

## MEETING OF OCTOBER 31, 2006

### Minutes of Meeting of Oct. 23, 2006

- President Conrad Welker presided.
- Allen Anderson gave the invocation.
- Suzy Steen led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Kristy Gould introduced visiting Rotarians and our guests:
  - ✓ Milton Wheeler and Tom Richardson visited from the Petal Club.
  - ✓ Kim Bradley was a guest of Todd Bradley.
  - ✓ Lori Foss was a guest of Peter Foss.
  - ✓ Mary B. was a guest of Bob Riley.
  - ✓

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Many thanks to Michael McMillian who served as our Greeter.
- 2) Rotarians were reminded to sign up for the Pick up the Pine Belt program to be conducted this Saturday.
- 3) Holt McMullan was congratulated on becoming a grandfather last night.

### LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Suzy Steen introduced the speaker, Lisa Slay, Marketing Director for Wesley Medical Center.

Lisa began her job with Wesley just prior to the visit of Hurricane Katrina. Since then, Wesley has been very busy. Fortunately for those who needed medical services during the aftermath of Katrina, Wesley had just completed a complete

renovation of its emergency room just one week prior to Katrina. Currently, all 211 rooms are being renovated. The renovations include new beds that will improve patient care. The new beds will send a message to the nurse's station when a person leaves his or her bed. The new beds will also assist the nurse in turning a patient, a task that takes a team now. The medical facility was recently recognized by the TRIAD System as one of the top three hospitals within their system.

Renovations are also scheduled for the Bill Ray Wellness Center. There are also plans to add a nursery on-site for the children of employees.

Recently, Wesley submitted a second Certificate of Need, as required by the state. Wesley is seeking permission to add 100 beds and to be allowed to perform open heart surgery at the hospital.

In an effort to improve patient care, hospitals are required to record Core Measurers. Wesley ranked in the top ten percent of hospitals in the nation with its core measures charting this year.

On another subject, Lisa is heading up the Area Development Partnership's Pick Up the Pine Belt effort. One thousand five hundred and forty-two have signed up to participate in the venture. The ADP has established a Committee on Aesthetics and Beautification which will assume responsibility for similar projects in the future. This year's effort raised approximately \$18,000 in contributions. Some of the money will be used for t-shirts and garbage bags. The remainder of the funds will be used to pursue other funding opportunities in the future.

### THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

**(To be Announced)**

## ROTARY INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### RI president makes big outreach effort in U.S. capital

By Vukoni Lupa-Lasaga

During a two-day visit in September with Rotary clubs in the Washington, D.C. area, [RI President Bill Boyd](#) met with leaders of international organizations, diplomats, and media based in the U.S. capital.

Speaking at a news event hosted by the prestigious National Press Club on 27 September, Boyd explained how Rotary is a force for good, especially in improving the lives of disadvantaged people and promoting world peace and understanding. As Washington's premier news forum, the press club has both prominent members and speakers. It has counted among its members leading journalists and all of the U.S. presidents since Theodore Roosevelt. Its roster of speakers includes world leaders from Winston Churchill to Nelson Mandela.

Boyd is the second RI president, after Jonathan Majiyagbe, to speak at an event organized by the 98-year-old institution. The *Washington Times* and the *Record*, the press club's weekly newsletter, featured Boyd's address. The two publications highlighted Rotary's pioneering leadership in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative and its outstanding record of working with other organizations.

The RI president attended a Major Donor reception, District 7620's second annual Rotary Foundation Dinner, and the weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Washington, D.C. He discussed Rotary's humanitarian and educational programs with Graeme Wheeler, World Bank vice president and treasurer; Dan Runde and Jim Thompson, respectively director and deputy director for global development alliance at USAID; and Sakil Malik, senior project officer at the International Reading Association, which has a cooperative relationship with RI.

"Bill was a huge hit with all audiences," says Doris Margolis, of the Washington Rotary club and a member of Rotary's Public Relations Resource Group. "He was very inspiring. After listening to him, Rotarians are now fired up to go and give more of their time and money to community service."

Boyd, a New Zealander, also attended a reception hosted in his honor at the New Zealand Embassy. A highlight of the reception was an announcement of New Zealand's gift of NZ\$500,000 (approximately US\$331,745) to polio eradication efforts in recognition of Boyd's election as RI president. A silent auction also raised funds for [polio eradication](#).

**Editor: Gary Garner**