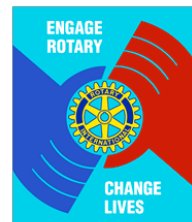


Rotary Club of Galveston - Texas



PILOT



Rotary Newsletter
October 9, 2013

Kevin Harrington presided over the meeting.

Lauren Suderman introduced visitors and guests

Ruth Suhler led the pledge and music

Mike Guarino offered the invocation

Announcements

Keith Bassett announced that Chili Supper sign-up sheets are going around. **Ruth Suhler** has sign up sheets for aprons.

Program

Lonnie Cox introduced the program: State Representative, Craig Eiland.

Representative Eiland told the club he was not running for reelection after 20 years. He is still practicing law in Galveston. He gave us an update on the 83rd legislative session.

Key issues that were discussed in the session include the water plan, school accountability, budget transparency and tax relief.

The water plan will bill would create a revolving loan fund and matching grants for projects approved by the Water Development Board. Communities would be able to borrow and pay back when revenue kicks in.

School accountability: Standardized tests were revised. Instead of 24 end-of-course tests, there are now 5 students are expected to pass. Academic standards have been changed so they are not so weighted on testing. The legislature looked to five endorsement areas for schools: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), business, public service, art and humanities and multi-

disciplinary studies.

He said the state budget is \$197 billion. 52% goes toward education, 37% to health and human services, 8% to public safety and the criminal justice system.

UTMB will receive an increase in \$34 million in funding. Legislators worked to fix the correctional managed care issue. Now, money for the care of TCDJ comes out of their budget. Pay or don't send them.

Other items the legislature took up include a change to the Medicaid program that allows the cash value of life insurance policies to be counted as an asset. The money can go in a long-term care trust and you will qualify for Medicaid after the value of the life insurance policy is spent.

A joint House and Senate committee will study the feasibility of the Ike Dike

–
Door Prize:

Patrick Graham won the door prize

Kevin Harrington led the group in reciting the Rotary Four-Way Test.

Of the Things we think, say or do:

- 1) Is it the TRUTH?
 - 2) Is it FAIR to all concerned?
 - 3) Will it build GOODWILL and better FRIENDSHIPS?
 - 4) Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned
-

Upcoming Programs:

10/23/13: VIT

*Mary Beth Bassett, PILOT Editor
Bill Ray, Photographer*



The Galveston Rotary Club

PO Box 810 / Galveston, TX 77553 Phone: 409-763-8688
www.galvestonrotary.com