



The Westbank



Rotator

June 17th, 2003

www.RotaryWestbank.org



by
Ron Mosel

President's Pen

This year six Rotoract clubs were honored at the international convention for their outstanding projects. The winning projects were selected from 91 entries submitted to Rotary International world headquarters.

The club from the University of Ghana received the outstanding Rotoract project of 2002-03 for its efforts to refurbish a broken down Children's Hospital Ward. The students raised thousands dollars for major improvements to the public facility, and organized activities to clean and repaint the buildings.

The project coordinator Ben Thomas, an Ambassador scholar at the University, enlisted the help of his sponsoring Rotary Club in Foster City, California, District 5150 and District 9100. With their support he was able to obtain a Rotary Foundation Matching grant for beds, medical equipment and other needs identified by the hospital staff.

In addition to Mr. Thomas' club, five other clubs from around the world received recognition for their work. A club in East Asia and the South Pacific developed a project to collect toys, children's books, and rehabilitation equipment to donate to the Children's Hospital of Chang Gung Memorial Hospital. The children's playroom in that hospital had been empty of any equipment or toys for many years.

In Europe and Africa a Rotoract Club from Turkey, developed a project to provide long-term assistance to needy children and their local community. They developed a partnership with their sponsoring Rotary Club of Istanbul, who's members raised funds to provide six children with medical and dental care, food, clothes, English lessons, school materials and the opportunity to attend social and cultural event in Istanbul.

In Latin America, the Rotoract Club of Medellin, Columbia along with the Rotary members from Medellin and Conejo Valley California raised money to build a safe place for children to play. They created a multiuse playing field, equipped with a viewing stand, commemorative mural, and athletic equipment such as basketball hoops, volleyball nets and soccer goals.

In South Asia, as people gathered in the city of Mumbai for religious festivals, the Rotoract Clubs of District 3140 joined forces to welcome them into a clean environment. The clubs contacted local government officials and arrange for sponsors to donate clubs, aprons, brooms, and dust pants. Distinguished local leaders and Rotarians were invited to participate in the clean up efforts.

Finally, in the United States, Canada and the Caribbean, the Rotoract Club of Pepperdine University California started a project to help rebuild the facilities at the Mount Sinai church camp located

in San Felipe, Mexico. The camp did not have safe playground equipment or clean drinking water, so the Club partnered with the Rotary Clubs of Malibu and Pacific Palisades, California to raise funds for the project by soliciting donations from local businesses. Rotoract club members traveled to San Felipe in January to construct a new baseball field, upgrade existing basketball and volleyball courts, service sporting equipment, and repair and clean several facilities at the camp.

I believe our partnership with the Holy Cross College Rotoract Club and the Algiers Rotary Club can achieve the Outstanding Rotoract Project of the year. I challenge all members to think hard, look around, keep an eye on the news, and come up with a project outstanding enough to win this award.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ There is no joy, except in human relations. ”

-Saint-Exupéry

Rotary Club of the Westbank

**1309 Whitney Ave.
Gretna, La 70056
Club 3995 - District 6840**

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS 2002-2003

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President-Elect

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Michael Dendy
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Debbie Guines
Director of Vocational Services

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

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

June 24, 2003 ————— Kathy Ockamn



LUNCH GUESTS



Raymond Hymel _____	Assistant Governor
Ella Hymel _____	guest of the club
Claude Autin _____	guest of Michey Marcello
Beverly Strunk _____	guest of Gloria Lanoux

Program Chair

Carl Orgeron will have our guest speaker for June 17th.

Guest Speaker

For June 17th, Carl Orgeron will have **Chip Cahill**, President of the Jefferson Parish Levee District, speak about the flood gates and levee system of the parish.

Announcements:

Paul Thies is seeking membership to the Rotary Club of the Westbank. He is an Investment Advisor Representative for GE Financial. Paul is also a member of the Greater New Orleans Chamber of Commerce, the New Orleans City Energy Club, and the Elfun Society which is a service organization withing General Electric.

Happy Birthday!



