

ROTARY US \$200 MILLION CHALLENGE

Rotary Fellowships are finding creative ways to do their part to meet Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge, including running in marathons and auctioning off quilts, to name a few.

In November, 150 members of the International Marathon Fellowship of Rotarians ran the famed New York City marathon. With the help of the Rotary Club of Metro New York City, the four-year-old fellowship attracted other Rotary clubs, families, and community members as sponsors to raise \$3,500 for PolioPlus.

The event was a great opportunity for global fellowship, as the New York runners welcomed their counterparts from Andorra, Austria, France, Germany, and Tunisia. The day before the marathon, the Rotarians took to the streets to promote Rotary's causes, wearing shirts with the Rotary colors of royal blue and gold for a friendship run from the United Nations headquarters to Central Park.

"We were proud to wear our running shirts marked [with] Rotary along the New York streets," says Jean-Claude Brocart, of the Rotary Club of Toulouse Ovalie, France. "It was an unforgettable experience. All along the way, an enthusiastic and enormous crowd encouraged the runners."

The Rotarian's Wine Appreciation Fellowship challenged members to raise \$100 each for polio, and pledged to match the first 50 contributors. Those contributors also received a lifetime membership in the fellowship. In December, the group sent a check for \$10,000 to The Rotary Foundation, earmarked for PolioPlus.

The fundraising effort even helped the fellowship add new members, especially from India, one of the four remaining polio-endemic countries.

"Fifty Rotarians, many of them new fellowship members, participated. A new chapter is being started in District 5320 (California) as a result," says Past District Governor Conrad Heede, the fellowship's president. "The success of this initiative and the recent increase in the Gates grant prompted us to set aside another \$2,500 to match the additional contributions from 25 more new members with an interest in wine."

As a result, the fellowship sent another \$5,000 in April to the Foundation.

The Rotarian Fellowship of Quilters and Fiber Artists plans to lend its talents to the cause during the 2009 RI Convention in Birmingham, England, 21-24 June. Rotarian quilters will auction off hand-made quilts, with proceeds going toward polio eradication. Last year, the group raised \$3,000 for polio during the RI Convention in Los Angeles. This year's convention attendees can visit the fellowship's booth or check its Web site for more information.



Above: About 150 Rotarians and their families gathered for the New York City marathon in November to promote Rotary and raise \$3,500 for PolioPlus. Below: Fellowship members from countries including France, Germany, and Tunisia wore Rotary shirts and shorts during a friendship run before the marathon. Photo courtesy of the International Marathon Fellowship of Rotarians

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Spokes

June 9, 2009

www.hattiesburgrotary.com

District 6840

Club Number 04003

Organized 1918

ROTARY YEAR 2008-2009

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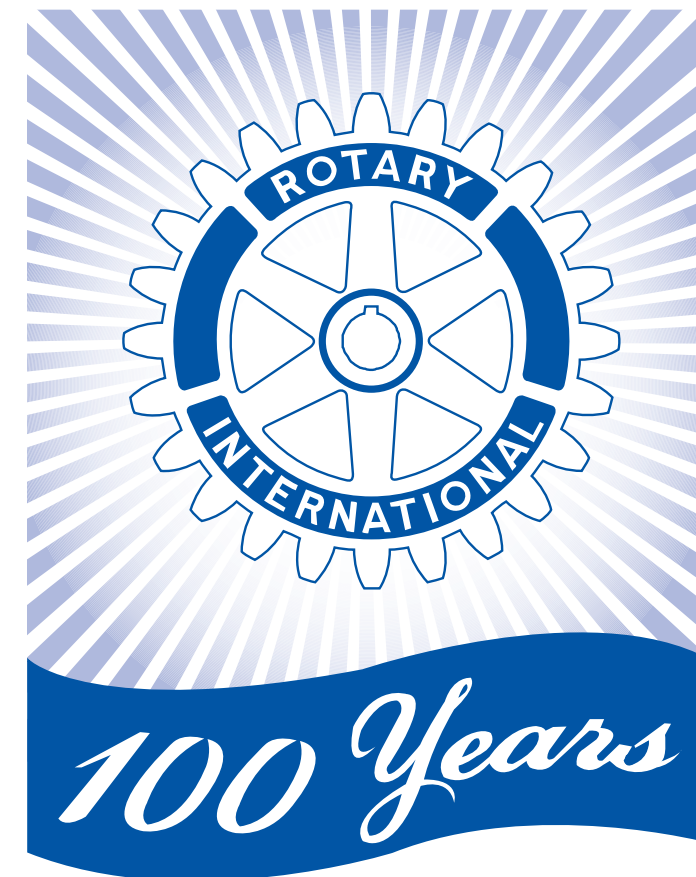
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A CENTURY OF SERVICE



A NEW CENTURY OF SUCCESS

"SERVICE ABOVE SELF"

MINUTES FROM 06/02/2009

President Richard Topp presided over the meeting.

James Winstead gave the invocation. Ryan Israel led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance. Richard then led members in the Rotary Four Way Test.

Heath Hillman introduced today's guest.

Lance Nail was a guest of Mary Cromartie. Lance was installed and welcomed as a new member today.

Thanks to Aime Spears and Bill McLeod for serving as our greeters today.

Members were encouraged to pay for their Night in Italy tickets and their \$33 Pennies for Polio pledge within the next two weeks.

