

MEETING OF NOVEMBER 27, 2007

Minutes of Meeting of Nov. 20, 2007

- President Freddy Walter presided over the meeting.
- Richard Topp offered the invocation.
- Larry LeBlanc led the Club in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Allen Anderson, sitting in for Kris King who is sitting in for Tina Lowrimore, welcomed guests including:
 - ✓ Rachel Lowery a guest of Shawn Lowrey and
 - ✓ Heath Hillman a guest of Freddy Walter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Freddy reported at the meeting on Nov. 20th that John Ed Thomas was showing signs of improvement and was expected to return home soon. However, in Sunday's *Hattiesburg* American, it reported that he died Nov. 24th at his home. Memorials may be made to the Building Fund or the Edwards Street Fellowship Ministry of Parkway Heights United Methodist Church, or the scholarship fund of the Mississippi Boy Choir. Visitation was at noon on Monday at Parkway Heights United Methodist Church with Hulett-Winstead Funeral Home of Hattiesburg in charge of arrangements.
- 2) Freddy also reported that Kristi Gould's infant had been hospitalized. However, Freddy e-mailed SPOKES, saying that the baby was home and doing better. It appeared that it was a virus, but final diagnosis is pending. Freddy asked that members keep these two families in their prayers.
- 3) 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 with Bill McLeod. Furthermore, members attending the Christmas party will be given an opportunity to give to the Salvation Army that evening.

- 4) 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.
- 5) **The District Conference will be held April 17 - 18 in New Orleans.**
- 6) **The Night in Italy event is scheduled for April 22.**

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Bill Pace was then introduced and asked to introduce today's speakers. This being Rotary Foundation month, Bill invited two previous Rotary Foundation GSE recipients to address members today.

Alex Kenner, Coordinator for International Programs at the University of Southern Mississippi was the first to address the group. Alex is a native of New Orleans and a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi. She received a Rotary Foundation scholarship to the Netherlands a few years ago.

Alex reported that the Foundation's scholarship provided her with the defining moments of her life, both personally and professionally. She went to the Netherlands on a one year scholarship and remained there for four years. Her experiences, according to Alex, taught her much more than books could ever teach. By having the scholarship experience she insists that she is much better able to assist the students she now works with on a daily basis. Having the experience helps her understand the dilemmas students who are visiting the United States must face and helps her help them adjust to a new life. By the same token, Alex says she is better able to prepare American students who are planning to study in a foreign country by preparing them for the experiences they will face. These are skills she

learned having the Rotary Foundation experience.

Erin Granberry, a Rotarian since 1991 began her Rotary journey as a GSE student in the late 1980's. She reports that her experience really opened her eyes to a better understanding and appreciation for the cultures of other societies. She also reported that the six weeks she spent in France gave her opportunities to be an ambassador of goodwill for Rotary, the United States and especially the State of Mississippi.

Erin reports that her scholarship experience stretched her limits beyond her imagination and that through this experience she learned more than she ever thought she could. She carries many memories of her French experience and clings to treasures that have been bestowed on her as gifts from others she met as a result of this experience.

Erin concluded her remarks with a comment that the experience also taught her how much she appreciates what she has by being an American citizen.

Both of today's speakers expressed their utmost thanks to the Rotary Foundation but especially to the members of the Hattiesburg Rotary Club for supporting the Foundation and making their travels and life-changing experiences possible.

Rotarians are reminded that the Foundation goal for the year is \$100 for every member in every club. If you haven't made your contribution today, please consider giving before the end of the year.

Steve Ramp was then called forward to induct Aime Spears as the Club's newest member. Aime is married to Eric Spears. They moved to Hattiesburg in

1998 from Metairie, LA. Aime is employed by WHLT, CBS22 TV. Her primary responsibility is to assist businesses in the area with their marketing and advertising strategies. Aime was given a round of applause as her welcome to the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg.

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

Richton native, Chief Frazier Bolton, the new Chief of Police for Hattiesburg, is our speaker. He has over 21 years of experience in law enforcement. He began his career at the Atlanta Police Department in 1970.

After retiring from the Atlanta Police Department in 1991, Bolton worked as a resource officer for the Fulton County School District for two years. From there, he returned to Mississippi for four and a half years, as police chief for the Jackson State University Police Department. He also served as chief of police for the Fort Valley State University Police Department in Fort Valley, GA. His most recent position was Chief of Public Safety at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, GA.

Chief Bolton has received a plethora of awards including officer of the year and has instructed many classes on various aspects of law enforcement. He is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police.

His educational background spans from Morehouse College to Brenau College, both in Georgia. He has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a master of public administration.

He is married and has three sons. Bolton lives by his philosophy - "treat everyone like you want to be treated."

Editor: Gary N. Garner