



Rote-A-Bit

Rotary Club of Columbus, Georgia
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Program for March 4, 2009

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THE ROTE-A-BIT

1246 1st Avenue
Published Weekly

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EDITORIAL FOR MARCH 4, 2009

REMEMBER THIS

Be good, but not too good - a little naughty but not too naughty.

Be kind to the world always if possible - yet I you must be unkind, smash right and left, get it over and forget it.

Smile, always smile, have a smile ready even though sometimes it hurts. Grab all the happiness you can - wherever and whenever you can - and don't let even a wee bit slip past you. Live, above all things, live, don't simply exist.

If you are blessed enough to know what real love is - love with all your heart, soul and body.

Live your life so that at any hour you will be able to shake hands with yourself, and try to accomplish at least one thing worth while each day. When your nights come you will be able to pull up the covers and say to yourself-
"I have done my best."

F. Collis Wildman
Rotarian 1926

ROTARY NOTES - 02/18/09

The meeting was called to order by President Mallon, who then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Phil Scoggins provided a news update to the group, and Mike Helms gave the invocation. Next, Elizabeth Barker introduced visiting Rotarians from other clubs as well as member guests. Selby Rollinson introduced our military guest, Spec. Rasheed Walker, member of the Army's 14th Combat Hospital Unit at Fort Benning. Military guests, in addition to receiving a commemorative coin and gift certificate to the Cannon Brew Pub, receive a copy of Col (Ret) Ralph Pucket's book, Words for Warriors. Next in order was the introduction of the head table by President Mallon. Joining him today were Mike Helms, Carol Bradshaw, Susan Andrews, Bob Jones and our speaker, Sally Sinclair.

New member, Dr. Susan Andrews, was introduced by Frank Jordan. Dr. Andrews is the new superintendent for the Muscogee County School System and comes by transfer from the Harris County Rotary Club. President Mallon also informed the club that due to an incredibly demanding schedule, newly elected club secretary, Virginia Peebles, will be unable to accept the position. As a result, the nominating committee recommended Jacki Lowe as the club secretary for upcoming year and her nomination was approved.

Next, Bob Jones introduced our speaker, Sally Sinclair, director of Adult Education for the Muscogee County School District. The Rotary Club of Columbus and the Adult Education Department have a special relationship since the implementation of the "Second Chance" grant program this past year. The Second Chance program covers the cost of the GED test for any 16-18 year old student in Muscogee County who does not have the financial ability to pay the testing fee. There are no strings attached to the grant; however, all students who accept the gift are asked to "pay it forward" at some point in the future if they can. To date, 18 students have received funding from the Second Chance program to take the GED, with 16 students passing and receiving their GED.

Ms. Sinclair updated the club on the latest statistics on dropout rates in Georgia and around the country. Every nine seconds in the US, a student drops out of school, and even more disturbing, 25% of all state inmates in Georgia are dropouts and 59% of federal inmates are high school dropouts. In terms of lifetime earnings, male high school dropouts earn an average of \$21,000 per year, while males with a high school diploma earn \$32,000 (a 52% difference).

In addition to serving students in Muscogee County, the Adult Education program covers Harris, Stewart and Quitman Counties as well. Currently, there are over 2,500 students enrolled in the Adult Education

programs and many are there because a friend or family members told them about the program and encouraged them to enroll. Once enrolled, 58% of students make two years' worth of progress in only one year, and this is despite a decrease in state funding. Ms. Sinclair proudly spoke of a 74 year old student who won the Golden EAGLE award. EAGLE, "Exceptional Adult Georgian in Literacy Education," is the first statewide program in the nation that recognizes and rewards excellence among students enrolled in the adult literacy programs.

