

**MEETING OF JULY 1, 2008**  
**Minutes of Meeting of June 24, 2008**

- President Freddy Walter presided over the meeting.
- Past President Conrad Welker offered an invocation.
- Joe Riley led the Club in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Thanks to A.D. Hunt and Gene Owens for serving as our greeters.
- Freddy thanked the visitors for attending the Awards and Installation Program.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Steve Ramp presented our newest member, Jaclyn Adams. She was introduced by Dan Kibodeaux, her sponsor. She was welcomed to the club and encouraged to become involved.

**LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM**

Freddy presented Margaret Brinegar from the Children's Center for Communications and Development with the contributions to this year's Night In Italy. The check in the amount of \$13,747 was an increase by more than \$3,000 over last. Margaret thanked the club and assured us that the Center would be good stewards of the contribution.

**AWARDS AND THE INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS FOR 2008-2009**

Steve Ramp presented this year's Hanna Award to Gene Owens. Gene's selfless service to the community and his tireless devotion to the Club were factors in the committee's decision to make this award to Gene.

Allen Anderson presented the Bill Gwyn Non-Rotarian of the Year award to Jon

Mark Weather, the Forrest and Perry County District Attorney. This award includes a Paul Harris Fellow Designation made by the Club on his behalf. Attorney Weathers was very grateful for the recognition and stated that he intends to live up to the honor given to him by Rotary.

Two new Paul Harris Fellowships were announced by Allen Anderson. Susan Morgan and Steve Ramp were both recognized for their contributions to the Rotary Foundation this year.



Freddy called the retiring officers and board members forward and thanked them each for their efforts throughout the year. Specifically mentioned and thanked were Todd Bradley for the Golf Tournament, Kristi Gould for her efforts with the AED donation to the Lamar County Fire Dept., Bill McLeod for his efforts with the Night In Italy and Salvation Army bell ringing project. A.D. Hunt was thanked for ensuring the Club had great programs throughout the year and Valerie Sartin thanked for her work as Sergeant of Arms. Retiring Board Members included Jeff Bowman, Greg Garraway, Jonathan Shemper and Dave Senne.

Mike Ratliff, Deputy District Governor introduced and installed the new officers and directors for the coming year. Richard Topp will serve as President, Mary Cromartie is the President Elect. A.D. Hunt is the Vice-President and Kris King is the Secretary-Treasurer. New Board members are Robert Cummings, Maura McLaughlin, Steve Ram and Erick Graham.

Newly installed president Richard Topp presented immediate Past President Freddy

Walter with a Paul Harris Fellowship provided by the Club.

Freddy made individual contributions throughout the year to the Rotary Foundation and has named a Paul Harris Fellowship in honor of his wife, Barbara Walter.

Richard Topp also gave a brief overview of his recent trip to Rotary International Conference. Richard highlighted the growth of Rotary and the contribution by Bill and Melinda Gates of 100 million dollars to help eradicate polio.



#### This Week's Program

Richard Topp, our new President, will speak about the upcoming plans for Rotary.

Richard G. Topp is married to Debra Topp and they have three children. Shelby Topp is a physician in the U.S. Navy, about to go to Okinawa for a year. He is married to Zheng Zhu Topp (ZZ Topp) who is a medical resident at the Univ. of VA. Lindsey Topp is a law student at Tulane Law School. Wesley Topp is about to graduate from USM in Therapeutic Recreation. In addition to Rotary, Richard serves in leadership or advisory capacities for several organizations including President of Advisory Board of the Hattiesburg Salvation Army, Treasurer of the USM Wesley Foundation, Advisory Council of Christian Services Center, Board of Mississippi Methodist Senior Services, Board of Wesley Manor in Hattiesburg, and finance chairman for Parkway United Methodist Church. Debra is Director of Children and Family Ministries of Parkway Heights. Hobbies include golf, hiking, kayaking and jogging. In his spare time he is a partner with Nicholson & Company,

PLLC in the practice of public accounting. Richard is a member of the American Institute of CPA's and the MS State Society of CPA's and serves on the Health Care Services Committee of the MS State Society.

Walley Weakley, our Asst. Governor, will speak about upcoming plans for our District.

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