



Rote-A-Bit

Rotary Club of Columbus, Georgia
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Program for July 30, 2008

JAMES C. CLARK E/D GA ENVIRONMENTAL FACILITIES AUTHORITY

THE ROTE-A-BIT

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EDITORIAL FOR JULY 30, 2008

MARK LUPO

As with many of us, one of the highlights of the Christmas season in our home is the watching of, "It's a Wonderful Life." Something about Jimmy Stewart's character, George Bailey, one of innocence, hope, adventure, and energy, rings true about the season and touches a part in all of us, I believe. There is a scene in that film where George Bailey is defending his father's efforts to keep the building and loan business going after all of these years to Mr. Potter. If you look over Jimmy's shoulder there is a small plaque next to a picture of his father, Peter Bailey that reads: "all you can take with you is that which you have given away."

"All you can take with you is that which you have given away"...That statement has really taken on a significance to me, before unrealized. Last year, I lost my mother and father to cancer and Parkinson's disease, devastating diseases which seem to take part of someone you love away, one facet at a time. My mother and father were teachers all their lives and loved giving: through their lectures, through their experiences, their knowledge and love. Though they could have given on a much higher level, I don't think they ever realized the opportunity that we as Rotarians accept on a daily basis. As I watched Mom and Dad slip from this life, I realized, as anyone that has lost someone close, that all that we work for and toil at each day, in the end, will have limited significance. True significance comes only through our ability to give away that which we have, whether it is compassion, knowledge, experience, money, and/or love.

Cecil Cheves honored me back in September of 2000 with an invitation to join the Rotary Club of Columbus. Little did I know at that time how important this group of men and women, you, my fellow Rotarians, would become in my life. Not having had a background with a service organization before, I was unfamiliar with the expectations and the opportunities to volunteer on such a scale. Through the years, the chance to speak to high school students in the spring or fall at Career Day, the chance to greet Rotarians coming in each Wednesday, the opportunity to ring the bells for the Salvation Army during the Christmas season, are experiences that I treasure and now look expectantly toward each season. Wednesdays at 12:00 noon have become somewhat "hallowed ground" in my calendar, as I look toward the opportunity to join the fellow members at my table for their fellowship, good food, and interesting speaker, and the ability to contribute to mankind on a great scale. As we go through our days ahead, let us remember our blessings and seek out those ways that we can truly give away what we will not be able to take with us.

ROTARY NOTES (0716/2008)

The meeting was called to order by President Mallon, who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Gloria Dodds gave the invocation and Phil Scoggins gave us a news update. Colin Martin introduced and welcomed our visiting Rotarians and guests. Our planned military guest, SFC Christopher Irvin, a member of the NCO Academy, was unable to attend.

Col. Gil Perez announced that his stint as commandant of WHINSEC has ended and introduced Col Felix Sandiago who will now serve in that capacity. Col. Perez thanked the members of the club for the support shown to Fort Benning and all the military personnel. President Mallon welcomed Col Sandiago as the newest member of our club.

Ken Crooks announced that over \$7,000 had been donated by our members to the Feed the Hungry cans that are on our tables each week. He introduced the committee members who works with him on this project and then presented checks from that fund to representatives from Brown Bag of Columbus, House of Mercy and Kids Café.

President Mallon presented a Rotary banner from Estonia that has been sent to us from our recent GRSP student, Zanette Harviti. He then introduced those joining him at the head table: Gloria Dodds, Michael Silverstein, Sharon Borger, Scottie Gaither and Barbara Gaither.

Sharon Borger introduced Barbara Gaither, mother of Scottie Gaither, 2008 National Easter Seals Child Representative. Although Scottie has "graduated" from Easter Seals and is now a rising 3rd grader at River Road School, he was nominated by the local office because he meets all the requirements for this honor. He has an awesome family who got him the help he needed as soon as his diagnosis of autism was made. Sharon showed a film clip depicting the life of the Gaither family that demonstrates the love, dedication and hard work that all of the members have shown. His mother Barbara teaches health sciences at Columbus Technical College and his father teaches at Arnold Middle School.

