

MEETING OF MAY 22, 2007

Minutes of Meeting of May 15, 2007

- Conrad Welker presided over the meeting.
- The invocation was offered by Mike Ratliff.
- David Senne led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Susan Light and Jerry Buti served as Greeters.
- Allen Anderson welcomed fellow Rotarians and guests:
 - ✓ Milton Wheeler and Richard Bagley were visitors from the Petal Club.
 - ✓ Nathaniel Green was a visitor from the Prospect Gosher, KY club.
 - ✓ Ashley Read was a guest of Valerie Sartin.
 - ✓ Kyle Napier was a guest of Allen Anderson.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Conrad welcomed Rotarian Nat Green and asked him to share with our Club information about a project his Club is working on. Nat's Club is involved in a Youth Oral Health project. Through Rotary Clubs and the American Dental Association a traveling dental van is made available

to children in communities in need of oral health care and education. Rotary clubs provide the volunteers and the ADA provides professionals. Nat is seeking volunteers in South Mississippi that would be willing to assist in making this project available in this area.

- 2) Conrad reminded members that the District Conference takes place this weekend.

LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Mike Ratliff introduced Pinuccia Parabone, the team leader of this year's GSE team. Pinuccia gave our club a very good overview of Italy as well as information about their local Rotary Club 2040. She reported that Italy is known for the famous four "F's" which include Family, Food, Fashion and Football, known to us here in America as Soccer. She also mentioned that Italy is known for a fifth "F" as well, which is Ferreira. Italy is composed of about 300,000 square meters with about 60 million people living in the area. One of the interesting things to the Italian delegation was the vast amount of open space that they encountered within the District.

The Italian family has decreased over the past few years. There are now fewer than two children per household on the average. A major

difference in Italian and American families is the age at which children leave home. In Italy that average age is 30.

Italy has ten Rotary districts that include 650 clubs. There are approximately 38,000 Rotarians in Italy. Rotary was first introduced to Italy in 1923. The Italian Rotarians place a great deal of emphasis on international projects. They are currently involved in a mobile clinic operation in Kenya. On the national scale, Italian Rotarians are focused on a literacy project. There are a large number of immigrants found throughout Italy today and the literacy level of those immigrants is of a concern to many of the clubs.

A very warm welcome was then extended to the four GSE delegates. Maria Vittoria Ceresoli, Silvia Pasquinelli, Marco Trozzi and Francesca Trucco all shared photos of their families, their pets and their pass-times. Marco is an Italian law enforcement officer and is a helicopter pilot for the force. Maria Vittoria works in a film production company. Silvia is an attorney and Francesca works in a company that organizes educational courses for other companies.

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

(To be Announced!)

A WORD FROM THE NAPOLEON HILL FOUNDATION

IF YOU HAVE SOUND CHARACTER, YOU WILL FIND THAT YOU GENERALLY DO NOT WORRY ABOUT YOUR REPUTATION.

Thomas Jefferson once said that a majority is one man with the courage of his convictions. If you have the courage that comes from the sincere conviction that you are a person of sound character, an honest, dependable, kind, and caring person, you will never have to worry about what others think of you. If you know in your own heart that you are a good and decent person, you can meet life's challenges head-on and without fear of what others think.

NEWS FROM ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

The resolution to support the development of the future vision plan of The Rotary Foundation was one of many passed by the Council on Legislation, which met last month in Chicago. With the favorable vote of 92 percent of the delegates present, the Council endorsed the work being carried out by the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation to prepare for future challenges.

This plan includes a newly worded mission statement that clarifies who we are and what we do: "The

mission of The Rotary Foundation is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.”

The work we are doing now is some of the most important in the Foundation’s 90-year history. We have consulted with more than 10,000 Rotarians and conducted more than 200 interviews with Rotary leaders, program beneficiaries, and donors. We’ve compiled exhaustive information on trends, possibilities, and problems and consulted with experts in strategic planning. We are evaluating the efficiency and value of programs, as well as available technology and administrative organization.

We have established five priorities and 22 related goals, the main objectives of which are simplification and productivity. In short, this tremendous effort will provide Rotarians with a Foundation poised to help them with their ever-increasing

workload in the years to come. This will help Rotary face new and growing challenges.

The plan must be implemented and operational by 2009, which means that no drastic changes will be made — rather, there will be a progressive adaptation according to our Foundation’s resources and needs.

On behalf of The Rotary Foundation and everyone involved in this project, we appreciate the support we have received and the constant encouragement to maintain a Foundation that is strong, vibrant, available, proactive, and international — one with the necessary resources and unlimited potential to “do good in the world.”

Kind regards, Luis Vicente Giay
Trustee Chair, The Rotary
Foundation, 2006-07

[We look forward to a report on the District Conference this past weekend.]

Editor: Gary Garner