

MEETING OF JULY 31, 2007

Minutes of Meeting of July 24, 2007

- President Freddy Walter presided over the meeting.
- Richard Topp offered the invocation.
- Kristi Gould led the Club in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Tina Lowrimore introduced visiting Rotarians and guests:
 - ✓ Jamie Holland was a guest of William McLeod.
 - ✓ Richard Jones was a guest of Freddy Walter.
 - ✓ Debra Topp was a guest of Richard Topp.
 - ✓ Mike Pascarella was a guest of Ken Wooden.
 - ✓ Frances Ogletree and her daughter Frances Ogletree Palmer were guests.
 - ✓ Butch Brown was a visitor from the Sunrise Club.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) David Thoms and William MacLauchlan were greeters.
- 2) Freddy introduced Bob Pierce with the University of Southern Mississippi Alumni Association. Bob thanked the Club for their generous support of the Ogletree House project reminding the members that the club committed \$25,000 over a five year period. When visitors approach the House they will first encounter the Rotary Garden, made possible by the club's donation. Bob reports that bids for the

construction project will be opened in mid September with construction beginning shortly after that. It is hoped that the project will be completed in early 2009. The total project cost is expected to be three-million dollars. The fund raising effort remains about \$300,000 short in its goal.

- 3) Freddy announced that the nomination period for the District Governor of 2010/2011 is fast approaching. He also reported that the GSE Team will be visiting in April and May of next year. Freddy also noted that a number of Club members will be attending a seminar on August 18 at Perkinston.
- 4) Conrad Welker was then invited to introduce a business matter to the club. Conrad reported that a number of problems have arisen since Rotary International's Council on Legislation passed Enactment 07-231 requiring the addition of 17 real-time interpreters. Rotary International reports that it does not have the space, nor the fiscal capabilities to support the enactment.

Motion: Conrad Welker moved and Richard Topp and Bill MacLauchlan seconded a motion to ask for a recall of Enactment 07-231 and that the Council on Legislation revisits this issue at a later date. The motion was unanimously accepted. Freddy will follow up by reporting the Club's vote to RI.

LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Tom Potter then introduced today's guest speaker, John Cox. Tom reported that John came to Hattiesburg about thirty years ago to play basketball. He pursued a degree in Radio and Television from the University. He has chosen to make Hattiesburg his home and has been the voice of USM athletics for a number of years. He does the play-by-play broadcasts of all USM athletic events as well as is responsible for the pre and post game radio shows.

John discussed a book that he has written concerning the history of USM Football. During the research for the book he noted that the first Athletic Director of the University, Ronald Slay, has not been recognized for his contributions to the University and its athletic program. After many months of research he has found a living relative of Mr. Slay and he will be honored in October with a presentation. Mr. Slay and his wife, residents of Purvis were interred in Coletown Cemetery.

John also discussed the many contributions of Powell Ogletree, who was a USM football player in 1942 and went on to play a major role in USM's history as well as that of the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg.

John is currently working on a book that will detail the history of USM's basketball program. He is also working on another

book that will detail Hattiesburg's history for the nine months immediately following the Pearl Harbor attack. During that period President Franklin Roosevelt visited Hattiesburg and Camp Shelby. The president spent thirteen hours in the area.

John concluded his remarks by reporting that it is a great time to be involved in USM sports. Thanks to the visionary leadership of Athletic Coordinator, Richard Giannini, the University is well positioned to take advantage of many opportunities that are expected to be available to the University over the next ten to twenty years.

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

To be Announced

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

Susan Light will provide an item for the Foundation Auction on August 7. What will it be? Is it big or is it small? Does it sparkle? Gentlemen, here is a chance for you to surprise your bride of one year or 60 years. Ladies this is the perfect excuse to get a new piece of jewelry. What will Susan bring?

What do you have that you can put in the auction?"

Editor: Gary Garner