RECAP OF LAST WEEK

94th Annual Rotary International Convention Bob Watzke

President-elect Bob Watzke gave a report of his trip to the 94th Annual Rotary International Convention held in Brisbane, Australia. The pre-convention activities included the International Institute which consisted of two days of plenary sessions covering topics ranging from cyber and experimental clubs to club and district amalgamation. The four days of the convention held not only, the requisite pomp, ceremony and speeches celebrating the world of Rotary; but also included programs on the Rotary Foundation, the new

grant structure, polio eradication, Rotary youth programs, the International Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution as well as club and district projects.

During one of the sessions it was announced that the Polio Eradication Fund has surpassed its goal of \$80,000,000.00 goal for the year by \$5,000,000.00. However, it was also announced that Annual Giving, the fund that supports district projects such as the GSE program, Ambassadorial Scholarships and District Simplified Grants, was down by 30% putting a pinch on these programs three years in the future.

Among other events, Bob had the privilege of casting our vote for the 2004-05 president-nominee

Glenn Estess of Alabama. Also, he thought that the forum for incoming club presidents was particularly valuable for the 1000+ presidents-elect in attendance.

In summary Bob said that the events were a celebration of Rotary's unique brand of service and fellowship that made the convention a life-enriching experience.

Spotlight of the Week

Coming Soon!!!

Vicki Polo, Past President
Sister Laura Meloncon
Neal Fromenthal, Past President
Robert Watzke, Incoming President
Roy Gattuso, Past President

Guest Speaker:

Sheriff Charles C. Foti, Jr., Criminal Sheriff's Office, Orleans Parish

Sheriff Foti has served for 30 years as New Orleans' Criminal Sheriff. His primary responsibility is to efficiently manage all operations of the Parish Prison. The jail/prison has a capacity of just over 7,000 inmates which makes it one of our nations largest criminal facilities. The job involves not only incarcerating the inmates, but also their security, feeding, health and recreation, but education and rehabilitation. The Office also administers programs and services, using non-violent inmates on work release status, to help various non-profit organizations, schools, churches

and other government agencies to benefit the community.

Managing all these prisoners for such a long time has given Sheriff Foti some important insights into the social problems of our community and state. He believes that the root cause of our crime problems begin with the upbringing and education of our young people, especially the economically and socially deprived children. Many of our kids have no parental guidance or adult supervision. They are not taught ethical behavior, basic skills nor caring attitudes as youngsters, so they are ill-prepared to achieve in school and unable to contribute positively in society. He said that we stand at a crossroads to correct these problems or we can expect our situation to get even worse. Infants and toddlers are malnourished and unsupervised, they are unmanage-


able in classrooms and schools, they turn to easy money in crime and drugs and many wind up in jail. They are not the only ones to suffer from these conditions. Directly, there are the victims of crime and drugs, their families and communities. At a broader level, they give us a bad reputation so desirable employers, workers and citizens avoid living and working here.

So, care and education of all our young people should be at the top of our social goals list. We must elect capable and caring politicians, pay for early development and encourage the positive development of all our kids to save our community and way of life. Then, we can have a business-friendly state, with safe, successful and disciplined students in drug-free schools, who can get well paying and contributive jobs and make this a better place to live.

We Have a Winner

Jennifer Stansbury's team won the attendance contest this year.

Congratulations to Jennifer & her team!!!




Lunch Menu

Cajun Chicken
Italian style Green Beans
Carrot Salad
Fruit Crunch

Important Notice:

Absent:

Anding, Autin, Bryant, Dandry-Mayes, de la Bretonne, Doubleday, Foley, Gassen, Gegenheimer, Grady, Helden, Hummel, K. Jones, Leabar, Melancon, Moore, Neathamer, Parker, Rodriguez-Fierro, Schexnayder, Schieman, Strough, Stuntz, Sullivan, Wagner, Ward, Weileman, Wicker



\$60.00

Charles Jones

1 1/2 & 1 1/2

For comments, suggestions, or questions please contact:

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