

MEETING OF JULY 17, 2007

Minutes of Meeting of July 10, 2007

- Freddy Walter presided.
- The invocation was given by Mike Ratliff.
- Valerie Sartin led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Thanks to today's greeters, Ric Corts and Tom Potter.
- Tina Lowrimore introduced today's Visiting Rotarians and Guests:
 - ✓ Richard Bagley and Ken Ribelin were visitors from the Petal Club.
 - ✓ Tommy Stokes was a guest of Ken Ribelin.
 - ✓ Tom Heanue was a visitor from the Sunrise Club.
 - ✓ Irene Gray was a visitor from the Searcy, Arkansas Club.
 - ✓ Mary B. Riley was a guest of Bob Riley.
 - ✓ Robin Walker was a guest of Mike Ratliff.
 - ✓ Mac Forsyth was a guest of Bill McLeod.
 - ✓ Margaret Lochhead was a guest of Robert Lochhead.

LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Freddy announced that today's meeting was a General Assembly meeting. He then proceeded to thank the volunteers who have agreed to give their time to the Club's work during the coming year.

Richard Topp, President-Elect of the Club is in charge of the Administrative Committee functions this year.

Stephen Ramp, Vice-President is serving with Jonathan Shemper as the Club Services Chairmen. Membership falls under the duties of this service area. Stephen announced that the committee plans to take action in the near future to change the Red Badge members to Blue

Badge members. He also encouraged members to seek out other potential new member candidates in the coming months.

A.D. Hunt is the Club's Secretary/Treasurer. A.D. is in charge of securing the program chairs for the coming twelve months. It was announced that those chairs have been secured and programs have been outlined for the first two months. Walter noted that this area of service is one of the most critical areas to the Club.

Returning board members for the coming year include Greg Garraway, Jonathan Shemper, David Senne, and Jeff Bowman. Newly elected board members include Todd Bradley, Kristy Gould, Perrin Lowrey, and Bill McLeod.

In Community Service for the coming year, Freddy plans to continue the annual Golf Tournament and the Night in Italy functions. He also predicts that the Club will expand the defibrillator project into the populated counties of Forrest and Lamar in the coming years.

The Vocational Services area will continue the City Employee of the Quarter recognition program. Freddy encouraged that committee to seek other ways to engage the Club in vocational services, such as developing an intern program or some other vocational challenge.

In International Services, Freddy plans to find ways to increase the Club member's participation in the Rotary International Foundation. Other areas of focus in International Services for the year will include support for the Group Exchange program and the Ambassadorial Scholarship program.

Two key areas of focus for the year, according to Freddy, will be an increase

in membership and increased support for the Rotary Foundation.

And with that announcement the General Assembly was concluded with an auction that generated \$216 that will be donated to the Rotary Foundation. Club members are encouraged to bring an item, a product of a hobby or a special interest that can be donated and auctioned off. Plans are to conduct the auction once per month throughout the year. Susan Light will bring an item for the next auction. Others are encouraged to add to her item.

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

Richard Giannini, Director of Athletics/Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The Southern Miss Athletic Foundation, is our speaker today.

Since Richard was named Director of Athletics in 1999, his vision, leadership, and unwavering work ethic has transformed the face and landscape of Southern Miss athletics in ways that will have lasting effects for years to come.

In fact, to see the impact he has made on Golden Eagle Athletics, one need only to look at all the improvements that have been made during his tenure, especially in the area of academics, facilities, athletic achievement, and increased revenue.

A tireless and innovative administrator, Giannini brought outstanding intercollegiate athletic experience to Hattiesburg, including five years as director of athletics at one of Southern Miss' longtime interstate rivals, Louisiana-Monroe.

While working for NCAA in the mid-1970s, his responsibilities included serving as executive producer of the ABC Football Highlight Shows, as well as NCAA Tournament basketball games

not aired by NBC. He also managed and produced the first national telecast of the College Baseball World Series for HBO, and produced numerous conference football highlight films. He was also director of licensing for the NCAA.

He served as Assistant Sports Information Director at Florida (his alma mater) from 1966 to 1970, was sports information director at Duke from 1970 to 1973, became assistant athletics director at Duke in 1974, and, after working for the NCAA in 1976 and 1977 and returned to Florida as Senior Associate Athletics Director to oversee external affairs.

He left Florida in 1986 to enter the private sector, taking over as CEO and co-owner of Raycom Management Group in Charlotte, N.C., a subsidiary of Raycom Sports, where he developed numerous sporting events, including the Blockbuster Bowl, the most successful first-year bowl in NCAA history.

Giannini's successes have not gone unnoticed. He recently was inducted into the University of Florida's College of Health and Human Performance Hall of Fame in March of 2004 and the Saint Leo University Athletics Hall of fame in February of 2005.

The Golden Eagle athletics director was born Nov. 12, 1942, is a 1961 graduate of Winter Park, Fla. High School, was a track athlete, competing in the weight events, at Furman, and graduated from the University of Florida in 1966.

He has continued to work at both the conference and national levels. He serves on several Conference USA committees, was chairman of the CUSA football athletic director's committee in 2001-02 and currently serves as the chairman of the Football and Bowl Committee. Giannini recently completed a term on the NCAA Football Issues Committee and is in the second

year of a four-year term as a member of the NCAA Championships Cabinet. He also is a member of the NCAA postseason football committee, which governs the bowl games and represents CUSA Athletics Directors at BCS meetings.

Giannini's accomplishments to date at Southern Miss include the following:

- Increase of graduate and academic progress rates
- Increased Southern Miss' national and conference athletic recognitions
- Established Southern Miss Athletic Foundation
- Increased multi-media sports agreements
- Endowed scholarships
- \$50 million facility upgrade, which includes: New press box and 12 suites at Pete Taylor Park, renovation and expansion projects at M.M Roberts Stadium and Reed Green coliseum, the Athletic Center, new women's softball facility, among many other facilities completed and on the drawing board
- Many conferences titles in several of the sports

Giannini and his wife, Gayle, are parents of four daughters—Ansley Stone, Brittney Borbash, Carolyn Linker, and

DeLancey, and grandparents of Tori, Parker, Sara, Kelsey, Ryleigh, and Kyle.

We welcome Richard to the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg!

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

**THE BEST RECOMMENDATION
IS THE ONE YOU GIVE
YOURSELF BY RENDERING
SUPERIOR SERVICE-WITH THE
RIGHT MENTAL ATTITUDE.**

What others think of you is important, as long as it coincides with what you think of yourself. If you are recognized by others as a positive person who always makes an important contribution, you will be in demand, for there are never enough such people in any organization. Your co-workers will value you, your customers will appreciate you, and your boss will recognize and reward you if you stick with it. You may not become an overnight success, but neither will you fail instantly and permanently. Make it a habit to go the extra mile with a Positive Mental Attitude.

The Napoleon Hill Foundation

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