

## MEETING OF NOVEMBER 21, 2006

### Minutes of Meeting of Nov. 14, 2006

- Presiding: Conrad Welker
- Invocation: Sonny Cotton
- Pledge of Allegiance: Robert Cornett
- Introduction of Visiting Rotarians and guests was presented by Allen Anderson for Kristina Gould:
  - ✓ Milton Wheeler was a visitor from the Petal club.
  - ✓ Steven Palazzo was a visitor from the Biloxi Club.
  - ✓ Steven Palazzo brought Eric Moore from Petal as his guest.
  - ✓ Margie Jepson was a guest of Erin Granberry.
  - ✓ Amal Mitra was a guest of Conrad Welker.
  - ✓ Charles Greet V was a guest of Charles Greer IV.
  - ✓ Gracen McMillan was a guest of her husband Michael McMillan.
  - ✓ Valerie Sartin was a guest of Tina Lowrimore.
  - ✓ Dr. Maureen Martin was a guest of Bill Pace.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) David Senne and A.D. Hunt served as our greeters today.
- 2) Susan Light reported that there is a new magazine out called Mississippi Scene. She noted that Maura McLaughlin's family is featured in this issue with a unique holiday celebration.
- 3) Conrad asked for a show of hands for those who would be interested in volunteering to work in the Kettle Program for the Salvation Army. Approximately twenty members indicated an interest in participating.
- 4) Remember the Rotary club of Hattiesburg Christmas Party set for Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at

the Southern Oaks. Note: Attending this party will count for a Rotarian's attendance at a regular meeting. HO,HO,HO!!

### LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Kris King introduced Jerry DiFatta who then introduced our speaker for the day, Robin Robinson. Ms. Robinson serves on the board for the Institutions of Higher Learning. She has been selected to chair the search committee for the 9<sup>th</sup> president of the University of Southern Mississippi.

Ms. Robinson emphasized how important the university is to the local economy and area. She noted that there are about 225,000 people in the southern part of Mississippi who could attend the university. She also noted that the community and junior college system in the state has approximately 21,000 enrolled each year. Of that number only 4,700 go on to a four year program. She stressed the need for us to get more, higher trained people throughout the state if we are to be able to compete in the global economy.

Ms. Robinson indicated that the search process for the next USM president will be a transparent process. The only information that will be held in confidence throughout the process will be the names of the candidates. An On Campus Advisor Committee has been established as a part of the process. Rotarian Peter Fos will chair that committee. It is anticipated that 50 to 60 candidates will apply for the position. Dr. Fos' group will have the task of narrowing that field of candidates down to 5 or more that will be submitted to the IHL board for consideration. From that list one preferred candidate will be chose. He or she will be invited back to the campus for a full day of interviews and questions. At the end of the day, the IHL board will vote to either recommend the candidate or continue the search. The process should be completed by April, 2007.

### THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

Romona Lockett is our speaker today from Bethany Christian Services. She is the adoption worker at Bethany. Ms. Lockett is a Licensed Social Worker who worked with the Department of Human Services for 8 years and received her Masters in Social work at USM. She is married to associate minister at 38th Ave.

Baptist Church, Dan Lockett. They have two small children.

## ROTARY INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Understanding Teenagers

**Project unites Arab, Jewish teens in the name of peace. By Anna Bakalis in the November 2006 issue of the Rotarian.**

Lutof Zreik, a 16-year-old Arab Christian, reads the Torah aloud in Hebrew inside the Brandeis-Bardin Institute, a Jewish cultural center in Simi Valley, Calif., USA. He's one of 16 students — eight Arabs and eight Jews — from Haifa, Israel, participating in a two-week conflict resolution seminar and leadership retreat. The program is called Project TRIUMPH (Today's Revolution is Understanding: Making Peace Happen), and it's partially funded by the Rotary Club of Haifa and clubs in California.

