning at 10:45 a.m.
- 3) Those who participated in the Salvation Army Kettle project on December 16th were thanked for their efforts. Conrad noted that the Army had to be called mid-afternoon so the kettle could be emptied.

MEETING OF DECEMBER 19TH

Ben Morris was our guest speaker today. Ben is a Rotarian Ambassadorial Scholarship recipient and is currently studying at the University of Cambridge.

Ben discussed his plans for his doctoral dissertation. He is undertaking a cutting edge study that will address the various aspects that culture, the arts, have in a recovery after a disaster. He will be using information gathered post Katrina throughout south Louisiana and Mississippi.

Based on his early observations, Ben's research will involve the many ways we utilize our culture, heritage and arts to regain a sense of normalcy after a disaster. There are many aspects of the study that he will pursue, including restoration efforts of historic architecture and restoration efforts and methods of restoration for art works and collections. He will also research what happens to the culinary arts, disaster inspired art and the performing arts. According to Ben, a writer trying to share his thoughts after Katrina regarding the displacement of so many New Orleans residents told Americans who accepted the refugees that they could count on two things. Their food and their music would get better.

Other areas of Ben's research will delve into legal frameworks that exist before a disaster that hinder or perhaps help the reconstitution of the culture damaged or destroyed by a disaster. He will also look at the roles played by memory and performance in recover and how these are used in restoration.

Ben thanked Rotarians for giving him this scholarship opportunity. He asked that anyone who has thoughts or ideas they would like to share with him regarding his research, to please contact him.

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

Judge Robert B. Helfrich is our speaker. He is a veteran of the United States Coast Guard. He obtained his undergraduate degree from George Mason University and his Juris Doctorate from the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1985. Bob has served as an assistant public defender and as an assistant District attorney for Forrest and Perry counties. In November 2002, Bob was elected Circuit Court Judge for the Twelfth Circuit Court District. He assumed these duties on January 1, 2003.

He has received various awards in his short time in office:

- 2004 Chief Justice Award presented to Judge Helfrich (along with Jon Mark Weathers, District Attorney, and Justice Jess Dickinson who was a Special Judge for Forrest and Perry Counties in 2003). This award was given to Judge Helfrich by Chief Justice James W. Smith of the Mississippi Supreme Court for his timely and efficient case and docket management and for the improvement of the administration of justice.
- 2004 Judicial Performance Award presented to Judge Helfrich by the Mississippi Court administrator's Association for his outstanding service and commitment to justice.
- The Jackie Dole Sherrill community Award for 2004 awarded by the Shafer Center for Crisis intervention in recognition

of his support to the Center and for the victims they serve.

- 2003 Person of the Year – Hattiesburg American (along with Jon Mark Weathers, D.A.)
- Started the Forrest/Perry Adult Drug Court on October 8, 2003. The project director for the National Drug Court Institute anticipates that the Drug Court will probably become one of the Institute's model courts for 2006, being one of about twenty in the United States.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Bill's MESSAGE

January 2007

The Rotarian

Dear fellow Rotarians,

When we are asked, what is Rotary? it can sometimes be difficult to give a quick and easy answer. Rotary is about so many things: friendship and fellowship, international understanding and cooperation, vocational ethics and community leadership. All these values brought us to Rotary, and all are reasons why we stay.

But first and foremost, Rotary is about service and putting Service Above Self. Rotary was founded for fellowship, but it quickly grew into an organization where people who wanted to serve others came together to do it – better, more effectively, and more enjoyably than they could have alone. We're members of our clubs so we can work through them to help others. That is why we're Rotarians. That is why we're here.

The four Avenues of Service are, and always will be, central to Rotary's work. They help us find balance in our choice of projects and aid us in achieving the Object of Rotary. Through Club Service, Vocational Service, Community Service, and International Service, we strive to uphold this ideal. Every project we carry out – every playground we refurbish, every well we help dig, every adult we teach to read, every child we immunize against polio — makes the world we all live in a bit better, a bit healthier, a bit happier. And it demonstrates to others that in the long term, we do not succeed professionally *despite* our commitment to doing what is right — we succeed *because* of it.

Everything we do in Rotary supports the Object of Rotary. When we work to strengthen The Rotary Foundation, we're building greater resources to support our service. When we work to increase membership, we're doing it so we'll have more hands to carry out our projects. Although some things in

Rotary, like the Object of Rotary and the four Avenues of Service, do not change, our organization has evolved over the decades to find better and more efficient ways of meeting our goals. The Club Leadership Plan is one such tool. In it, we have an effective road map for organizing our clubs and allowing each one to work to its full potential, in every one of the four Avenues of Service.

By simplifying our club leadership structure, we free more of our time, energy, and resources for the real business of Rotary, which is, and always will be, service. By upholding our commitment to our four Avenues of Service, we honor the generations of Rotarians who followed them in the past — and *Lead the Way* for generations to come.

Bill Boyd, RI President, 2006-07

Editor: Gary Garner