

MEETING OF JUNE 12, 2007

Minutes of Meeting of June 5, 2007

- Conrad Welker presided over the meeting and offered the invocation.
- Skippy Haik led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Thanks to Matt Devereaux and Bill MacLauchlin for serving as greeters today.
- Kristy Gould introduced our visiting Rotarian, Milton Wheeler from the Petal Club.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Robert Simmons was the winner of the four tickets to the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame. He indicated he'd be going to Jackson this weekend and planned on using the tickets.
- 2) Conrad reminded members that the Awards and Installation Ceremony will be held on June 26, 2007. Paul Harris Fellows were reminded to wear their medallions. He also reminded board members that the June board meeting would be held next Tuesday and would be the wrap-up board meeting for the year. Both old and new board members are expected to attend the meeting.
- 3) Kristina Gould is recommending Lindsay Wilson as a new member. Lindsay is a Development Coordinator at the University of Southern Mississippi. She is a volunteer with Homes of Hope for

Children, a former Red Cross Board member, and a former Kiwanis member in Mt. Vernon, Indiana. [Kristy says: Lindsay is a tremendously hard worker. I never say that lightly. She is self-motivated to get the job done – and she does the right things right. She doesn't go through the motions just to say she did it. She wants to be involved in the community to show – working in development – that it is not all about foundation people asking for something. She wants to give back. She also – in my working with her – is not the type of person who gets involved in something to simply say she “is in rotary”. I know she travels a lot and she is busy – but she will physically be involved.]

LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Mike Ratliff introduced the speaker, Olivia Pritchard. Olivia is a free-lance employee of the United Nations Education and Scientific Cultural Organization (UNESCO). She is currently stationed in Burundi, a small country in Central Africa. UNESCO projects are the means to a far more ambitious goal: to build peace in the minds of men.

Burundi is about the size of Massachusetts with 10, 750 square miles. However, the population consists of just over 8 million people with an additional 350,000 refugees making efforts to move back in. Burundi has been involved in a civil war and genocide for the past 13 years. Efforts

are being made to bring peace and stability back to the small country.

Much of the tension in the Burundi, according to Olivia, is as a result of land being taken away from the rightful owners and being falsely sold or just taken over by squatter's rights. The refugees who have been away from their homes throughout the civil war are returning to find themselves with nothing to come back to.

Poverty runs rampant throughout the almost totally agricultural economy. More than 1,000 people share common water wells. Olivia reported seeing Rotary signs throughout the country. She also reported seeing two and one-half year old children begging on the streets and paying protection money to "street pimps" so they would have a safe place to sleep at night.

Efforts will continue to bring peace and democracy to the region and especially Burundi, which is rich in natural beauty and resources.

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

Diane James is currently the Metro Crime Stoppers Coordinator for the Hattiesburg and Petal Police Departments, and the Forrest and Lamar County Sheriff's Departments, before that James worked as a Constituent Liaison for Congressman Ronnie Shows for two years. Prior to working with Congressman Shows, James was employed at WHLT-TV (CBS) as an anchor reporter for more than a

decade. James also worked as an anchor reporter for WDAM-TV News Seven.

James is a nationally certified Crime Stoppers Coordinator, through training sponsored through Crime Stoppers USA and Crime Stoppers International. The training is not required, but is taught by Crime Stoppers Founder Greg MacAleese. Only a handful of coordinators in the state are certified.

Metro Crime Stoppers is a member of CUSA AND CSI.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL NEWS

June 2007, *The Rotarian*

"Letter from Bill Boyd"

Dear fellow Rotarians,

Nearly a year ago, I wrote on this page that, as Rotarians, "we are not content to let matters stay the way they have always been, in our clubs or in our communities. We are the ones who ask, Why not us?"

In the last year, I have been privileged to meet thousands of Rotarians who have asked themselves that very question and risen to its challenge. I have seen projects that have astounded me with their creativity and their ambition, and projects that came to fruition through an incredible degree of thought, planning, and insight. I have seen clubs overcome all sorts of barriers to deal with the true problems facing their communities. And I have seen all of this done with warmth, grace, and the skill born of local knowledge – and, often, with the support of our Rotary Foundation.

Every project I have seen has impressed me in its own way. The projects that have impressed me the most, however, have been those addressing a need that no one has been able to meet before, whether because of a lack of resources, a lack of ability, or simply a lack of awareness. Sometimes the problem was obvious and acknowledged, such as an ill-equipped clinic or a polluted water source. Sometimes the problem was never openly mentioned, such as the dilemma faced every month by girls attending schools without bathrooms. What I have seen this year is that whether the need is for water filters, blood banks, HIV treatment, toilet stalls, or literacy, Rotarians are finding what needs to be done – and doing it.

The projects that stand out in my mind the most are those that are meeting real needs and quietly changing lives. I will always remember the Rotary club project that's bringing simple, yet effective, low-cost prosthetic hands to amputees, returning to them employability and self-sufficiency; the Rotary club supported library in Hsinchu, Taiwan, that gives so many more children access to books; the

Rotary club-sponsored classroom that's educating children living in the tuberculosis ward of an African hospital; and the Rotary club-built school for autistic children, for whom there had been no services in the area.

These are just a few of the projects that have truly made a difference. There is no need for exaggeration or hyperbole here: These projects have very literally moved the courses of lives by giving people education, improved health, and a real chance at a better future. In some cases, Rotarians invested tremendous resources of time, energy, and their own funds. In others, all that was needed was a knowledgeable and caring person to step in, look around, and do what needed to be done.

It has been a great joy this year to see how Rotarians all over the world are choosing to lead the Way. I look forward to continuing with you in this great task for many more years to come. Lorna and I thank you for your many kindnesses to us. This year has changed our lives.

W.B. (Bill) Boyd
President, Rotary International

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