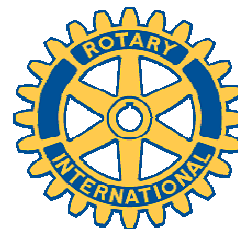


Rotary Club of Galveston - Texas



PILOT



Rotary Newsletter
July 16, 2008

Bets Anderson, President, called the meeting to order. **Susan Baker** led the invocation; **President Bets** led the Pledge of Allegiance and the music and **Dwayne Jones** introduced the guests and visitors.

Announcements from the Podium

Visiting Rotarians: None

Guests: **Montey Hudspeth** guest of **George Ritz**

Neil and Linda Nathan are hosting a **VIT Members Social** on Wednesday, July 30th in their home at 40 Colony Park circle, from 6 PM to 8 PM for members and their guests. “Heavy” appetizers, wine and beer will be served and the cost will be \$20.00 per person. A sign up sheet will be available at the Secretary’s table for your reservations.

Any member who has not received their “Club Roster” be sure to get one from **Harold Fattig**, our Executive Secretary.

Congratulations to:

Gaynelle Hayes on her 40 years of service to Galveston College and to

Lonnie Cox on being named a “Damn Good Judge” by the Texas Gang of Investigators Association.



Left, President Bets Anderson applauds Gaynelle Hayes and Lonnie Cox

Today's Program

Galveston Island Video produced for the Convention and Visitors Bureau was shown during lunch.

John Zendt introduced the program and speakers: Dwayne Jones discussed the Galveston Historical Foundation, John Zendt discussed Moody Gardens and Tourism in the State, and Melody Jones gave an overview of the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Dwayne Jones (pictured right) first discussed the Historical Foundation. The Foundation has recently taken over Bishop's Palace, which has hosted 7,000 visitors since Memorial Day. Additional facilities for information and retail are planned for addition to Bishop's Palace. The Seaport Museum is also seeing strong attendance, with 6,700 visitors since Memorial Day. Ashton Villa has seen a slight decrease in visitors since last year. Results of a survey of visitors to Galveston suggest high fuel costs are causing visitors to visit Galveston rather than more distant attractions.



John Zendt (pictured, below) gave a slide show on Moody Gardens. He outlined the mission and history of Moody Gardens, and noted that it's most popular exhibit features BOI penguins hatched from eggs gathered in the Faroe Islands. The flightless waterfowl add novelty to this BOI exhibit. He discussed the Hope Therapy program, including the Special Person's Ball, water sports available to the handicapped (such as waterskiing) and horticultural therapy, as well as other various features and activities available at Moody Gardens. He presented some data on the impact of Moody Gardens: 2.3 million visitors per year, including 50,000 children on school field trips, 1,000 jobs in Galveston, and \$450 million invested for the future of Galveston.



John also gave some information on the 1894 Grand Opera House. The Opera House attracts 80% of its audience from off-island, provides \$10 to \$15 million of economic impact to Galveston, and is registered in the National Registry of Historic Places. Finally, John presented a list of the top ten tourist attractions in Texas and some additional Texas Tourism facts.

Melody Smith (pictured, right) gave an introduction to the Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB-101). The Bureau's primary objective is to increase hotel occupancy in Galveston. It is funded by 3 of the 15% hotel tax (20% of the hotel tax), for an annual budget of \$3 million. Melody offered some statistics on Galveston hotel facilities: there are 5,000 guest rooms available; 750 rooms have been added since 2003; hotel room revenue has increased from \$75 million in 2003 to \$116 million in 2007.



Reporting by Bert Sweetman

President Bets led the group in reciting the rotary "4 way test".

The **Door prize**, a Champagne Basket, courtesy of Randy Klibert was awarded to Bert Sweetman (*must be good karma for agreeing to report this week!*)



Above, President Bets and Secretary Harold Fattig. The unofficial Fifth Rotary Test (of the - things we think, say, or do): "Is it fun?"

Next week: GSE Team headed by Susan Andrew (team from District 5910 that went to France)