

MEETING OF OCT. 17, 2006

Minutes of Meeting of Oct. 10, 2006

- President Conrad Welker presided.
- Mike Ratliff gave the invocation.
- Larry LeBlanc led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Kristy Gould introduced and welcomed visiting Rotarians and guests.
 - ✓ Harold Nicholson was a guest of Johnny Stevens.
 - ✓ Mary B. Riley was a guest of Bob Riley.
 - ✓ Priscilla Pope was a guest of Tina Covey.
 - ✓ Pierce and Jesse Stevens were visiting Rotarians from Petal as was Marcus Ware.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) John Curley and Mickey Allen served as our Greeters.
- 2) Conrad announced that the Nominations/Elections Committee will meet next Tuesday just prior to the regular meeting. Bill Pace is that committee's chair.

- 3) Mike Ratliff reminded members to sign up for the Pick up the Pine Belt project scheduled for Saturday, October 28. Volunteers will work for a four hour period to clean up Hattiesburg. A sign up sheet was made available.

LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Suzy Steen introduced the speaker, Jack Kyle, Cultural Czar for the Area Development Partnership.

Jack discussed his desires to bring about a grassroots campaign in support of increasing our cultural exposure in the Pine Belt area. He maintains that there is no reason Hattiesburg can't become the Cultural Center for the South. However, in order to do so, the general population must support the effort. Mr. Kyle says Austin, Charleston and Santa Fe all have been re-discovered within recent history because of their connections to the arts which led to the restoration of many of their local treasures. He says the same is possible and has already begun in downtown Hattiesburg.

According to Jack, great works of humans or those found in nature inspire us emotionally and that when a community doesn't seek exposure to those great works, a part of the community is missing.

He encouraged Rotarians to support increased funding for arts and music exposure in the school system. Students exposed to arts and music are four-times more likely to be recognized scholastically. Education is a critical element in building this grassroots campaign to increase our cultural exposure. He has formed a task force to work with the public schools to try and increase art and music programs in the public school system.

Jack says, “Life is too short to not take advantage of things of beauty”. He encouraged members to focus on increasing the quality of our lives by added exposure to culture and things of beauty.

THIS WEEK’S PROGRAM

Dr. Sherman Hong is our speaker today. Dr. Hong was named the fourth conductor of the City Of Hattiesburg Concert Band in the spring of 2005. A member of the band since its founding in 1983, he served as principal percussionist for 22 years and drummer for the Hub City Swing big band. Recently retired from the University of Southern Mississippi after teaching for 40 years, he received the honor of being named Professor Emeritus of Music.

Hong received music degrees from USM and Northwestern University (Evanston, Illinois) where he studied with Gordon Peters, principal percussionist of the Chicago Symphony, and performed with both the Northwestern Wind Ensemble and NU Symphony.

He taught percussion at USM for 26 years and then taught music education until his retirement. He has presented educational clinics in the southeast, Texas, Arkansas, and Illinois, and has judged marching band competitions in the southeast, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Oklahoma, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York. He was a music and percussion judge for Drum Corps International, Drum Corps Midwest, and Drum Corps South—all for which he judged championships and solo and ensemble contests.

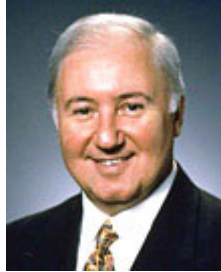
He has played percussion and timpani with the Mississippi Symphony and currently serves as principal timpanist for the Mobile Symphony and Mobile Opera.

He is a board member of the Northeast Lamar Volunteer Fire Department and the Lakeshore Homeowners Association .He has been married to Mildred for 38 years and they have two adult children.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Rotary in India: An example to follow

**October
2006**



Luis Vicente Giay

Dear Rotary family,

Recently, I returned from a short but

extremely busy trip to India. In eight days, we visited seven cities, held six Rotary Foundation seminars, hosted six dinners and four luncheons to raise funds, met with several potential donors, and inaugurated two projects and visited four others. Never did I imagine that we would accomplish what we did.

In Mumbai, I had the opportunity to meet an exemplary Rotarian and witness his personal donation of US\$1 million to our Foundation — the first individual contribution of this amount made by a Rotarian from India. A few years ago, a donation of this magnitude would have been unheard of. As the result of our efforts during this trip, an additional \$2 million was received by The Rotary Foundation. What generosity! What a tremendous spirit of service!

Among donor countries in 2005-06, India ranks fifth in contributions to The Rotary Foundation. Who outside of this beautiful and enchanting country could have foreseen this level of fundraising success?

Rotary and Rotary Foundation activities in India should make us all very proud. The projects being carried out there are important, but what's most important is the personal commitment of the Rotary family in India to the ideals of our organization and to the work of The Rotary Foundation. Our friends followed the words of wisdom of Albert Einstein: "It is the responsibility of every human being to aspire to do something worthwhile, to make the world a better place than the one he found."

My sincere congratulations to our friends in India and to everyone who follows these principles and strives to achieve similar feats around the world. You make all of us proud to be Rotarians.

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

EDITOR: Gary Garner