Barbara then spoke of the family's journey with Easter Seals, beginning when Scottie was 2 1/2 years old until he "graduated" to regular kindergarten classes at the age of 5. When he began at Easter Seals, the family prayed for speech. He developed the skill quickly and hasn't stopped since! Scottie's national honor has given them a way to give back to Easter Seals by travelling around the country and speaking about what the organization has done for them. Scottie loves to travel and to speak to groups, but doesn't like to have to get dressed up in his khakis each time! He makes straight A's and is very skilled in math. Scottie took the microphone to tell two of his favorite jokes and then demonstrated his amazing math skills by multiplying 36 by 18 and dividing 450 by 25, announcing the answers before his mother's calculator could.

President Mallon re-welcomed our visiting Rotarians and guests, re-positioned the bell to the left of the podium so that Lovick Corn could see it for the first time in 56 years and adjourned the meeting.
-Gloria Dodds

WHY I AM A ROTARIAN Maureen Bond - Zimbabwe

...Rotary gives me something of real value in my life. The stability that Rotary will always be there and hence the hope for our country that is in such dire straits as there are so many committed Rotarians serving our community, trying to make life better for the needy, hungry, and dying amongst us.

"Tiri Tose" (African Shona tribe saying) means "We are one."

One big Rotary family.

WHAT PAUL HARRIS SAID

"Why should a man (or woman) continue to strive for more wealth after (s)he has acquired reasonable sufficiency?"

The money quest is largely habit, is it not? or is it a disease? Whatever it may be it has a deadly grip. There is a growing number of men (and women), however, who possess sufficient character to enable them to master their own destinies, to turn abruptly in their tracks when the time comes to give up the pursuit of the almighty dollar and devote themselves to their second business: attention to the world's needs.

The larger this number becomes the easier it will be for others to follow. The progress of civilization depends upon these men (and women) of character."

Paul P Harris' message to the RI Convention in Los Angeles 1922

AREN'T WE INTERESTING COMMUNICATORS?

The following are excerpts from letters written by adults to the VA:

"Both sides of my parents are poor and I can't expect nothing from them, as my mother has been in bed for one year with the same doctor and won't change."

"I am forwarding you my marriage certificate and my two children, one is a mistake as you can plainly see."

"Please find out for certain, if my husband is dead, as the man I am living with won't eat or do nothing until he knows for sure."



Lee Brantley	7/28
Rich Martindale	7/28
Tyler Townsend	7/29
Mark Overby	7/30
Tom Gates	7/31
Michael Willey	7/31

**RECENT CONTRIBUTIONS
TO THE BIRTHDAY FUND**

Rudy Boyd
Ed Sprouse
Meridith Jarrell
Beth Parsons
Mary Bode

MAKE-UPS

PHENIX CITY (7/14)
Meets Monday 12:15
Central Activities Bldg.
Leonard Crain
Jack Key, Jr.
Phil Swift
Billy Turner

MUSCOGEE ()
Meets Thursday 7a.m.
River Club

rotaryclubone.org

Paul Berry
Tom Butler
Greg Camp
Janet Davis
Don Campbell
Larry King
Mat Swift
Lynne Taylor
Alap Shah
Jerry Scott
Don Sharitt

**NORTH COLUMBUS
(7/15)**

Meets Tuesday 12:30

Green Island
Rick Alexander
Wayne Andrews
Jim Ballengee
James Crosse
Thelon Hamby
Claudya Muller
John Sheftall
Ernie Smallman

A Salute to 16 Rotarians

We have sixteen of our members with 50 or more years in Rotary!
59 years - Richard Hecht, Rupert Triplett
58 years - Frank Philips
57 years - William Buck, Don Hunter
56 years - Lovick Corn, John Kinnett, Hooper Turner
53 years - Billy King
52 years - Wilson Camp, David Rothschild
51 years - Thacker Cargill (perfect attendance!), Bubba Gross,
Ed Neal, George Trussell

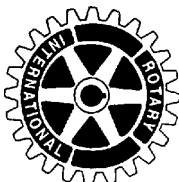
Number 5

MEMBERSHIP PROPOSAL

The following persons have been approved for membership by the Classification Committee, Membership Committee and the Board of Directors:

1. Samuel Albert Gaston III (AI).
President, Columbus Carpet Mill Store.
Proposed by Kevin Wilkerson.
Classification: Floor Covering, Administration.
2. Joe Slade Johnson, III.
Office Manager, Jordan, Jones & Goulding.
Proposed by Philip M. Adams, Jr.
Classification: Engineering.

If no written objection to this proposal is received by the Board within ten (10) days stating reason, these persons shall be considered elected to membership.



07/30/2008