

Meeting of September 25, 2007

Minutes of Meeting of September 18, 2007

- President Freddy Walter presided over the meeting.
- Joe Spell offered the invocation.
- Francis Farmer led the Club in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Kris King welcomed visiting Rotarians and guests including:
 - ✓ Marcus Ware from the Petal Club
 - ✓ Michael Roberts who was a guest of Valerie Sartin
 - ✓ Chris Martin who was a guest of Dan Kibodeaux
 - ✓ Mary Virginia Welker who was a guest of Conrad Welker

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Thanks to Bill Maclauchlan and Kris King for serving as our Greeters today.
2. Freddy then called on Todd Bradley to report on Rotary's golf tournament. Todd noted that he has a number of members who've agreed to volunteer. He requested that players and sponsors please sign up soon. The tournament will be held on October 22 at Shadowridge.
3. Freddy also reminded members that the annual Christmas party is scheduled for December 11 and the District Conference will be held in New Orleans on April 17. The Night in Italy event is scheduled on April 22.
4. Mary Cromartie brought four quarts of frozen sauce from this year's Night in Italy event. Skippy Hiak purchased the sauce for \$40.00.

5. Freddy noted that new member forms were distributed on each table today. He asked members to take a form and consider inviting a new member to join the Club.
6. Mike Ratliff was then introduced. Mike noted that the speakers at next week's meeting will be the two candidates the Club is sponsoring for RYLA. He encouraged members to be present and show their support for the young people being sponsored by our efforts.

LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Mike Ratliff introduced the speaker, Kenny Harrell. Kenny is a retired Federal firefighter from California. He and his wife chose the Hattiesburg area for their retirement home.

Mr. Harrell has developed a concept to create Federal Regional Disaster Centers throughout the United States. Personnel from these centers would be available to backup the local governmental agencies in times of disaster. He is proposing that Camp Shelby, because of its strategic location to the Gulf of Mexico, become the pilot project for the concept. Kenny noted that most of the evacuations routes from New Orleans to Mobile pass through the Hattiesburg area. With supplies and personnel stationed at Shelby during an event, those personal and supplies could be in place where they are badly needed in a very short period of time. Kenny says that time is the most critical element in a disaster when you are trying to save lives.

According to Kenny, Public Laws 109-295 authorized the establishment of these centers yet the government has not acted to create them. This law was passed in 2006.

Both state and local governments were praised for their responses after Hurricane Katrina. However, the clearly visible void in disaster relief came from the Federal side of the equation, according to Kenny. He says, "The time has come for a comprehensive federal approach to nationally declared disasters." Using Kenny's plan the Federal Regional Disaster Center would house and support specialized disaster personnel and equipment and would be available on a regional scale to support local first-responders who are often victims of the disaster. The regional centers would have facilities for emergency evacuee housing, first responder staging, specialized equipment and supplies, staffed and supplied medical clinics and an effective communication center.

The Federal Regional Disaster Center concept was presented in July to the Pine Belt Mayors who were attending the Mississippi Municipal League's annual convention. They voted to support the concept and are working through legislative and regulatory channels to push the effort forward. Kenny requested that Rotarians take up this cause and talk to the people we know who have authority and influence over such issues.

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

Mike Ratliff noted that the speakers at this week's meeting are two candidates the Club sponsored to RYLA this past summer.

Rotarians recognize that today's young people will become tomorrow's leaders. Preparing those future leaders is a significant task. That's why each year more than 9,000 young people are sponsored in RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards)

programs by Rotary Clubs in over 25 countries. Rotary Clubs around the world are dedicated to helping young people develop their leadership skills to the fullest. Those who complete the RYLA program will be better able to successfully manage their lives and careers and make a mark on society, contributing to their communities.

RYLA was officially adopted by Rotary International in 1971, and is one of the most significant and fastest-growing programs of Rotary service. RYLA programs often lead to the formation or strengthening of Rotaract and Interact clubs. RYLA participants often go on to become Youth Exchange students or Ambassadorial Scholars.

Our speakers on Tuesday are Caroline Ratliff and Mary Beth Davis, both seniors at Hattiesburg High School, whom our club sponsored to RYLA this summer. Caroline and Mary Beth were among the 60 young people from throughout District 6840 who attended the program at the Solomon Episcopal Retreat Center near Robert, Louisiana. They will share their experiences with us today.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The Rotary Foundation's third group of students studying peace and conflict resolution at a university in Bangkok, Thailand, will graduate from their intensive, three-month program on 14 September.

The 20 students, who hail from 13 countries and received financial aid from the Foundation, will earn certificates in peace and conflicts studies from Chulalongkorn University for completing the Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies program.

The program is aimed at professionals working for governmental and nongovernmental organizations. Graduates are expected to return to their jobs and apply the skills they've learned. The first class of students graduated in September 2006. The next group will begin studying in January.

This week's graduates include a staff correspondent for a newspaper in India, a deputy police superintendent from Nigeria, a teacher from the United States, and a program coordinator for a nongovernmental organization in Tajikistan.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The World Stands Aside and Makes Room for the Person Who knows Where He is going and is on His Way.

When you have a vision for what you wish to achieve in your life, not only will others stand aside and let you pass, but they will join you in your quest as well. They will instinctively recognize your enthusiasm and zest for living. When you speak of your passion in life, your definite major goal, they will see the intensity of your desire, and they will respond with encouragement and assistance or they will stand aside. It will be apparent to all who know you that you will succeed.

The Napoleon Hill Foundation

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