

Polio eradication shifts into emergency mode

Rotary International News -- 25 May 2012

Despite the dramatic drop in polio cases in the last year, the threat of continued transmission due to funding and immunization gaps has driven the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) to launch the [Global Polio Emergency Action Plan 2012-13](#).

The plan aims to boost vaccination coverage in the three remaining polio-endemic countries -- Nigeria, Pakistan, and Afghanistan -- to levels needed to stop polio transmission. Health ministers meeting at the World Health Assembly in Geneva adopted a resolution on 25 May that declared "the completion of polio eradication to be a programmatic emergency for global public health."



Although this child in Chad has been immunized against polio, others in the central African nation -- and those everywhere -- remain vulnerable to the disease until it is eradicated worldwide. *Photo by Jean-Marc Giboux*

Polio eradication activities have resulted in several landmark successes since 2010. India, long regarded as the nation facing the greatest challenges to eradication, was removed from the list of polio-endemic countries by the World Health Organization (WHO) in February. Outbreaks in previously polio-free countries were nearly all stopped.

During that same time span, however, polio outbreaks in China and West Africa due to importation from Pakistan and Nigeria, respectively, have highlighted the continued threat of resurgence. Failure to eradicate the disease could lead within a decade to paralysis of as many as 200,000 children per year worldwide.

Read this entire story at www.rotary.org



Spokes

May 29, 2012
www.hattiesburgrotary.com

District 6840

Club Number 04003

Organized 1918

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 2012-2013

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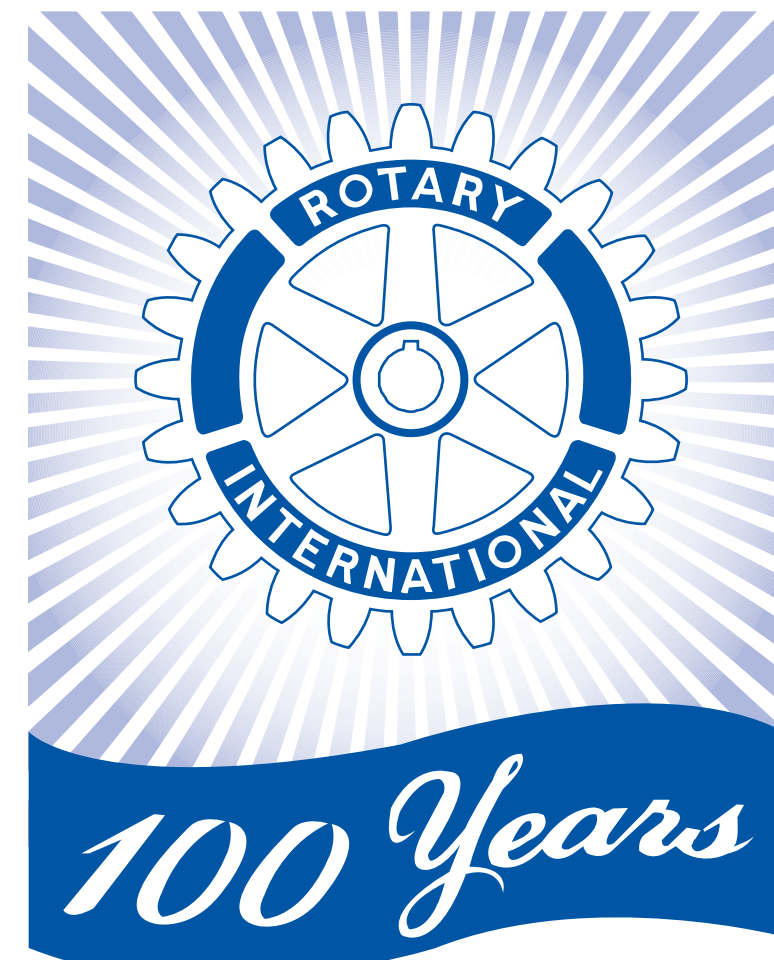
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A CENTURY OF SERVICE



A NEW CENTURY OF SUCCESS

“SERVICE ABOVE SELF”

MINUTES FROM 05/22/12

President Robert Cummings, Jr. presided over the meeting.

Thanks to Wes Brooks, who gave the invocation, and to Dan Kibodeaux, who led the Pledge of Allegiance. Thanks also to Chris Price for serving as today's greeter.

Sean Priebe welcomed today's visiting Rotarians and guests. Milton Wheeler is a visitor from the Petal Rotary Club. David Bailey is a guest of Dan Kibodeaux. Dan Davis is a guest of Tracie Fowler. Wally Babbidge is a guest of Aime Spears.

Robert gave members a brief update of the events and activities at this past weekend's District Assembly. A number of club members represented us at that meeting. According to Robert the "take away" from the Assembly is to remember that Rotarians are at their best when they become a Rotarian rather than just a member of a Rotary Club.

Robert also gave members an update on last evening's board meeting. A number of financial decisions were reached by the board and will be announced recently. Additionally the Young Rotarian of the Year award was named in honor of Sonny "34" Cotton.

