

MEETING OF JUNE 10, 2008

Minutes of Meeting of June 3, 2008

- President-Elect Richard Topp presided over the meeting.
- Dan Kibodeaux gave the invocation.
- Richard Jones led the Club in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Thanks to Perrin Lowrey and Kris King for serving as our Greeters today.
- Valerie Sartin welcomed guest Milton Wheeler from Petal Rotary Club.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Steve Ramp has scheduled classification talks for this month. The first is Aime Spears.
- 2) Aime Spears is from Metairie, LA. Aime married her husband, Eric in 1982. They have two sons. The family moved here in 1982 where Aime did computer work until 1998 when she and her sister opened a health club in Oak Grove. Aime currently works for WHLT.
- 3) Steve Ramp reminded everyone of the Annual Awards Luncheon on June 24. The board of directors, incoming and outgoing, are asked to please RSVP for attendance. The menu will reflect the occasion appropriately.
- 4) As per membership guidelines, the board has approved Ben Burnett for membership.

LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Dan Kibodeaux introduced Shellie Moses Morengo from the Make-a-Wish Foundation. The Mississippi Chapter has been in existence for 24 years. The

foundation “grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy”. They work with children from the ages of 2 ½ to 18 years old. Currently there are 76 children in Mississippi on the wish list with 14 here in the Pine Belt area. Nationally there is a wish granted every 40 seconds. There are enough children on the wish list to grant a wish every 20 seconds. The average operating expense is at 25%. The Make-a-Wish Foundation operates at 14.6%. There is no “out-of-pocket” expense to the families for the wish that is granted. The wish asked for the most is Disney World. At any given time, there could be 2,000 wishes on Disney’s property. Anyone interested in giving support to the foundation may do so with time as well as financially. The address for sending a donation is 4800 I-55 North, Suite 30, Jackson, MS 39211. You may also request information on how to become involved with the foundation.

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

To be announced

Historic moments -- Rotary convention history in Los Angeles

Rotary International News - 30 May 2008

In 1922, General Secretary Charles R. Perry stood before a group of Rotarians at the RI Convention in Los Angeles and read a message from President Emeritus Paul Harris:

“It is a wonderful thing to have friends, many good, staunch, and loyal friends. They

warm the heart and brighten up life's pathway. . . . Rotary is the door to friendship. Let us throw it open to every people."

The message was received with prolonged applause.

Approximately 6,000 Rotarians and guests attended the annual gathering that year. They enjoyed a trip to Long Beach Pike and a gathering at the Hollywood Bowl, among other activities.

Along with fellowship, attendees accomplished Rotary business as well, changing the organization's name from the International Association of Rotary Clubs to its current moniker and unanimously adopting the RI Constitution and Bylaws.

L.A. , take two

In 1962, Los Angeles hosted more than 22,000 registrants at its second RI Convention. California Governor Edmund G. Brown, the first speaker, recalled the expansion of Rotary in his state since the 1922 convention. "I hope that you continue your great work, not only here in the United States but throughout the world," Brown concluded.

President-elect Lee challenges Rotarians to bring in more members

By Lisa Baker
Rotary International News –

Increasing membership, especially among younger generations, was the focus of the Regional Rotary International Membership Coordinators Training Seminar, held earlier this month in Skokie, Illinois, USA. The

annual RRIMC event trains Rotarians to help clubs and districts achieve membership growth.

RI President-elect Dong Kurn Lee called on the RRIMCs to get every Rotary club to bring in at least one new member in 2008-09. During his term, he will challenge each district to achieve a 10 percent net increase in membership and to start two new clubs.

Lee stressed the importance of recruiting younger Rotarians: "If we don't bring in younger members, we'll miss out on a great deal of energy and expertise. The strongest Rotary club is one that is diverse. It has members of different ages, both men and women. It has members of many different vocations and professions. It has members with different skills and talents."

He also spoke about Rotary's youth programs and alumni. "Good Rotaract and Interact clubs create good future Rotarians," he said. "Clubs should maintain contact with alumni, so when it's time, they can be invited to join Rotary."

"Most alumni aren't asked to join Rotary, and that represents a tremendous investment of our capital that we are ignoring," explained RI General Secretary Ed Futa. "They have to knock on our door and beg us to be a part of the Rotary family. If we aren't going to invest in them, then let's stop the programs."

John Hockin, a member of RI's Membership Development and Retention Committee, urged the RRIMCs to be role models for all Rotarians. "Our approach and attitude must be changing. Bring in members – not members your age, but two generations younger."

According to Hockin, if all clubs and districts meet Lee's challenges, Rotary will welcome 100,000 new members next year.

The 10 clubs and districts with the highest percentage membership growth will be recognized during the 2009 RI Convention in Birmingham, England.

Five Comments About Membership:

At 8:38AM on 3 June 2008, **ROTARACTOR JOSEPH IKULI**, President Rotaract club of Niger Delta university district 9140 Nigeria wrote: Bringing young men to any Rotary club is one of the best best thing that can happen to that club because young people are very innovative ,optimistic and energetic ,they inject new spirit of service and inspire older rotarians to go the extra mile

At 9:26AM on 12 May 2008, **Michel P. Jazzar** wrote: The eternal question regarding the Membership Development is still : Quality or Quantity? I have brought the answer at one of the RLI Lebanon Division Seminars. We need Quantity in Retention and Quality in Recruitment

At 8:27AM on 6 May 2008, **Bob James Jr., Charter President** wrote: DK Lee is correct! Here in District 5340, San Diego, California, we are wrapping up our first full year as the La Jolla New Generations Rotary Club. We have 35 members with an average age of 31 and we are 60% women! I am an elder being 41 years old. Our District has benefitted with such a great group of 94% brand new Rotarians! 33 people that could have not joined any other regular morning or noon-time club. You owe it to your District, community, and our world to invite and find ways to get younger people into Rotary! With more hands we can serve better!

At 1:46PM on 29 April 2008, **PDG Nirmal Singhvi** wrote: Joining Rotary at younger age of 27 yrs in 1985 made me a good rotarian and a good citizen and transformed my personality and gave me a chance to serve the downtrodden and become a district governor at a younger age of 49 in a large district of 5000 plus members in 45 revenue districts of RID 3050.

Editor: Gary Garner