

MEETING OF MARCH 25, 2008
Minutes of Meeting of Mar. 18, 2008

- President Freddy Walter presided over the meeting.
- Steve Ramp offered an invocation.
- Allen Anderson led the Club in the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - Gene Owens welcomed visiting Rotarians and guests:
 - Milton Wheeler visited from the Petal Club.
 - Ben Cole was a guest of Richard Jones.
 - Curtis Smith was a guest of Heath Hillman.
 - Rick Dykes was a guest of Aimee Spears.
 - Erik Graham's guest, Leon Manning, is a member of the Pocatello, Utah Rotary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) The Rotary Foundation auction raised \$60.00 auctioning two potted flowers and an antique cheese box. Congratulations and thanks go out to Allen Anderson, Mary Cromartie and Joe Riley.
- 2) Steven Ramp inducted the newest member to Hattiesburg Rotary, Patrick Ward. Patrick is the owner of Southeastern Construction, LLC. He and his wife, Terri, moved here from Colorado one year ago. Johnny Stevens and Gene Owens will be Patrick's mentors. We welcome Patrick to our community.
- 3) Richard Topp is looking for a chef for the Friday night food fest at the district conference. The meal plan is red beans and rice. Richard will be selecting a committee for the talent

contest. If anyone would like to golf in the 4-person tournament, call Richard.

- 4) Marla McClaughlin, "Night-in-Italy", was then introduced and asked all present committee members to stay for a short planning meeting after lunch.

LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Dan Kibodeaux then introduced Rebecca Boatman Hartfield of the Mississippi Children's Home Services. The Mississippi Children's Home Services is a non-profit organization, established in 1912 to build and strengthen children and families. Their main offices are in Jackson with an office on Hwy 98 in Hattiesburg.

Some of the services provided by The Mississippi Children's Home Services are shelter services, special education, home-based, prevention, substance abuse and foster care. A Safe place program operated by the organization now has 12 beds. You may see the Safe Place signs on doors of local business that tell a child that they can get help within.

May 9, 2008 The Mississippi Children's Home Services is presenting the 2008 Annual Wine Tasting & Silent Auction. You may call Rebecca at 601-264-7079, if you would be interested in sponsorship or just participating in the event.

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

Our speaker is Ms. Andrea Dixon, the Executive Director of our local Habitat for Humanity affiliate.

Andrea moved to Hattiesburg from Baton Rouge, LA. She is originally from Miami, Florida but calls Alexandria, LA home; the place where her parents retired from the U.S. Air Force. Not only is she a "military brat", Andrea is also a U.S. Army veteran, having served five and half years on active duty and another two and half in the U.S. Army Reserves. She was stationed for training and duty in South Carolina, Texas, South Korea, and Virginia.

Beyond her military experience, Andrea also has a lengthy history with Habitat for Humanity. She started working as an Administrative Assistant at the Richmond Metropolitan Habitat for Humanity affiliate in Virginia in April, 1999. In June of 2002, Andrea took the position of Regional Administrator for the Central Atlantic Regional Office of the parent organization, Habitat for Humanity International, in North Carolina. She later became the Program Director of the NC Habitat AmeriCorps Program which included 55 members located at 18 sites across the state of North Carolina. After the hurricanes of 2005, she was asked to take a position in late 2006 to continue working for Habitat for Humanity International in the Gulf region as an Organizational Development Consultant. She was relocated to Louisiana and assigned to work with six hurricane-affected affiliates in Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. In February, 2007, she began consulting work with the Hattiesburg affiliate where her focus was on assisting the affiliate in board development, staff

training, and maximizing resources.

Now in her new role as Executive Director, she brings her wealth of Habitat knowledge in order to establish new and cultivate existing community relationships with area churches, groups, businesses, schools, the local government, and other non-profits while overseeing the daily construction operations as well as the affiliate's retail operations. She continues to work with her board president to further develop the affiliate's board of directors and support committees.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Rotary clubs always pumped for World Water Day

While the United Nations designates 22 March as World Water Day, Rotarians worldwide are focused on the issue throughout the year. They volunteer their time and resources to provide safe water and sanitation to communities wherever there is need.

F. Ronald Denham, general coordinator for the 2007-08 Water Resource Group, estimates clubs are involved in at least 6,000 projects in several countries, all aimed at addressing the lack of access to safe water and sanitation that claims more than two million lives each year, a majority of them children. Denham, member of the Rotary Club of Toronto Eglinton, Canada, says Rotary is committed to help achieve the UN Millennium Development Goal that calls for a 50 percent reduction by 2015 in the

number of people with insufficient access to safe water and sanitation.

“This is an enormous challenge for humanity, and Rotary clubs are logical leaders in the challenge because they are embedded in their local communities, allowing the clubs to help define realistic solutions to local problems,” says Denham, who also heads the Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group (WASRAG). “Rotary clubs also can draw on the global resources of a worldwide organization (many projects receive funding from The Rotary Foundation) and form alliances with other groups and nongovernmental organizations to implement the most appropriate solutions.”

A sampling of Rotary-supported projects underway:

- [WASRAG](#) is the lead NGO participant in the [Tap Project](#), an initiative of UNICEF that raises money for water projects by asking for a \$1 donation per glass of (otherwise free) water in restaurants across the United States from 16 to 22 March.
- Rotary clubs in the Rochester, New York, USA, area are major supporters of [Water for Sudan, Inc.](#), founded by Penfield, New York, Rotarian Salva Dut, one of the so-called “Lost Boys of Sudan.” Since 2003, the program has installed 17

deep wells in Dut’s homeland. San Diego area Rotary clubs recently signed on to raise funds for a second drilling rig.

- Clubs in the United Kingdom are partnering with their counterparts in South Africa to install innovative [play pumps](#) in Kwa Zulu Natal, South Africa, and Zambia. The technology harnesses the boundless energy of children at play by connecting playground merry-go-rounds to water pumps. A typical kid-powered pump can produce 370 gallons per hour.
- The Rotary Club of Nakuru , Kenya, has launched a program to harvest rainwater at the household level, with the goal of bringing safe water to over one million people.
- Working with a local NGO in Rajasthan, the Rotary India Water Trust is developing a sustainable water supply for about one million people in 650 villages at a cost of about \$8,500 per village.

Editor: Gary Garner