

**MEETING OF MARCH 4, 2008**  
**Minutes of Meeting of Feb. 26, 2008**

- ❖ President Freddy Walter presided over the meeting.
  - ❖ Joe Spell offered an invocation.
  - ❖ Aime Spears led the Club in the Pledge of Allegiance.
  - ❖ Valerie Sartin welcomed visiting Rotarians and guest.
- Jon Bachtold visited from the Fairbury, IL Club.
  - Tom Heanue and Lewis Myrick visited from the Sunrise Club.
  - Jaelyn Adams and Jennifer Miles were guests of Dan Kibodeaux.
  - Glenn Galey was a guest of Bill Ray.
  - Hoppy Cole was a guest of David Thoms.
  - Ricky Dykes was a guest of Susan Steen.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 1) Walter announced a 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday. After a moment of consternation, he noted that the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg was 103 years old this coming Saturday.
- 2) Tom Heanue and Lewis Myrick were introduced. They presented the members with information about a 5K Run/Walk that is scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM. Sponsorships were solicited and sign up information was distributed. Proceeds from the event will be used to benefit the Mississippi Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and Mr. Jason Weathers.
- 3) On Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, Kristy Gould will be selling raffle tickets to benefit the Rotary Foundation. Prizes include a blue Dog Silkscreen Print

and several Paul Harris Fellows. Cost of each ticket is \$5.00. We will make it very easy for you to purchase a ticket. When you come in on March 11<sup>th</sup>, you will be asked if you would like to purchase a ticket. If you would, we will sign you up right there and we will invoice you for the ticket if you so choose.

- 4) Walter asked that Club members keep the Frances Karnes family in their prayers due to the loss of Frances' husband Ray over the weekend.
- 5) Hoppy Cole was introduced as the club's newest member to transfer in. Hoppy comes from the Picayune Club.
- 6) Members were reminded of the Night in Italy event coming up in April. Tickets to the event will be distributed along with the annual ticket sales invoice in the near future.
- 7) Walter also reminded new members that they would be asked to provide classification talks over the coming few weeks.
- 8) The District Conference dates of April 17 – 20 were again announced. Members are encouraged to participate by attending. Richard Topp is seeking assistance for the special event planned for Friday April 17<sup>th</sup>. All club members are encouraged to attend and participate.

**LAST WEEK'S MEETING**

Hayden Mitchell was introduced and asked to present the week's speaker, Forrest Thigpen, Executive Director of the Mississippi Center for Public Policy.

Thigpen gave club members an overview of the Center's governing principles and related those to current events.

Principle One of the Center maintains that government exists to protect rights, not to create them. He used the current debate of health care as an example of the Center's stance. He questioned whether the government should exist to provide health care. He noted that an assumption that the government has a right to provide health care is also an assumption that the government has the right to take whatever resources are needed in order to provide resources necessary to provide those benefits.

The Center's Principle Three states that "Just because a problem exists doesn't mean government should try and solve it." Thigpen suggested that a government that attempts to solve all problems is a government that may be attempting to create a dependency on government.

Principle Five states that, "Government has nothing to give anyone except what it first takes from someone else." Thigpen says the Center attempts to teach this principal to elected officials hoping they will be more responsible when deciding on government spending programs.

Thigpen spent some time discussing Principle Four, which states, "Long-term and cumulative consequences should be considered more carefully than short-term benefits." He used an example of social programs that encourage individuals to remain unemployed and out of wedlock with children. He noted that the two most prominent ways in America to get out of poverty include getting a job and getting married.

Principle Seven discusses free enterprise rather than government as being the engine of personal economic prosperity. Thigpen noted that government can not create wealth; rather redistribute wealth.

Thigpen concluded his comments by noting Principal Ten, which states that, "Parents, not government, are responsible for the education and upbringing of their children." He stated that this was not necessarily promoting home schooling for all children, but was promoting the principle that parents are responsible for their children's education and should have as many options as possible to ensure that the children have a quality education.

## **THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM**

Our speaker today is Ms. Sheila Gaudet, the director of The Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club.

Sheila Greene Gaudet was selected as the Executive Director of The Salvation Army's Boys and Girls Club program in May 2007. Previously she had been the program coordinator for *AccessRecreation*, a nationally recognized inclusive recreation program at USM, since 2003. Prior to her position with *AccessRecreation*, she had worked in health care administration for 12 years, primarily with large group and university-based practices.

Sheila is a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist and was selected as part of the American Therapeutic Recreation Association's Leadership Class of 2007. She holds bachelors degrees in recreation from USM and in economics from Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts. She attended the Boston University's Graduate

School of Management and is currently pursuing her master's degree in Recreation Administration at USM. She serves on the board of Westminster Tutoring Services and is a regular presenter at recreation conferences around the country.

A resident of the Hattiesburg area for 10 years, she lives with her husband John, a pediatrician, her two sons (Anthony 11 and Andrew 5) and her twin nieces (Cheryl and Rebecca, 15).

### **ON THE LIGHTER SIDE.....**

**Lawyers should never ask a Mississippi grandma a question if they aren't prepared for the answer.**

In a trial, a Southern small-town prosecuting attorney called his first witness, a grandmotherly, elderly woman to the stand. He approached her and asked, 'Mrs. Jones, do you know me?' She responded, 'Why, yes, I do know you, Mr. Williams. I've known you since you were a boy, and frankly, you've been a big disappointment to me. You lie, you cheat on your wife, and you manipulate people and talk about them behind their backs.

You think you're a big shot when you haven't the brains to realize you'll never amount to anything more than a two-bit paper pusher. Yes, I know you.'

The lawyer was stunned. Not knowing what else to do, he pointed across the room and asked, 'Mrs. Jones, do you know the defense attorney?'

She again replied, 'Why yes, I do. I've known Mr. Bradley since he was a youngster, too. He's lazy, bigoted, and he has a drinking problem. He can't build a normal relationship with anyone, and his law practice is one of the worst in the entire state. Not to mention, he cheated on his wife with three different women. One of them was your wife. Yes, I know him.'

The defense attorney nearly died.

The judge asked both counselors to approach the bench and, in a very quiet voice, said,

'If either of you idiots asks her if she knows me, I'll send you both to the electric chair.'

**Editor: Gary Garner**