Richard congratulated Greg Garraway whose daughter was married over the weekend and Steve Ramp whose son was also married over the weekend.

Steve Ramp reported that Jim Wild's wife Toni has been given the clearance for a heart transplant and the surgery is scheduled to begin later this day.

LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Erik Graham introduced speakers for one of the two programs for the day. David Livingston and Dr. Mike Webster spoke of the Hope of Peace Orphanage in India and asked that our Club consider the orphanage when giving consideration for future projects. The orphanage houses 3,200 children that have no other home and no parents. In addition to providing a home for the children the orphanage has also undertaken the cause of helping protect female children who are being killed by their parents so they can avoid the large dories that are required when a female is married.

Money is needed for vaccinations, clean water, a steam cooking system and an industrial size washing machine. Dr. Webster noted that he has visited the orphanage on three different occasions and assured club members that any funds generated for the orphanage would be used to help the children.

Patrick Ward then introduced Shawn Mercer, Public Affairs Specialist for the Social Security Administration.

Shawn reported that the Social Security Administration serves about 2,500 individuals every day throughout the state and over one million every day throughout the United States. The Mississippi division has 24 offices in Mississippi. The Hattiesburg office serves 8 counties with 27 employees. Approximately 57,000 Mississippians receive approximately \$52 million in Social Security benefits each month.

The SSI now has three ways you can conduct business with them. Personal visits to the office are possible but if you wish to save time and money you can access the offices by telephone and also through the Internet. Shawn reports that a person can complete the necessary application to receive retirement benefits on-line in approximately 15 minutes. A disability claim can be filed with a one-hour on-line interview.

Approximately 16,000 people reach the age of 62 each day. The year 2017 is the tipping point at which Shawn says the U.S. Government will have to begin repaying, with interest, the loans they've made from the Social Security funds over the years. By the year 2037 those loans will be completely repaid and if nothing else changes, the Administration will be able to pay recipients about 76% of what they are owed in benefits.

You can obtain much more information by visiting their website at www.socialsecurity.gov.

IMPORTANT DATES

June 16	Frank Montague
June 21-24	International Convention, Birmingham, England
June 23	COL J Chesney, Commander of the 177th Armored Brigade
June 29	Board Meeting with all old and new board members invited to attend Richard Topp's Office 5:30pm
June 30	Installation of New Officers

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

Bio of Denise von Herrmann

Denise von Herrmann is Professor and Dean of the College of Arts and Letters at USM. She is the author of 2 books and several articles on commercial casinos and their impacts on public policy.

A political scientist, von Herrmann received her Ph.D. from the University of Alabama, and previously worked as an Assistant Professor at Dekalb College in Atlanta before coming to Southern Miss in 1997. She has served as Division Chair for Arts and Science at the Gulf Coast campus from 2001 until 2003, served for six months as Interim Gulf Coast campus Dean, and then came to the Hattiesburg campus in January 2004 as Associate Dean for the College of Arts and Letters. In 2006 she was named Chair of the Political Science, International Development & Affairs department, and then was asked to step in as Interim Dean for the College in early 2007 following the untimely death of Dean Elliott Pood. She was selected as Dean of the College in late spring of 2008.

In addition to her administrative posts, von Herrmann has served the university in a variety of roles, including service on the Presidential Search committee in 2007, the Provost search committee in 07-08, on the Strategic Enrollment Planning Council and as co-chair of the University Budget Model Task Force.

PENNIES FOR POLIO - TOTAL COLLECTED \$1,480.36, SHORT OF GOAL \$1,820.36

Our club has committed to contribute \$33 per member for the matching grant.

Your contribution will help Rotary raise \$200 million to match \$355 million

in challenge grants received from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

We would like to present our check to the Foundation in honor of Frank Montague's visit next week.

Today is the last day to donate - Checks accepted

Meeting Dates for Area Clubs

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>
Bay Springs - 12:00	Columbia - 12:00	Clinton - 12:00	Madison-Ridgeland - 12:00
City Hall	The Backdoor Restaurant	Baptist Health Plex	Steam Room Grill 155 N
Bolton - 7:30	Flowood - 12:00	Gluckstadt - 12:00	Jackson
Methodist Church	River Oaks Hospital	Parker House Restaurant	Taylorville - 12:00
Collins - 12:00	Laurel - 12:00	Hattiesburg Sunrise - 7:00	MS Power Co. Building
Cedars Restaurant	Laurel Country Club	Wesley Medical Center Cafeteria	Wiggins - 12:00
Ellisville - 12:00	North Jackson - 12:00	Heidelberg - 12:00	Gulf Coast C.C. Cafeteria
J.C.J.C. Cafeteria	St. James	Library	
Jackson - 12:00	Episcopal Church	Poplarville - 12:00	<i>Friday</i>
MS Museum of Art		Pearl River C.C. Cafeteria	Rankin County - 12:00
Lucedale - 12:00		Richton - 12:00	Rankin Co. Med. Ctr. Annex
MS Gulf Coast Community		Magnolia Restaurant	Slidell, LA - 12:00
College Cafeteria		Waynesboro - 12:00	Pinewood Country Club
Petal - 12:00		Western Sizzlin	
Civic Center		Prentiss - 12:00	
South Hinds County - 12:00		Country Fisherman	
BoDons Catfish & Seafood			