



The Westbank



Rotator

June 10th, 2003

www.RotaryWestbank.org



By:
Ron Mosel

President's Pen

My year as president of the Westbank Rotary Club is quickly winding down. It feels just a like yesterday when I was planning for this year. I remember passing around the membership directory for changes to the book, and now it's that time again for us to correct any errors and make changes to our personal information.

Bob should have had time to recuperate from jetlag related to the International Convention, which was held in Brisbane Australia. I look forward to the report that he will be giving on Tuesday. Our club meeting this past Tuesday was very productive and educational. Next week, I will post our budget from this past year in the newsletter.

This past March, nearly 500 Rotarians gathered in Panama City, for this Rotary year's final presidential conference of peace and development. The main purpose of the conference was to focus on strategies designed to alleviate poverty in the Americas, and establish micro-enterprise development projects through vocational training.

Rotary International President, Bhichai Rattakul, announced he would be providing \$40,000 matching grand money to support the expansion of three vocational centers in Panama. Bhichai said, "We must do all that we can to give these people what every human being deserves: the dignity of productive work and self-sufficiency."

One center will train local women on selling, baking, cosmetology and micro-enterprise skills. The second facility will receive a rototiller and wood carving tools for vocational training. The third center will provide training in auto mechanics, cosmetology, selling, electricity, word processing, and metalworking.

Rotarians know how badly long-term economic development initiatives are needed in Panama. In the past, Rotarians have helped with the critical food shortage by sending dehydrated food into the affected communities. However, this was a short-term solution. The emphasis now is to provide families with chickens, seeds, farming tools and other supplies to enable them to grow their own food and sell their surplus. I believe the saying goes, "Give a man a fish, and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish and he will eat for a lifetime."

Rotary clubs around the world try to work with underprivileged Rotary clubs and Third World countries to develop a better world. Knowledge makes the difference between poverty and wealth according to Dr. Eduardo Dorian, World Bank special representative to the United Nations. He also pointed out that rapid technological changes tend to benefit skilled workers in developed nations, but they are usually much slower to reach developing countries. Closing this gap is crucial to making this world a better place.

Rotary will continue to provide a voice for honesty, unselfishness, and service to your fellow human beings. We should all do what we can to improve our communities, our countries, and the world in which we and our children live.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*“There is a friend
who sticks closer
than a brother.”*

-Proverbs 18:24

Rotary Club of the Westbank

1309 Whitney Avenue
Gretna, LA 70056
Club 3995 - District 6840

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS 2002-2003

Ron Mosel
President

Robert Watzke
President-Elect

Pat Campbell
Vice-President

Charlie Jones, III
Secretary

Bubby Gauthreaux
Treasurer

Joe Stephens
Sergeant-At-Arms

Kathy Ockman
Immediate Past President

Robert Folsie
Director of Club Services

Paul Verret
Director of Community Service

Michael Dendy
Director of Intenational Service

Debbie Guins
Director of Vocational Services

Tuesday Meetings, 12:15pm
Gretna United Methodist Church
1309 Whitney Ave., Gretna

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

June 17, 2003 _____ Carl Orgeron
June 24, 2003 _____ Kathy Ockman



LUNCH GUESTS



Bruce Griffin _____ guest of Emile Mire
Paul Thiels _____ guest of George Relle

Program Chairman

Neal Fromenthal will have a guest speaker for June 10th.

GUEST SPEAKER

For June 10th, is Neal Fromenthal will have Sheriff Charles Foti.

Absent:

Autin, Bryant, de la Bretonne, Doubleday, Foley,
Gegenheimer, Grady, Harris, K. Jones, Leaber,
Lupin, Maggio, Marchese, Melancon, Parker, Polo,
Rodriguez-Fierro, J. Stephens, Stumpf, Stuntz,
Sullivan, Ward, Watzke, Weileman, Wicker

Happy Birthday!



