

MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2007
Minutes of the Meeting of Oct. 30, 2007

- President Freddy Walter presided over the meeting.
- Greg Buie offered the invocation.
- Jolly Matthews led the Club in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Kris King welcomed visiting Rotarians and guests including:
 - ✓ Milton Wheeler and Patricia Furr from the Petal Club
 - ✓ Harold Nicholson was a guest of Johnny Stevens.
 - ✓ David Owens was a guest of Gene Owens.
 - ✓ Jamie Hollard was a guest of Bill McLeod.
 - ✓ Darian Pierce was a guest of Allen Anderson.
 - ✓ John McDaniel was a guest of Holt McMullan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Freddy reported to the members that the University of Southern Mississippi Association of Office Professionals and Recreational Sports will hold its annual Santa's Bargain Basement United Way Mega Garage Sale at the Payne Center on Saturday, December 1. Donations can be dropped off on Tuesdays and Thursdays between the hours of 3 and 6 p.m. at the corner of West 4th Street and North 34th Avenue.
2. Freddy reminded members to mark the date of December 11 for the Christmas party. The District Convention will be held April 17th-18th. He also reminded members that the club be holding a White Sale Day on the first Tuesday in December. Members are encouraged to bake a cake and bring it for sale that day. Proceeds will go to the Rotary Foundation. He also reminded members that the Night in Italy event will be held April 22.

3. Bill Pace reported that the Nominations Committee will have a report to the membership at the next meeting. Members will be asked to elect the new board members at the following meeting, November 13th.
4. Amie Spears with Channel 22 and Darien Pierce with Pierce Construction have been approved for membership.

LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Kris King introduced the speaker, Chad Daniels, Director of the Mississippi Armed Forces Museum. Chad is from Carthage, Mississippi and a University of Southern Mississippi graduate. He served his county in the Air Force and was formerly employed by Sunbeam. He became the director of the Museum in 1999.

Chad began his presentation by reminding Club members that Camp Shelby is celebrating its 90th anniversary. The Camp was founded on July 18, 1917. Dr. Walter Crawford, a young Hattiesburg physician, promoted Hattiesburg as the site for the location of a Army training site as World War I was unfolding. Meridian and Biloxi were the preferred sites, however, General Wood toured the area and on July 14, 1917 awarded the training facility location to Hattiesburg. It is said that he did that because of the advance work the community had put into a structure that would ensure that soldiers coming through the area would be made to feel welcomed and would be taken care of by the community. Chad insists that those same traditions continue in Hattiesburg, which has made the Camp Shelby training facility so successful over the years. He encouraged Club members to personally thank the service people they encounter on the streets and to ask if there's anything we can do to assist them. It was reported recently that soldiers from Shelby were in a restaurant and someone anomalously paid for their meal.

The Mississippi Armed Forces Museum began in 1999 as the Camp Shelby Museum. It was expanded recently when a similar facility was closed in Jackson. The museum sees more than 40,000 visitors each year, including many

soldiers who attend Camp Shelby. Brad says he instills in the Museum staff the need to make the soldiers feel welcome in Mississippi and to feel as though they are walking in a long line of patriots and heroes who have served their country since the War of 1812 and continue to serve their country in the War on Terrorism.

The Museum has memorabilia from as far back as the War of 1812 and also includes memorabilia from today's Iraq conflict. The elements found in the Museum are donated by Mississippians who have served their country. The only conflict that is not included in the Museum is the Civil War, however. Brad continues to seek displays from that conflict. The focus of the Museum is to depict the life of Mississippians as they served in these various conflicts.

An expansion of the Museum is currently underway. An architect is to be hired within the next week to begin the process. It is hoped the expansion will be open to the public within the next 12 to 18 months. Additionally, the Museum is restarting its on location educational program while continuing the outreach educational program.

Camp Shelby, now known as The Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center is currently involved in its second largest mobilization. Currently some 55,000 troops are being mobilized through Shelby.

