

## MEETING OF SEPT. 12, 2006

### Minutes of Meeting of Sept. 5, 2006

- Conrad Welker, President presided over the meeting.
- Todd Bradley then led in the invocation.
- Greg Garraway led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Tina Covey and Andy Leslie were our greeters.

- Kristy Gould introduced visitors and visiting Rotarians:
  - ✓ Petal Club visitors included: Rubard Bogley, Ken Ribelin, Milton Wheeler and Argile Smith.
  - ✓ George Karnes was a guest of Frances Karnes
  - ✓ Doug Grayson was a guest of Skippy Haik and assisted her with the audio/visual portion of her presentation.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Conrad welcomed Benjamin Morris a returning

Ambassadorial Scholar and Chrissy Gilder the 2006-07 Ambassadorial Scholar.

Both addressed the members and thanked them for their scholarships and noted that these events have and will change their lives in a positive manner.

- 2) Tina Covey and Andy Leslie were our greeters.

## LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Our program last week was a slide show about Katrina. Skippy Haik from the *Hattiesburg American* and Rotarian recapped the events of last August and September as the slides progressed. The Hattiesburg American managed to publish an edition of the daily paper every day during the disaster. Deliveries of the Monday paper were made until winds reached 50 miles per hour. The American served as the home base for reporters from across the country and had to establish a "city within a city" to feed and shelter American employees as well as visitors. This was accomplished even though the building suffered damage, the generator failed and there was no water for a number of days. American employees had to take pales to area streams and creeks to collect enough water to run the presses.

Skippy noted that one of the most successful services they offered during the Katrina disaster was the provision of a web site. People from across America and throughout the world visited the site for regular updates as well as using the site to seek information about loved ones or relatives. The site had more than 930,000 page views during the storm.

The cost to operate and provide the added necessities required during the storm cost approximately 2.5 million dollars. In spite of the difficulties, the American managed to print a local paper every day as well as the USA Today papers. Additionally, many local communities requested printing assistance for their publications. The American was able to accommodate these requests.

Skippy thanked Mississippi Power, local officials, her staff and the overwhelming support that they received throughout the disaster.

## **THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM**

Our speakers are three students our club sponsored for RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) this past summer. They are: Jenna Brown, a student at Piney Woods School (the daughter of Jennifer Brown); Robert Gore, a student at Hattiesburg High School (the son

of Lee Gore and Maura McLaughlin); and Jorge Jimenez, a student at Presbyterian Christian School (the son of Jaime and Yohanna Jimenez). They will tell us about their experiences at RYLA.

## **ROTARY INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **A club of their own**

#### **Younger Rotarians find new ways to fit into Rotary**

Young Rotarians are an elusive species. Ever wondered what makes them tick? Meet three who'll tell you. They'll explain why they joined, how they found their niche, and what they think Rotary offers younger people. Read on for straight talk from the next generation.

#### **Frank Rosenberg**

By his early 20s, Frank Rosenberg knew he wanted to be a Rotarian. After all, he had already spent a lifetime in Rotary, attending events with his Rotarian father and studying in Sweden as a Rotary Youth Exchange student.

"I wanted to join a club similar to my father's, but my schedule was so busy, I didn't want to commit myself to be somewhere every week," he says.

Juggling a mile-long "to-do" list as a nurse, part-time real estate agent, home-based travel agent, and private pilot, 30-year-old Rosenberg barely has a minute to spare. When he does, he spends it with his wife and nine-year-old

daughter. Traditional, weekly Rotary meetings aren't possible for him, so he investigated e-clubs after hearing about them at the District 5510 (Arizona, USA) conference he attended with his father.

"They were handing out awards to e-club members, and I asked what an e-club was," Rosenberg says. "When the conference was over, I made some calls and did some research to find out more."

After doing some digging, Rosenberg, who lives in Gilbert, Ariz., found the Rotary E-Club of the Southwest, essentially a virtual Rotary club where members can share ideas, plan local projects, and connect through online meetings and discussions from anywhere in the world. The club conducts weeklong meetings online that begin at 8 a.m. every Monday.

"I can go online any time that is convenient and still go to my father's club as a guest when I am able to," Rosenberg says.

Even though it meets online, the Southwest e-club is active in community service. "On our online forums, there are sections for members only and also for the general public," Rosenberg says. "On the members-only forums, we post our monthly board meetings, general discussions, club announcements, projects and have access to each

member's e-mail and contact information." And unlike traditional clubs, age is not a factor in Rosenberg's club. "I don't know how old anyone is," he says. "I just know a lot of them are using computers on a regular basis."

Southwest e-club members regularly assist traditional clubs with hands-on projects and even sponsored a Youth Exchange student and an Ambassadorial Scholar. And Rosenberg used his e-club affiliation to tap into Rotary resources when he flew to Baton Rouge, La., after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. After contacting clubs on the Gulf Coast, he found honorary Rotarian Janice Bradshaw, general secretary of District 6200. Bradshaw, who lives about 60 miles away in Lafayette, allowed him to stay with her while he was there and arranged a place for him to volunteer. "During the eight days that I was in Louisiana, the Pete Maravich Assembly Center, where I volunteered, triaged an estimated 15,000 people, with more than 6,000 of them receiving medical attention," Rosenberg says.

Though the e-club works well with his schedule, Rosenberg still enjoys face-to-face interaction with other Rotarians at his father's meetings. "There is much for me to learn from older, more experienced Rotarians," he says. "They are role models ... , and they're excited about younger people joining the organization, even if it's in a **nontraditional** way."

**Editor: Gary Garner**