Maura McLaughlin and Bill McLeod were asked to come forward along with Andreas Moffett. Maura thanked Bill for his membership recruitment efforts throughout the year and installed Andreas as our club's newest member. Andreas is a graduate of Mississippi State University and is currently employed as a civil engineer by Neel-Schafer and Company.

Wes Brooks then came forward and announced the recipients of this year's Grover Anderson Scholarship recipients. Claire Ratliff, daughter of Mike Ratliff, Lauren Hummel, daughter of Scott Hummel, Grant Mitchell, son of Hayden Mitchell and Delanie Gore, daughter of Maura McLaughlin are this year's recipients.

Scott Hummel and Milton Wheeler were called forward and presented a \$1,000 check to William Carey University for the Milton Wheeler Scholarship. Milton was very grateful for the gift and also for the forty-one-and-one-half years of Rotary involvement that he has had. Milton served as the District Governor for two terms and has been an inspiration to many Rotarians and students over the years.

Chris and Sarah Price and Cindy Bivens were called forward. Chris presented Sarah and Cindy with a check and tickets valued at \$15,000 for the Children's Center for Communication and Development. Sarah thanked Rotary for the fun and the fund raising affiliated with the annual

Night in Italy event. This year's contribution exceeds what the club has been able to do in the past few years. Thanks to Chris and the volunteers who made this event such a success for the children at the Children's Center for Communication and Development.

Aime Spears was then called forward and presented a plaque from Rotary District 6840. Aime is editor of the weekly SPOKES, our club's newsletter. It was named as the large club of the year newsletter award winner.

Erin Granberry then introduced today's guest speaker, Bob Beisner, Vice President of Human Resources for the Stion Corporation.

Bob reports that Stion, a privately held corporation, was founded in 2006. The Stion mission is to produce a high efficient, thin-film solar panel. In 2011 Stion chose Hattiesburg, Mississippi at its production location. It currently employs more than 200 individuals and has more than 200 patent filings, fifty of which have been approved. Within one year of beginning work on the Hattiesburg manufacturing plant Stion has now been certified to ship product worldwide. Phase one of the Hattiesburg operation was a \$100 million capital investment. Phase two is expected within the next few years and will be a \$125 million investment adding 125 new jobs.

Stion's edge in the market, according to Bob, is the company's ability to produce a thin-film solar panel with 16 to 18 percent efficiency rating. Their goal when phase two construction is completed is to have a thin-film solar panel that is producing at 20 percent efficiency. According to Bob, at that efficiency rating solar energy will then become as affordable as the electricity you get from the grid.

Solar power can be used in commercial settings, on car ports, in residential construction and can be used on off-grid facilities where it is impractical to get fuel to generators.

Stion's panels come with a twenty-five year warranty. The warranty says the panels will generate a minimum of 80 percent of their rated power twenty five years after manufactured. Stion sells their products to installers and major distributors. However, due to the technicalities involved in solar panel installation Bob says you will not see their products at the local box store in the near future.

By being efficient and keeping costs as low as possible Stion hopes to help make the United States the leading solar power generating nation in the coming years.

MEET TODAY'S SPEAKER

Dr. Eric Clark began serving as Executive Director of the Mississippi Community College Board in January 2008. He previously served for twelve years as the Mississippi Secretary of State and sixteen years as a member of the Mississippi Legislature.

He attended Jones County Junior College and received a bachelor's degree from Millsaps College, a master's degree from the University of Mississippi, and a doctorate in history from Mississippi State University. Dr. Clark taught history and government at Jones County Junior College, Mississippi College, and Belhaven University.

Eric Clark has been recognized with the American Family Association's "God and Country" Award for authoring the law that outlawed possession of child pornography in Mississippi. He was also given the Mississippi Wildlife Federation's Conservation Legislator of the Year and twice awarded the Mississippi Nature Conservancy's Public Service Award for his efforts to preserve natural lands on the Gulf Coast. He is a Certified Public Manager.

He currently serves on the boards of Jobs for Mississippi Graduates, the State Workforce Investment Board, the Mississippi Technology Alliance, the Mississippi Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, and Mississippi Public Broadcasting.

Dr. Clark is married to the former Karan Killebrew who grew up in Durant and Forest. Karan is a registered nurse. They are the parents of two children, Charles and Catherine. The Clarks are members of the First Baptist Church of Jackson.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May 29	Dr. Eric Clark - Executive Director Mississippi Community College Board
June 5	Butch Smith, Owner Country Girls Creamery
June 12	Polio Plus Focus Day Speaker - Dr. Bobby Middlebrooks
June 19	Jack Norris, President Gulf Coast Business Council
June 26	2012-13 Rotary Officer Installation

POLIO PLUS

We will have a 50/50 raffle to be held at the end of this Rotary year. The proceeds will contribute to the Polio Plus program.



FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Valencia Williamson is being proposed for membership by Mike Ratliff. She was a Rotarian in the DeFiniak Springs Club.

Also nominated for membership is Kevin Semetis. Kevin has been proposed by Scott Hummel.

If you have any questions or comments about those proposed, please see our Membership Chair, Maura McLaughlin.

READING BETWEEN THE LIONS LITERACY PROGRAM

Volunteers needed each week to read children's books to Pre-Schoolers at The Family Y - Veterans Memorial Blvd. See Bill MacLaughlan to volunteer.