

MEETING OF AUGUST 15, 2006

Minutes of Meeting of August 8, 2006

- Conrad Welker, President presided over the meeting.
- Freddy Walker led in the invocation.
- Skippy Hiak led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
- Kristy Gould introduced visitors and visiting Rotarians:
 - ✓ Christy Riley, Rob Hunt, Laura Hunt, Debra Hunt and Don Adannon were guests of A.D. Hunt
 - ✓ Jalal Malik was a guest of Freddy Walker
 - ✓ Bob Brahan was a guest of Richard top
 - ✓ Angne Smith and Marcus Ware were visiting Petal Rotarians
 - ✓ Gary Troutman was a guest of Jeff Meigs
 - ✓ Marcus Robinson was a guest of Kris King
 - ✓ Sheila Varnado was a guest of Dan Kibodeaux
 - ✓ Matt Cooper was a guest of Erik Graham

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Conrad called a meeting of the board immediately following the meeting.
- 2) John Ed Thomas announced that he and his wife are celebrating their anniversary today.
- 3) Tom Potter announced his birthday this week.

- 4) The board voted to submit Michael McMillan and Jalal Malik to the membership for membership consideration.
- 5) Michael McMillan is the managing attorney for Deutch, Kerrigan and Stiles, LLP. He is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, a Partner for Stennis Space Center, Adjunct Professor of Political Science at William Carey College, a member of the Area Development Partnership and a member of the Historic Hattiesburg Downtown Association.
- 6) Jalal Malik is Medical Team Chief, 3 BDE/89th DIV (T3D), on duty at 635 Forrest Avenue, Camp Shelby, MS 39407, Cell 601-297-2402, Fax 601-297-2462, & e-mail jalal.malik@us.army.mil

LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

The featured speaker for the meeting was Dr. Robert Foglesong, the 18th President of Mississippi State University. Before becoming MSU's president, Dr. Foglesong was serving his country as a four star general. He has seen 139 nations during the past decade and brought a strong message of leadership and character to our club.

Dr. Foglesong was present in the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. He says that the United States of America is a nation of excellence, passion and unity and that unity as evident after the 9/11 attack as it was after the Pearl Harbor attack. He reminded club members that shortly after the attack it was impossible to purchase an American flag because of demand.

His mission at Mississippi State University is to help develop the character and leadership skills of the 16,000 students enrolled. With 26% of today's youth being raised in single parent homes and the majority of the rest coming from families where both parents must work outside the home, Dr. Foglesong says institutions such as the university must bear some of the responsibility in assisting our youth develop their character and their leadership skills.

Finally, Dr. Foglesong says he is proud to be back in the state of Mississippi. He was stationed at the Columbus Air Force base as a part of his Air Force career. He says our state's residents have good character and compassion and that both were evidenced when we all came together after Katrina to assist our fellow Mississippians to recover.

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

George Dale, Commissioner of Insurance of the State of Mississippi, is our speaker today.

When George Dale was elected Commissioner of Insurance in 1975, he became the youngest Insurance Commissioner in Mississippi history. Now in his eighth term, George is the longest-serving insurance commissioner in the United States. He is a native of Jefferson Davis County and a graduate of Prentiss public schools. He and Gary Garner in our club grew up together, living 3-4 miles from each other. He attended Pearl River Junior College and graduated from Mississippi College with bachelor's and master's degrees.

Commissioner Dale was a teacher, coach, and school administrator in the Moss Point public school system prior to entering state government in 1972. He is

active in volunteer work for a number of charities and organizations, and serves on the Board of Trustees of Mississippi College. Commissioner Dale and his wife, the former Yvette Bosarge of Moss Point, have five children. They are members of Northside Baptist Church in Clinton where he serves as a deacon.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The Rotary Club of Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and UNICEF launched a joint fundraising appeal on 30 July to aid the children who make up about 45 percent of the more than one million people displaced by over three weeks of fighting in Lebanon.

To get the ball rolling, the club donated UAE dirham 367,0410 (US\$100,000) to help cover emergency supplies such as electrical generators, clean water, medicine, soap, buckets, pots, pans, and blankets.

"We have teamed up with UNICEF because it has a track [record] and it has been involved in polio as a partner of Rotary," says Samir Kanaan, vice president of the Rotary Club of Dubai. "Because UNICEF is an international organization, respected for its neutrality, it can arrange for safe passage and distribution of supplies."

According to Kanaan, the club will contribute another \$100,000 because of a generous public response to the appeal. The 120-member club has already raised \$75,000 – two-thirds of the new amount – from Rotarians and others. The outpouring of support reflects people's trust in Rotary, he says.

"Although our club is only four years old, I think we have managed to have a dignified presence in this area," Kanaan explains. "The name of Rotary is very well regarded here."

"We are working with a broad range of partners in Lebanon to save lives, protect civilians, and support services such as health, water and sanitation, education, and psychosocial care," said Omar Shehadeh, regional donor relations officer for UNICEF, to local media during the appeal's launch. "The support the Dubai

Rotary club has given is vital in our efforts to help relieve the suffering of those whose lives have been so severely affected in Lebanon."

TRIVIA OR INTERESTING FACTS

More than half of the coastline of the entire United States is in Alaska.

Amazon: The Amazon River pushes so much water into the Atlantic Ocean that, more than one hundred miles at sea off the mouth of the river, one can dip fresh water out of the ocean. The volume of water in the Amazon river is greater than the next eight largest rivers in the world combined and three times the flow of all rivers in the United States.

Brazil: Brazil got its name from the nut, not the other way around.

Canada: Canada has more lakes than the rest of the world combined.

Ohio: There are no natural lakes in the state of Ohio, every one is manmade.

Antarctica: Antarctica is the only land on our planet that is not owned by any country. Ninety percent of the world's ice covers Antarctica. This ice also represents seventy percent of all the fresh water in the world. However, Antarctica is essentially a desert. The average yearly total precipitation is about two inches. Although covered with ice, Antarctica is the driest place on the planet, with an absolute humidity lower than the Gobi desert.

Damascus, Syria: Damascus was flourishing a couple of thousand years before Rome was founded in 753 BC, making it the oldest continuously inhabited city in existence.

Rome, Italy: The first city to reach a population of 1 million people was Rome, in 133 B.C. There is a city called Rome on every continent.

Los Angeles: Los Angeles's full name is El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de Los Angeles de Porciuncula - and can be abbreviated to 3.63% of its size: L.A.

Siberia: Siberia contains more than 25% of the world's forests.

Sahara Desert: In the Sahara Desert, there is a town named Tidikelt, which did not receive a drop of rain for ten years. Technically though, the driest place on Earth is in the valleys of the Antarctic near Ross Island. There has been no rainfall there for two million years.

Spain: Spain literally means 'the land of rabbits.'

United States: The Eisenhower interstate system requires that one-mile in every five must be straight. These straight sections are usable as airstrips in times of war or other emergencies.

Editor: Gary Garner