The Museum's hours are 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. every day except Sunday and Monday. Club members are encouraged to visit the Museum and to let it be known if they know any Mississippian that may have memorabilia fitting for the museum. Through the expansion Brad hopes to be able to show more elements as well as to offer more details about the stories of those involved with the elements.

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

Bill Oliver speaks on the Forrest General Healthcare Foundation.

What is the Forrest General Healthcare Foundation?

It is an organization whose mission is: To enhance the health and wellness of our service area through a charitable gift foundation that will support the mission of Forrest General Hospital. It is also a 501(c)3 designated foundation meaning that all donations given to the foundation would be considered tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Why does Forrest General Hospital need a foundation?

To formalize a process that was already happening. People were already donating money to the hospital, and now with the creation of the Foundation we are set up to not only take those donations, but also to seek out other funding sources and grants for Forrest General Hospital. Many hospitals of our size and caliber have recognized the importance of having a foundation to aid in raising funds, allowing the hospital able to concentrate on patient care. At the Foundation we view philanthropy as a way to bridge the gap between what the hospital can afford and what the physicians and staff want to better help our patients.

How will this foundation help Forrest General Hospital?

The Foundation will help Forrest General Hospital meet its mission of providing high quality healthcare services that are accessible and available to all the residents of South Mississippi. In addition to helping meet the mission, the Foundation shares the goal of achieving the Forrest General Vision. Forrest General's Vision is to embody innovation, quality, and service in medicine, attracting and developing the best performing healthcare team. Together with our physicians we will provide care that is personalized, responsive, and competitive with the best in the country. We

strive to be the pride of every community we serve. It is so important for patients to be able to receive state of the art medical services right here at home where their support system is located. We at the Foundation recognize this and want to help Forrest General achieve this mission and vision.

What is the Forrest General Healthcare Foundation currently working on?

As a part of its first Annual Campaign, the Foundation has identified three initiatives. These projects are: an Inpatient Hospice Home, a complete renovation of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and the Circle of Healing and Spiritual Grounds at Pine Grove. The current campaign that has been outlined is the first phase of the larger campaign. The Foundation in conjunction with the Hospital is looking at other identifiable areas of need within the Hospital for future projects, and these will be addressed more fully later. Those individuals that have other areas of interest within the Hospital are always open to designate their gift to that particular area.

Message from Governor Wheeler
Service Above Self (And Then Some)

As we welcome November, historically Rotary Foundation month and for Americans a season for Thanksgiving, I am so grateful for 2,340 Rotarians in D6840, many of whom exhaust themselves for their clubs and the district. This truly personifies our motto of "Service Above Self."

And the hard work pays off! Foundation Chairman Rob Young of Stennis Space Center announced yesterday that our first quarter contributions of \$54,000 marked "our best ever results." With the \$14,000 from Covington, we are well on our way to our goal of \$175,000.

Membership Development Chair Don Bryant of Slidell has reason to rejoice as the district now enjoys a net gain of thirty-four, up from twenty-six of last month. Although this puts us on target for our minimal goal, we must accelerate our efforts to reach our ultimate goal.

If one could examine the email exchanges of Conference Chairman Stuart Guey of Belle Chasse with his committee, he would find an imaginative, spicy correspondence as they craft a conference in downtown New Orleans, April 17-20, that promises to be "the best conference ever."

Then consider what the CLUBS are doing! I hear it on the telephone and see it in their newsletters. The whole district will know about it at our Mid-Year Checkup, January 12. It makes one so proud to be a Rotarian in District 6840.

But, now, the "And Then Some" of our title.

Correspondence with Tom Ewen, of Barrie, Ontario, North America II Assistant Chair for the Polio Plus Partners Task Force, advises that four volunteers for Rotary have paid the ultimate price in service above self. While giving out polio vaccine in the battle zones of southern Afghanistan, they lost their lives. Let us redouble our efforts here on the home front. In honor of these heroes, let's renew our spirit of service above self (and them some).

Editor: Gary Garner