Ms. Sinclair reported to the group that the Adult Education Department of the Muscogee County School District was named the grand prize winner of Georgia's 2008 Literacy Awareness Campaign. Sponsored by the Adult Education Office of the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG), the Literacy Awareness Campaign is a statewide competition that encourages teambuilding and collaboration among the state's adult education; GED testing and Certified Literate Community programs. Participants are scored based on their promotion of adult education through fundraising activities, local literacy event, and community partnerships with schools, civic organizations, and businesses. Ms. Sinclair thanked our club for helping her students this past year and for helping her department to achieve this special recognition.

Even with all of the successes in adult education, Ms. Sinclair says there are two categories in which there needs to be improvement: enrollment in Columbus Technical College and Columbus State University and employment after receiving a GED. Because Adult Education is much more than helping students obtain their GED, Ms. Sinclair places a lot of emphasis and time on job training and English as a Second Language courses. Her philosophy with her students is simple, "Each setback is a setup for a comeback." We are all invited to the GED presentation in June, in which President Mallon will present students with their diplomas. For more information on the MCSD Adult Education Program, please visit <http://www.mcsdga.net/schools/centers/tillinghurst.htm>.
Lori Auten

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT RYLA?

RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Award) is a Rotary sponsored program designed to develop qualities of leadership and good citizenship among the young people of a community. It's a good opportunity for Rotarians and other business and civic leaders to share their knowledge and experience with an audience that is eager to learn. It's a great way to put into practice the Rotary motto: Every Rotarian an Example to Youth.



Larry Cardin 3/3
 Andy Speed 3/4
 Ron Mullins 3/4

**RECENT CONTRIBUTIONS
 TO THE BIRTHDAY FUND**

Gary Gullatte

Number 36

MAKE-UPS

**PHENIX CITY (02/16)
 Meets Monday 12:15
 Central Activities Bldg.**

Newt Aaron
 Marc Calhoun
 Art Chriss
 Ryan Clements
 Billy Cunningham, Jr.
 Richard Davis
 Lance Duke
 Tracy Fisher
 Al Gaston
 Robert Granger
 Thelon Hamby
 Virginia Holman
 Isaiah Hugley
 Meredith Jarrell
 Gene Kemp
 Ashok Kumar
 Kayron Laska
 Jim Laycock
 Jacki Lowe
 Joe Lucas
 Joe McClure
 Mark Overby
 Lamar Powers
 Roy Plummer
 Craig Reaves
 Reggie Richards
 Carl Rhodes
 Jerry Rothschild
 Carole Rutland
 Dicky Saunders
 Ben Saunders
 Tracy Sayers
 John Sheftall
 Michael Silverstein
 Dick Stone
 Mat Swift
 Lynne Taylor
 Jerry White

Kevin Wilkerson
 Cathy Williams
 Len Williams

**NORTH COLUMBUS (02/17)
 Meets Tuesday 12:30**

Green Island
 Mitch Britt
 Dickie Edge

**MUSCOGEE (02/19)
 Meets Thursday 12:00**

Green Island
 Michael Eddings
 Larry Sanders
 Gloria Weston Smart
 Lynne Taylor
 Tom Titus

HARRIS CO.

Bill Smith

rotaryclubone.org

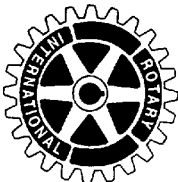
Harry Walker
 Mark Carroll
 Alap Shah
 John Sims
 Joe Roberson
 Neal McCrillis
 Don Dakin
 Frank Jordan

MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

Our membership is 331 at the moment. This year, since July 1st, our net gain since June 30, 2008 is eight. Please continue to bring potential prospects to Rotary. Some one proposed you! By brining new persons into the club we increase our potential for service and fellowship.

ACCOUNTING FOR CLUB SERVICE

Do you ever wonder what happens to all the service you give our club? Well, wonder no more.
 Your attendance is used to make our meetings more enjoyable.
 Your good fellowship is used to insure the attendance of others.
 Your enthusiasm and expertise are used to benefit the community.
 Whatever is left over is returned to you in the form of personal satisfaction.
 Are you satisfied?



03/04/2009