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Rote-A-Bit

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

PROGRAM FOR APRIL 14, 2010

TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION - ABSTINENCE TO LEADERSHIP
NEW HORIZONS COMMUNITY SERVICE BOARD

THE ROTE-A-BIT

1246 1st Avenue
Published Weekly

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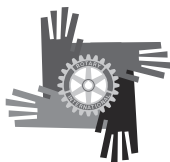
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EDITORIAL FOR APRIL 14, 2010

GREEN PARTNERSHIPS

On a brisk Saturday morning in February, members of The Rotary Club of Columbus, volunteers of Trees Columbus, Inc. and students from Brookstone and Carver High Schools planted thirty-two trees in Dinglewood Park. It was in fact Arbor Day, and following the tree planting, additional activities were sponsored at Lakebottom Park by Trees, Inc. and keep Columbus Beautiful (directed by Rotarian Gloria Weston-Smart.) The day celebrated the thirty-second anniversary of Columbus being the first "Tree City, U.S.A." in Georgia.

This writer leaned on a rake, visited with friends and watched Mike Venable, Marquette McKnight, Newt Aaron, Patty Cardin, Betsy Covington and about a dozen other Rotarians actually dig and plant these trees. Of course, Mary was there to take role and pour hot coffee for the workers. Not only were these Rotarians improving our community landscape, but they were also setting a great example of community service for the students to follow.

Carole Rutland chairs the Rotary Environmental Committee. On behalf of Rotary, a grant was given to Trees, Inc. to purchase the trees and buy needed equipment such as shovels, gloves and rakes that can also be used on other planting projects. The Environmental Committee has over time sponsored several projects at Oxbow Meadows such as a public demonstration rain garden and clean-up of ponds/lakes in that venue. Our Rotary Club has been involved in numerous environmental and aesthetic projects in the community to include others at Weracoba Wildwood Park, better known as Lakebottom. Also, we helped find the lovely small park and sculpture site at the Columbus Public Library, which all the Rotary Clubs of Columbus sponsored to celebrate the Rotary International Centennial.

I say, Kudos to the committee chairs and the volunteers who demonstrate "service above self" by improving the quality of life in our community.

—Virginia Peebles

ROTARY MINUTES - 03/31/10

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Jones, who then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and Cecil Cheves offered the Invocation. Phil Scoggins brought our report on breaking news, finance and weather. Elizabeth Barker introduced visiting Rotarians and guests.

Frank Brown made the introduction of Marie Louise Moen of Norway, and past participant 27 years earlier in the Georgia Rotary Student Program. Marie Louise now enjoys a successful law career with Norway's largest insurance company. She said her Rotary student experience "paved my way" in her career development and expressed thanks once again for the opportunity.

Ralph Puckett, without notes, gave an excellent introduction of our military guest, CSM James Hardy, including exemplary achievements of CSM Hardy's career. He was presented with our Rotary commemorative coin and a copy of Col. (Ret) Ralph Puckett's book, *Words for Warriors*.

Bill Smith introduced new member, John Watson, and gave a bio thumbnail of John. Welcome to The Rotary Club of Columbus, John.

There was not a formal introduction of the head table. However seated with President Bob Jones at the head table were Cecil Cheves, Chuck Hecht and Rob Doll who introduced our speakers, Betsy Covington and Royce Ard.

Betsy Covington began by asking to stand, those who went on our area's first Honor Flight. Then asked to stand, Honor Flight "guardians", then those to be on a future Honor Flight, and those who welcomed return of WWII veterans from the last flight. Betsy acknowledged and expressed thanks to leadership and organizers of Honor Flight thus far.

The Honor Flight initiative in Western Georgia receives donor support by way of gifts through the Community Foundation, honoring "the Greatest Generation". Since its founding, Honor Flight has made possible air travel to visit the WWII Memorial in Washington, free of charge, for 36,000 WWII veterans in five years. They do so with the help of guardians who pay their own way, some of them teens.

West Georgia conducted its first Honor Flight in September of 2009. An initial fund raising goal for the project was \$68,000.00. It has now raised more than \$200,000.00, in support of the three Honor Flights.

Royce Ard then encouraged that if anyone knows WWII Veterans, invite them to be part of a future flight to see the memorials in Washington DC. The full cost is \$400.00 per veteran, which includes the cost of chartering a Boeing 737, and charter busses in the capitol. Veterans are accompanied by guardians, nurses, physicians, and members of the press; all of who pay their own way. Again, there is not cost whatsoever to honoree veterans. They are both men and women, ranging in age from 81 to 97.

The visit to memorials in the capitol is a one-day trip.

In the company of a police motor escort, there are stops at the World War II Memorial, Korean War Memorial, Viet Nam Memorial, Iwo Jima Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery. Veterans are met at the airport in DC by uniformed military in formation, and greeted by Senator Bob Dole and Mrs. Dole.

Royce included a moving video thumb nail of the Honor Flight day's events. Those honored met at Columbus' airport at 6 a.m. for departure, greeted by hundreds of citizen well wishers. On their return at the end of the September flight, more than 1,400 turned out at the Columbus Airport, extending a heroes' welcome home from their "trip of a lifetime". Royce issued the challenge for us to be among welcoming grateful following the next Honor Flight. Especially poignant is the video comment of one veteran on the recent Honor Flight, "I felt like I was somebody, for the first time in my life."

President Bob thanked Betsy and Royce for the program and dismissed the meeting.

—Art Fultz

ANTHONY J. MULLEN 2009 NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

March 23, 2010

J. Robert Jones
President
Rotary club of Columbus, Georgia
1246 First Avenue
Columbus, Georgia 31901

Dear Mr. Jones,
I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to you and the distinguished members of the Columbus Rotary for providing me a wonderful opportunity to speak with your members. I very much enjoyed speaking with the people charged with the difficult task of improving the economic and social health of their community.

I was particularly moved when I received a standing ovation from the audience. This generous display of support made me realize how important my message – helping the most challenging students – resonates with your members.

The members of the Columbus Rotary are indeed a special and caring group of people dedicated to improving the lives of students and educators. They are the people who truly understand that what is taught is not as important as whom we teach.

Thank you for the Paul Harris Fellow Award and honorary pin. I have displayed this beautiful medal next to the award I received from the president of the United States. Please extend my appreciation to your organization.

Best regards,

Anthony J. Mullen
National Teacher of the Year



Brian Bush
 Peggy Cornell
 Scott Davis
 Mike Smajd

MAKE-UPS

PHENIX CITY (03/29)
Meets Monday 12:15
Quality Inn 4/10
 Ron King 4/14
 Virginia Holman 4/15

rotaryclubone.org
 Louise Pinter John Stacy
 Wayne Anthony
 Neal McCrillis
 Newt Aaron
 Colin Martin
 Ryan Clement

NORTH COLUMBUS (03/30)
Meets Tuesday 12:30

Green Island
 Perry Alexander
 Rick Alexander
 Anthony Berger
 Dickie Edge
 George Flowers
 Gary Gullatt
 Thelon Hamby
 Frank Jordan
 James Snead

GEORGETOWN, GA
 Neal Wickham

**RECENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO
 THE BIRTHDAY FUND**

George Jeter

MUSCOGEE (03/25)
Meets Thursday 12:00
Green Island
 Sharon Borger

Number 32

