

MEETING OF NOVEMBER 20, 2007
Minutes of Meeting of Nov. 13, 2007

- President Freddy Walter presided over the meeting.
- Conrad Welker offered the invocation.
- David Senne led the Club in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Kris King welcomed visiting Rotarians and guests including:
 - ✓ Vernon King was a guest of Conrad Welker.
 - ✓ David Owens was a guest of Gene Owens.
 - ✓ Bethanne Dufour was a guest of Bill McLeod.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Freddy asked that members take a moment to recognize the contribution of those who have served and continue to serve in the military. He asked that veterans remain seated while the remainder of the members stand and give them applause for their service.
- 2) Richard Topp was then called forward to provide members with information about the Rotary Foundation. November is Rotary Foundation Awareness month. Topp reported that the Foundation supports Rotary International by providing funding assistance to local, national and international projects. It was pointed out that the Foundation contributed thousands of dollars to Katrina relief. Topp provided members with a number of ways they can consider contributing and reported that the goal is for every Rotarian to contribute a minimum of \$100 this year to the Foundation.

More information will be available later in the month.

- 3) It was reported that John Ed Thomas has returned to the hospital. The Club's thoughts and prayers continue to be with him.
- 4) Rotarians are invited to participate in the Salvation Army's Ring the Bell campaign. Rotary's assigned date is December 8th. Anyone interested in participating should sign up soon.
- 5) Freddy also reminded members that **December 11th is the date for the Christmas Party**. All members are asked to report if they will or will not be in attendance. **The District Conference will be held April 17 - 18 in New Orleans. The Night in Italy event is scheduled for April 21.**
- 6) Steve Ramp was then called forward to induct Richard Jones, the Club's newest member.
- 7) Election ballots for next year's officers and directors were distributed and members were asked to cast their ballot. The result was:

Officers

Richard Topp-----President
Mary Cromartie-----President Elect
A.D. Hunt----- Vice-President
Kris King-----Secretary-Treasurer

Board Members

Robert Cummings
Maura McLaughlin
Steve Ramp
Erik Graham

LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Bill MacLauchlan introduced the speaker, Karen Reidenbach, President of the Southern Pines Animal Shelter's Board of Directors.

Karen reported that Southern Pines is an Open Admission shelter, meaning the shelter is willing to take in every animal regardless of its condition or the reason it is brought to the shelter. She reported that the trend among shelters today is a closed admission policy, meaning the shelter will accept only certain animals. Southern Pines accepts animals from 11 counties.

In 2006 Southern Pines accepted 8,400 animals. She is projected that more than 9,000 will be brought in during 2007. Combined with the Gulfport shelter, more than 23,000 abandoned animals will be sheltered this year. Those are the only two shelters serving the population south of Jackson. Approximately 6,500 of the animals brought to Southern Pines were euthanized in 2006. Animals that are adopted through the shelter have been spayed or neutered; they've been given all the necessary shots, equipped with an identification micro-chip and have a pet insurance policy.

Southern Pines is a not-for-profit organization. It receives 33% of its funding from area governments. The remaining 67% of the budget must come from adoption fees, contributions, grants and the generosity of the general public. The 2006 budget totaled \$350,000.

A challenge faced by the shelter, in addition to the continuous need to raise operating capital, is a high staff turnover. The job is a high stress job and one that takes an emotional toll on employees. Another considerable problem is the every increasing number of animals. If every homeless animal was adopted today, every American family would have to own six dogs and nine cats. Work must be done to decrease the animal population. A state-supported spay and neutering van comes to

the shelter twice each month. During the short visits they spay and neuter as many animals as possible at a significantly reduced rate for low income families.

As with most charitable organizations the shelter has a low volunteer base supported by an all volunteer board of directors.

Looking to the future, Karen reports that Southern Pines hopes to expand its facility, adding more facilities to house the increasing number of anticipated animals. Additionally they hope to create a more customer friendly adoption area where people can come and spend time getting to know their potential new family member. The center had a special visit recently from the President of the Human Society of the United States.

Southern Pines is looking for a Community Outreach Director. It is also attempting to create an education committee with the primary responsibility of educating the general public about the growing overpopulation problem and ways to avoid or prevent future growth problems.

Karen encouraged Club members to support the shelter by contributing funds, time, food, laundry detergent, towels, bed lining, Clorox or other supplies needed at the Center. Southern Pines is located on 31st Avenue behind Antionelle College. More information can be obtained by visiting their website at www.southernpinesanimalshelter.org. She also encouraged Club members to visit zootoo.com and vote for Southern Pines. A demonstration of community support could benefit the shelter in a national campaign.

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

Erin Granberry shares the program with Alex Kenner, who was a Rotary Scholar.



**Erin F. Granberry,
MBA**

HORNE LLP

101 Madison Plaza
PO Box 568
Hattiesburg, Mississippi
39403-0568
Phone: 601.268.1040
Fax: 601.264.4561

erin.granberry@horne-llp.com

Erin has over 15 years of management experience in the medical field, including strategic planning, marketing and sales management, workflow modeling and oversight of human resources and client services functions. She works with trauma hospitals and physicians in Mississippi in conjunction with the Mississippi State Department of Health to administer the Mississippi Trauma Care Trust Fund, which was established in 1999 to reimburse qualified providers for uncompensated trauma care.

She also serves Horne LLP as an internal corporate trainer and has worked as a consultant in the field of human resources, including training in workplace communications, conflict management, performance evaluation systems, job description design and implementation, employee handbooks, and other supervisory topics. Her public speaking experience includes national and statewide presentations on the Mississippi Trauma Care Trust Fund, conflict management, performance evaluations, drug testing regulations and other personnel management topics.

She holds BS and MBA degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi, where she has served as adjunct faculty in the Department of Management. She received her Master of Arts degree in Creative Writing from USM in 2006.

She is a member of the Hattiesburg Rotary Club, a Paul Harris Fellow and one of the founders of the Hattiesburg Area Habitat for Humanity chapter. She also participates in community theater and other civic activities.

Editor: Gary Garner