Daniel Marshall

RECAP OF LAST WEEK

Spotlight of the Week

Nancy Wagner, MD
Ophthalmologist-Gretna Eye Clinic

Nancy is an original "California Girl". She was born in the San Francisco area to parents who were both in the Navy. She was educated there from elementary through high school, but was able to avoid the drug/flower child era by beginning her college days in Oregon at the tender age of 16. She whizzed through her undergraduate studies and graduated with her Bachelor's degree in Sociology well before her 21st birthday. Of course, Oregon law prohibited her from becoming a Social Worker before attaining age 21. So, Nancy accepted a position as a social worker in Maryland, where the age requirement was more liberal.

After a few years, Nancy took advantage of a federal grant program and came to Tulane University to pursue her Master's degree. She got tuition, room, board, books, and encouragement and quickly completed the program. Then, she accepted a position to stay in the New Orleans area as a therapist at the only Public Health Hospital in the City - now closed. Seeking growth and new opportunities, Nancy enrolled at the Medical School at LSU to become a physician with an ophthalmology specialization. While attending the Medical School, she met and married her husband, Dr. Thomas Boos, a prominent local Proctologist.

Nancy, Tom and Heather, their daughter, live in Metairie, but Nancy has practiced in Gretna for many years. Heather will begin college at Virginia Tech, this fall.

Like several of our members and their spouses, Nancy is a cancer survivor. She was diagnosed with Renal Cell cancer early in development and received life-saving surgery and treatment at M.D. Anderson in Houston. We are all glad to still have her with us. Nancy has really enjoyed being a Rotarian and the opportunities to meet and become friends with people she would probably not ordinarily associate with - like, for example, Lenny!

Coming Soon!!!

- 6/10 Vicki Polo, Past President
- 6/17 Sister Laura Meloncon
- 6/24 Neal Fromenthal, Past Pres.
- 7/1 Robert Watzke, Incoming Pres.
- 7/8 Roy Gattuso, Past President



Club Day 2003

In lieu of a guest speaker, President Ron officiated at our annual "Club Day", where our club's directors and officers briefly talk about their duties and activities to advise our membership of our club's status and direction for the year. The directors who reported included:

Rob Folse, Club Services - Parties, Socials and Installation
Debbie Guins, Vocational Services - Awards & Citations, plus, as incoming Sgt.-at-Arms, the set-up, check-in, lug around and put away activities of that position.

Michael Dendy, Incoming Director of International Services - GSA Team planning and hosting, Int'l. Scholarships, etc.

Then, Roy Gattuso talked about the Westbank Rotary Foundation, its mission, goals, membership and policies. Our club is very fortunate to have the bingo revenues to finance our scholarships and civic contributions. But, we are also blessed to have Foundations Board Members and staff (John Kuchler and Walker Tucei) who are dedicated to the integrity and success of our Foundation. Thanks to all who have contributed and served. Charles Jones III presented the Foundation with another \$ 10,000.00 check.

Next, two of our officers gave brief presentations. Charles III talked about his duties as Club Secretary - keeping records, maintaining our data base, corresponding with Rotary Int'l., tracking member

attendance, etc. Then, Bubby Gauthreaux discussed the Treasurer's job - collecting dues, paying bills, requesting checks, etc. etc., unquestionably the hardest job in the group. Bubby also advised the club that the HDTV raffle was a success and that our club will be able to donate \$ 1,000.00 to the Young Marines, outside our regular budget. Congratulations to all who worked on and participated on this worthy project.

Finally, President Ron wrapped up with a Q & A session and several good suggestions were made. One of those was to publish a list of the organizations and causes to which we contribute funds and effort. Ron agreed and will prepare a recap for an upcoming Rotator edition. We'll see you next week.




Lunch Menu

Meatloaf
Corn
Spinach Casserole
Cake & Tomato Salad
Applesauce Cake



\$67.00
Mario Ramirez

1/2 & 1/2

For comments, suggestions, or questions please contact:
Design@DesignThePlanet.com

