

MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2007

Minutes of Meeting of Sept. 11, 2007

- President Freddy Walter presided over the meeting.
- Chris King offered the invocation.
- Susan T. Light led the Club in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Judith “Skippy” Haik served as our Greeter.
- Tina Lowrimore welcomed visitors.
- ✓ Steven Dicky and Neal Gray were visitors from Petal Rotary.
- ✓ Jonnie was a guest of Bob Riley.
- ✓ Charles Greer IV was a guest of Dr. Charles Greer.
- ✓ David Owens was a guest of Gene Owens.

Tina Lowrimore then drew names for a prize from a list of those who had brought guests. Dr. Charles Greer won a Southern Miss t-shirt.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Freddy Walter announced that Chris King would substitute for Tina Lowrimore during her maternity leave.
2. He hopes to increase our gift to the Rotary Foundation.
3. Freddy referred anyone interested in becoming an officer of Rotary to Bill Pace, head of the nominating committee.
4. Freddy then called on Todd Bradley to report on Rotary’s golf tournament.

5. Todd Bradley called attention to the registration forms on each table asking that everyone take them home. The golf tournament will be held Monday, October 22. Todd reiterated that he would happily receive registrations, sponsors, and volunteers for the tournament. REMAX has already pledge \$1,500 in return for being the title sponsor. All of this money will go to the Children’s Miracle Network in the name of Rotary.
6. Freddy Walter asked that all the present Rotarians mark their calendars for the following events:
 - **Rotary’s Christmas party on December 11,**
 - **the District Conference on April 17,**
 - **and Night in Italy on April 22.**

He then turned the floor over to Mike Collins to introduce today’s speaker, Charles Brown.

LAST WEEK’S PROGRAM

Mike introduced Charles Brown as a native Hattiesburgian and a father of three sons. His introduction included remarks on the anniversary of 9/11 in conjunction with Brown’s service in the military.

Brown introduced his subject as Hattiesburg’s Mobile St pre-WWI, post-WWI, and pre-Vietnam. Mobile St now hosts no more than a church and many vacant lots. The era of prosperity, business, and bustle on has passed for this Black Mecca. This street was once a center for black –owned family businesses.

Brown cited a black-owned bank in 1906 on that street. Dr. Faust had a dentistry practice there; there were two cab-stands—the McBride's and the Liberty's. Dr. Charles Smith and Dr. Jerome Love ran family practices. Dr. Love delivered Mr. Brown, and Brown's mother honored Dr. Love by naming her son Charles Jerome Brown. Dr. Smith's practice was on the second story of a building, below which, his brother Mr. Smith ran a drugstore.

r. Smith's drugstore had everything anyone could want to buy: beauty products, medicine, bandages, candy... His drugstore also functioned as a soda shop serving up malts, floats, and sundaes which filled the dreams of young people. Young black teenagers lined the counter and filled the store on Sunday afternoons, creating a popular and safe hangout.

During this time, Mrs. Grosby and Mrs. Woods both ran three story hotels on Mobile St. There were at least two or three barber shops—per block – and the number of beauty parlors far exceeded these. These parlors were run by black women. These women were entrepreneurs who owned and ran their shops.

Whatever the black community needed, it could find on Mobile St. Universal Life and Supreme Security Life both had insurance firms on the street. Hall & Collins had a funeral home (the very same which now exists elsewhere in the city) and later opened a mortuary. There were no less than six dry cleaners on the street—many of which were professional tailors, and all of which were owned by black families. Mobile St was a place wear ladies wore their best hats and

gloves and men wore suits with shined shoes. The road bustled with pride.

With the sixties, came a change, in atmosphere. Mobile St now was a place of fighting, shooting, and death. The sixties was a time for integration of the races. Now that outside stores were forced to open their doors to Blacks, they felt that the products and services offered by black families were not good enough for them. The Black community's money began flowing into White merchants' hands. Business crumbled and closed their doors in what once was a self-sufficient community. Once the business fell behind, the next generation of black businessmen moved elsewhere or better opportunities.

Now Mobile St hardly exists. Once Mr. Brown had the opportunity to re-enlist and go to Vietnam or come back to Hattiesburg. He chose to re-enlist, so badly did he fear and dread this place, so far had his home migrated from the glory of his childhood.

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

Kenny Harrell is our speaker for Tuesday. He is a native of Imperial Valley of California and retired as a Federal Fire Fighter in San Diego, where he oversaw the consolidation of 9 military bases into a single fire service. He served as a representative for the California Fire Fighters Association and the International Association of Fire Fighters which represents the interests of 250,000 firefighters nationwide. He lobbied in Washington, D.C. from 1990-1998 on behalf of firefighters. Kenny was meeting with congressmen in Washington, D.C. on September 11, 2001.

Kenny and his wife, Glenda Miller, moved to Hattiesburg in October, 2004. They have become active in our community. Kenny has worked with local governmental groups to improve the efficiency of our police and fire departments.

He will discuss a pilot program for regional centers nationwide to address responding to and caring for the victims of disasters, both natural and man-made, including fires, hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, riots, and acts of terrorism. Kenny's ambitions include using Camp Shelby as staging area for first responders and an evacuation center for victims of disasters in the area from Pensacola to New Orleans.

Please welcome Kenny Harrell as our speaker for today.

**THE LAW OF SUCCESS:
SINCERITY**

To achieve success, you have a definite major goal in life. Your chances of attaining that goal will be infinitely greater if you have a sincere wish to provide others with a better product or service. The operative word in the sentence is "sincere."

Sincerity is a trait that pays off in self-satisfaction, self-respect, and the spiritual security of a clear conscience. We have to live with ourselves 24 hours a day. The A friend of Abraham Lincoln once told him that his enemies were saying terrible things about him.

"I don't care what they say," exclaimed Lincoln, "so long as they're not telling the truth." Sincerity of purpose made Lincoln immune against fear of criticism.

Sincerity is a matter of motive. Therefore, it's something that others have a right to question before granting you their time, energy or money. Before embarking on a course of action, test your sincerity yourself. Ask yourself this question: "Granted that I seek personal gain in what I am about to do, am I giving fair value in service or goods for the profit or wages I hope to make—or am I hoping to get something for nothing?" Sincerity is one of the hardest things to prove to others. But you must be prepared—and eager—to do so.

Napoleon Hill

Editor: Gary Garner