

MEETING OF MAY 20, 2008

Minutes of Meeting of May 13, 2008

- President Freddy Walter presided over the meeting.
- Steve Ramp gave the invocation.
- Bill McLaughlin led the Club in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Gene Owens welcomed today's guests:
 - ❖ Rob Hunt was a guest of A.D. Hunt.
 - ❖ Christen Riley and Mary B. Riley were guest of Bob Riley.
 - ❖ Frank Baugh was visiting our Club from the Petal Rotary Club.
 - ❖ We recognize Todd Bradley and Susan Morgan as our greeters for today. A sincere thank you to both!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Freddy Walter led the auction today for the Rotary Foundation. Today's efforts brought a total donation of \$65.00. Thank you goes to David Thoms, Mary Cromartie and Bob Riley for winning the flowers. Congratulations go to Susan Morgan for winning the calendar.
- 2) Heath Hillman asked if anyone knew a rising senior that would be eligible for RYLA. We are still looking for two females and one male. Deadline is fast approaching; please give some effort to this great opportunity.
- 3) It is that time of year to celebrate the installation of our new board members and to say thank you to the retiring board members. **The Annual Installation and Awards Luncheon is scheduled for June 24, 2008.** Please mark your calendars for this important date.

LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Richard Topp introduced Josiah Burns as our guest speaker for today. Josiah is the 2007 recipient of the Ambassadorial Scholarship. His choice of countries took him and his wife to New Zealand. Josiah's family is from Florida but he currently resides in Hattiesburg with his wife and newborn son. He is a 2006 graduate of William Carey and plans to start law school in the fall of 2009. Josiah gave a brief overview of some facts about New Zealand. The official head is still the Queen of England. The country's government is mainly comprised of women. The country has 10 times more sheep than people. Sheep are the main economy source. Christianity is the most prevalent religion for them. Josiah thanked everyone for giving him the opportunity to experience a different country and culture.

The luncheon adjourned with our motto:
Service about Self.

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

To be Announced

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**An Appropriate Defense of
America**

"You could have heard a pin drop!"

When in England at a fairly large conference, Colin Powell was asked by the Archbishop of Canterbury if plans for Iraq were just an example of 'empire building' by George Bush.

He answered by saying, 'Over the years, the United States has sent many of its fine young men and women into great peril to fight for freedom beyond our borders. The only amount of land we have ever asked for in return is enough to bury those that did not return.'

You could have heard a pin drop!
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Then there was a conference in France where a number of international engineers were taking part, including French and American. During a break, one of the French engineers came back into the room saying 'Have you heard the latest dumb stunt Bush has done? He has sent an aircraft carrier to Indonesia to help the tsunami victims. What does he intended to do, bomb them?'

A Boeing engineer stood up and replied quietly: 'Our carriers have three hospitals on board that can treat several hundred people; they are nuclear powered and can supply emergency electrical power to shore facilities; they have three cafeterias with the capacity to feed 3,000 people three meals a day; they can produce several thousand gallons of fresh water from sea water each day; and they carry half a dozen helicopters for use in transporting victims and injured to and from their flight deck.. We have eleven such ships. how many does France have?'

**You could have heard a pin drop!**  
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A U.S. Navy Admiral was attending a naval

conference that included Admirals from the U.S., English, Canadian, Australian and French Navies. At a cocktail reception, he found himself standing with a large group of Officers that included personnel from most of those countries. Everyone was chatting away in English as they sipped their drinks but a French admiral suddenly complained that, 'whereas Europeans learn many languages, Americans learn only English.' He then asked, 'Why is it that we always have to speak English in these conferences rather than speaking French?'

Without hesitating, the American Admiral replied, 'Maybe it's because the Brits, Canadians, Aussies and Americans arranged it so you wouldn't have to speak German.'

You could have heard a pin drop!
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AND THIS STORY FITS RIGHT IN WITH THE ABOVE...

A group of American retired teachers recently went to France on a tour. Robert Whiting, an elderly gentleman of 83, arrived in Paris by plane. At French Customs, he took a few minutes to locate his passport in his carry on.

'You have been to France before, monsieur?' the customs officer asked sarcastically. Mr. Whiting admitted that he had been to France previously. < BR>

'Then you should know enough to have your passport ready.' The American said, 'The last time I was here, I didn't have to show it.' 'Impossible. Americans always have to show their passports on arrival in France!'

The American senior gave the Frenchman a long hard look. Then he quietly explained.

Well, when I came ashore at Omaha Beach on D-Day in '44 to help liberate this country, I couldn't find any damn Frenchmen to show it to.

**You could have heard a pin drop!**

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## **Rotary International News**

### **Rotary ranked among top five NGOs for corporate partnerships**

Rotary International News - 11 July 20

The *Financial Times* has ranked Rotary International one of the top five nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) for corporate partnerships. In the newspaper's special supplement, *Corporate Citizenship and Philanthropy*, Rotary came in fifth in the global rankings of 34 finalists.

Published in conjunction with the UN Global Compact Leaders Summit held 5-6 July in Geneva, the supplement reached some 1.4 million senior business executives, industry and government leaders, and private/institutional investors across 140 countries.

The summit, which was chaired by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, featured an international roster of business leaders, government ministers, and heads of civil society and focused on such key challenges to building future markets as human rights and climate change.

RI Director Bernard Rosen of Belgium represented RI President Wilfrid J. Wilkinson at the event. UN Global Compact and Dalberg Global Development Advisors, who developed the report in preparation for the summit, surveyed 20,000 companies worldwide, identifying 550 NGOs, UN agencies, foundations, and other organizations with which companies had partnered, and profiled 85 of those based on company ratings.

Organizations that ranked higher than RI showcased long-standing partnerships with corporations. Because RI's global partnerships include only UN agencies and other nonprofit organizations - and only Rotary clubs and districts have partnered with corporations to date - the organization's ranking should be considered exemplary.

RI has a long and distinguished history of collaborating with other organizations in the name of humanitarian service. Read the special report at [The Financial Times Web site](#).

**Editor: Gary Garner**