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Rote-A-Bit

Rotary Club of Columbus, Georgia
Club No. 200 • Founded 1916

PROGRAM FOR JULY 8, 2009

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THE ROTE-A-BIT

1246 1st Avenue
Published Weekly

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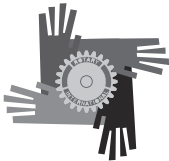
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EDITORIAL FOR JULY 8, 2009

GIVING AND LIVING

When Lori Auten asked me if I would write four editorials for this newsletter in the space of a year, I thought it would be really easy. Four weeks out of 52 doesn't seem like much - until you have to face each of the deadlines with a blank computer screen and no ideas.

In preparing for this last editorial, I sought help from a reference librarian. I wanted to write about how the giving Rotarians do makes a difference. The librarian found several poems that better express the value of giving than anything I could write, so I am going to take the liberty of quoting from one of them:

*What makes life worth the living
is our giving and forgiving;
Giving tiny bits of kindness
that will leave a joy behind us,
And forgiving bitter trifles
that the right word often strifes;
For the little things are bigger
then we often stop to figure.
What makes life worth the living
is our giving and forgiving.
-Thomas Grant Springer*

Rotary is about giving to make the world better and that really does make life worth living.

-Claudia Muller

ROTARY NOTES - 06/24/09

The June 24, 2009 meeting of the Rotary Club of Columbus was called to order by President Mallon, who stated that this was his last meeting before the changing of the officers, next Wednesday, July 1, 2009. That meeting is also Past President's Day.

We were led in the Pledge of Allegiance by President Mallon and Eddie Obleton gave the invocation. Elizabeth Barker introduced our visiting Rotarians and guests and Dick Ellis introduced our military guest, SSG John Whitney, a member of the 192nd Infantry Brigade.

Larry Sanders introduced our newest Rotary Club member, Dr. Joe Zanga, and George Flowers introduced our newest Paul Harris Fellow, Houser Pugh. George said we have raised over forty thousand dollars in the Paul Harris Fund.

At the head table was Eddie Obleton, Gloria Dodds, President Mallon, Al Gaston, Sgt. Rick Stinson and John Stacy. Mr. Stacy introduced our speaker, Sgt. Rick Stinson, the Agent-in-Charge of the Metro Drug Task Force.

Sgt. Stinson talked about the problems we are facing in the Columbus-Phenix City area with meth-amphetamine. He said that he thought he could not envision a drug worse than heroin but meth-amphetamine is a devastating drug. There are two separate meth problems the Task Force battles everyday. The first is meth labs which are extremely dangerous and very hard to police because everything in a lab can be purchased at a K-Mart, a drug store or grocery store in our county. Ephedrine (a component of cold medicines such as Sudafed) can be purchased on the internet and can be ordered through the US Mail from places such as China.

The second problem is what the by-products of a meth lab can do to those who may be exposed. The by-products are dangerous fumes and liquids that, once mixed, become highly flammable. A favorite place for a meth lab is a hotel room. This is frightening because you and your family can be exposed to these dangerous chemicals if you stay in that hotel room. The chemicals in a meth lab are absorbed into carpets, floors, walls, etc. and there have been no real studies to determine how long it stays there. Meth Lab clean up groups must handle materials in a HazMat way. It costs up to 100k for a meth lab clean up. Metro Drug Task Force members wear face masks so they won't inadvertently breathe the fumes. Sgt. Stinson said he knows police officers that mistakenly went into

meth labs and their lungs were burned up by the fumes produced by the labs.

The good news for Columbus is that there is a small decline in the use of meth-amphetamine; however, the Alabama side has seen an increase. Sgt. Stinson told us that a new form of meth, "ice," is being sold in our area. This form of meth is made in a "super" lab and the number of "ice" cases has tripled in the last two years. "Ice" is a smokeable form of meth that is quite popular among users. "Ice" looks like rock salt when it is made as opposed to a white or light pink powder, which is what ordinary meth looks like.

Sgt. Stinson said he doesn't know what the solution is to this terrible problem, but more money and more staff are needed to fight the problem. Sgt. Stinson entertained questions, one of which was asked about the demographics of the population that uses this drug and he said meth used to be a "poor white group" drug but not anymore. This is a drug which anyone can buy their own chemicals and make themselves. He has seen users from ages 13 to 65-70.

President Mallon thanked Sgt. Stinson for bringing this informative program to us. He then rang the bell.

The meeting was adjourned.

-Shirley Jaeger

ALL AVENUES LEAD TO YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Rotary's wide range of Youth Activities permeates all four Avenues of service. The slogan "Every Rotarian an Example to Youth" makes clear the goal of helping young people develop their full potentials as responsible adults. The effort is to work with, rather than for, young people. Thus, the relationship between Rotarians and youth is often reciprocal.

VACATION-CHANCE FOR EXCITING MAKE-UPS

Did you know that if you miss a club meeting because you are on vacation, you can schedule a make-up almost anywhere you go? How? By referring to the Official Directory, which lists meeting places and times of more than 27,000 rotary clubs worldwide. Attending other clubs allows you to meet more Rotarians -from Andorra to Zimbabwe. Call Mary or Shirley for information 706-322-6232 or email rotary2000@earthlink.net



Dan Kosobucki	7/4
Marvin Foster	7/5
Phil Scoggins	7/7
Mary Bode	7/9
Joe Lucas	7/9

**RECENT CONTRIBUTIONS
TO THE BIRTHDAY FUND**

John Martin
Lance Duke
Betsy Covington
Dan Parker
Dave Konze

MAKE-UPS

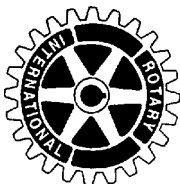
PHENIX CITY (06/22)
Meets Monday 12:15
Central Activities Bldg.
Mary Bode

**NORTH COLUMBUS
(06/23)**
Meets Tuesday 12:30
Green Island
Cecil Cheves
Joe McClure
John Lee
Marion Scott
Tom Titus
Ricky Wright

MUSCOGEE (06/25)
Meets Thursday 12:00
Green Island
Rick Alexander
Thelon Hamby
Charlie Johnson
Reggie Luther
Lynne Taylor

EUFAULA, AL (6/11)
Neal Wickham
rotaryclubone.org
Elizabeth Barker
Debbie Davis
Tyler Townsend
John Martin
Richard Anthony
Joe McClure
Frank Jordan
Phil Scoggins
Jerry White
Dave Konze
Wayne Anthony
Frank Star
Madden Hatcher
Joe Johnson
Susan Andrews

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07/08/2009