

MEETING OF AUGUST 22, 2006

Minutes of Meeting of August 15, 2006

- Presiding: Conrad Welker
- Invocation: Annie Wimbish
- Pledge of Allegiance - Gary Garner
- Introduction of Visiting Rotarians and guests: Kristy Gould
 - ✓ Kay Spiers, Allen Stevens, & Pierce Stevens, Sr. of the Petal Club
 - ✓ Mike McMillan was a guest of Gene Owens
 - ✓ Gary Troutman was a guest of Kristy Gould
 - ✓ Mary Bee was a guest of Bob Riley

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Greeters were Robert Cummings and Bill McLeod
- 2) Greg Buie, General Manager of Brown Bottling was inducted into membership by his sponsor, Holt McMullen.
- 3) Milam Cotton was welcomed back into the club and presented his name badge.
- 4) Mike Ratliff presented a check to Hattiesburg Rotary in the amount of \$5,000. The check was contributed to our club to be held as a reserve for any future

disasters that might affect the area or our district.

- 5) Conrad announced that the regular club meeting on September 26, 2006 has been cancelled. The annual golf tournament is scheduled for Monday, September 25. The regular club sign in sheet will be available at Southern Oaks for any Rotarian who wishes to drop by and record their attendance.

LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Gary Garner introduced the speaker, State Insurance Commissioner, George Dale.

Commissioner Dale has served as Mississippi's Insurance Commissioner for the past thirty-one years. He has been elected or re-elected to the post eight times and served under eight governors. The 2007 legislative session will be his thirty-fifth session. Although he's been in his position for thirty-one years, he says the last ten months have been the most difficult of his career. Thus far insurance companies have paid 10.8 billion dollars in claims throughout Mississippi. He reports that just over 2,400 claims have gone to arbitration and that about 80 percent of those have been settled. A number of law suites have been filed over the wind vs. water claims. Dale says Americans have short memories regarding disasters. He noted that the big argument in 1969 after Camille struck the Mississippi Gulf Coast was whether the damage was caused by wind or water. Most home owner polices do not include compensation for damage caused by water, even wind driven water.

Dale also reported that fifty-percent of Americans live within fifty miles of the water. He also says that we are approaching a time when the government may have to control where people live and build. With the ever increasing cost of construction, the growing population and America's love for living near the water, future disasters such as Katrina could jeopardize the insurance industry and the American economy. Dale suggested that the government consider changing tax laws as they relate to the amount of money insurance companies collect above their required reserves, that insurance companies begin writing all-peril policies that will cover hurricanes, floods and earthquakes regardless of where you live, and that the federal government provide the last resort of a backstop as it did after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2002.

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

Jim Hood, Attorney General of the State of Mississippi, is our speaker.

Jim Hood was elected Attorney General of Mississippi on November 4, 2003. Prior to being elected Attorney General, Hood served for eight years as District Attorney for the Third Circuit Court District in North Mississippi. He was a special assistant attorney general for five years under former Attorney General Mike Moore. He worked as a Supreme Court law clerk under former Supreme Court Justice Armis Hawkins.

In his first year of office, the Attorney General and his staff established a Victims Services Section, established an identity theft unit, and initiated an expedited child adoption project. The

office is working to establish a "senior sleuths" volunteer program to help monitor elder care facilities and consumer scam operations.

The office has published the following manuals: an identity theft prevention manual; a workplace violence prevention manual; a crime victim's guide; a consumer protection guide; a seniors newsletter covering elder issues and consumer alerts; and school drug testing guidelines.

Jim received his J.D. from the University of Mississippi in December 1988. He was educated in the public schools of Chickasaw County. He is a fifth generation Mississippian and an avid outdoorsman and hunter. Jim and his wife, Debbie, have three children---- Rebecca, 10, Matthew, 7, and Annabelle Leigh, 2.

ITEMS TO LAUGH BY

Will Rogers, who died in a plane crash with Wylie Post in 1935, was probably the greatest political sage this country has ever known.

Enjoy the following:

1. Never slap a man who's chewing tobacco.
2. Never kick a cow chip on a hot day.
3. There are 2 theories to arguing witha woman...neither works.
4. Never miss a good chance to shut up.
5. Always drink upstream from the herd.
6. If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging.
7. The quickest way to double your money is to fold it and put it back in

your pocket.

8. There are three kinds of men: The ones that learn by reading. The few who learn by observation. The rest of them have to pee on the electric fence and find out for themselves.

9. Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.

10. If you're riding' ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there.

11. Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier'n puttin' it back.

12. After eating an entire bull, a mountain lion felt so good he started roaring. He kept it up until a hunter came along and shot him. The moral: When you're full of bull, keep your mouth shut.

ABOUT GROWING OLDER:

First ~ Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

Second ~ The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.

Third ~ Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know "why" I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

Fourth ~ When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, think of Algebra. No way !!!!

Fifth ~ You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks.

Sixth ~ I don't know how I got over the hill without getting to the top.

Seventh ~ One of the many things no one tells you about aging is that it is -such a nice change from being young.

Eighth ~ One must wait until evening to see how splendid the day has been.

Ninth ~ Being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable..

Tenth ~ Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today it's called golf

And finally ~ If you don't learn to laugh at trouble, you won't have anything to laugh at when you are old.

Editor: Gary Garner