Project TRIUMPH, which debuted this year and may become an annual event, brings Jews and Arabs together to build a shared vision for a peaceful future. Before arriving in the United States, the teens met every two weeks from December to May to get to know each other and find ways to promote tolerance in their communities and beyond. They also committed to a one-year community service project after the seminar.

Now at the retreat, the teens have a rigorous schedule, usually starting the day with yoga at 6 a.m. They participate in team-building programs and outdoor activities, attend local high schools, and see the Southern California sights. They also spend time with Rotarian families, eat lunches with Rotary clubs, take nature hikes, and speak with a rabbi, imam, and pastor. At the end of each day, they record their thoughts in journals.

"This was a whole different experience," says participant Reut Donner, 16. "It wasn't easy at first, being away from home, and our schedule is very strict, with very little time by yourself." She says the ropes course, where she had to trust others to catch her as part of the exercise, was one of the more challenging activities. She also climbed a 50-foot rope, which she never thought she'd be able to do.

"I was able to tell myself, This is your ego speaking, which works out of fear," she says. "I was able to envision making it to the top. I believed in myself,

and through that, I can help others."

### **SUBJECT: Did You Know?**

THIS IS AN EYE OPENER, IF ALL IS FACTUAL. SO WHAT DO YOU THINK?? YOU MAY WANT TO CHECK IT OUT.

Did you know this? I didn't! How could we?

Did you know that 47 countries' have reestablished their embassies in Iraq?

Did you know that the Iraqi government currently employs 1.2 million Iraqi people?

Did you know that 3100 schools have been renovated, 364 schools are under rehabilitation, 263 schools are now under construction and 38 new schools have been built in Iraq?

Did you know that Iraq's higher educational structure consists of 20 Universities, 46 Institutes or colleges and 4 research centers, all currently operating?

Did you know that 25 Iraq students departed for the United States in January 2005 for the re-established Fulbright program?

Did you know that the Iraqi Navy is operational? They have 5-100-foot patrol craft, 34 smaller vessels and a naval infantry regiment.

Did you know that Iraq's Air Force consists of three operational squadrons, which includes 9 reconnaissance and 3 US C-130 transport aircraft (under Iraqi operational control) which operate day and night, and will soon add 16 UH-1 helicopters and 4 Bell Jet Rangers?

Did you know that Iraq has a counter-terrorist unit and a Commando Battalion?

Did you know that the Iraqi Police Service has over 55,000 fully trained and equipped police officers?

Did you know that there are 5 Police Academies in Iraq that produce over 3500 new officers each 8 weeks?

Did you know there are more than 1100 building projects going on in Iraq? They include 364 schools, 67 public clinics, 15 hospitals, 83 railroad stations, 22 oil facilities, 93 water facilities and 69 electrical facilities.

Did you know that 96% of Iraqi children under the age of 5 have received the first 2 series of polio vaccinations?

Did you know that 4.3 million Iraqi children were enrolled in primary school by mid October?

Did you know that there are 1,192,000 cell phone subscribers in Iraq and phone use has gone up 158%?

Did you know that Iraq has an independent media that consists of 75 radio stations, 180 newspapers and 10 television stations?

Did you know that the Baghdad Stock Exchange opened in June of 2004?

Did you know that 2 candidates in the Iraqi presidential election had a televised debate recently?

OF COURSE WE DIDN'T KNOW!

WHY DIDN'T WE KNOW? OUR MEDIA WOULDN'T TELL US!

Instead of reflecting our love for our country, we get photos of flag burning incidents at Abu Ghraib and people throwing snowballs at the presidential motorcades.

Tragically, the lack of accentuating the positive in Iraq serves two purposes:

It is intended to undermine the world's perception of the United States, thus minimizing consequent support, and it is intended to discourage American citizens.

---- Above facts are verifiable on the Department of Defense web site

---- These facts, however, don't necessarily negate the serious situation that has developed in Iraq regarding the rampant insurgency and terrorist killings.

***HAPPY THANKSGIVING!-***

**Editor: Gary Garner**