

Rotarian Reviews Ways To Help Problems of Poverty

Ed Mattson, a "100 percent Rotarian Volunteer," on May 6, gave us a preview of information he said would be presented to Rotary International, on Rotary "Fellowships" and "Action Groups."

With Power Point slides, Mattson reviewed dozens of Rotary Projects which were organized to help overseas areas of poverty. From Chernobyl to Romania, through orphanages in South America, "Old Russia" and the United States, he gave a look at how Rotary Clubs are banding together financially, and are helping provide health care, pure water and items of need.

Asked how many Rotary groups had been formed to help these areas, Mattson estimated from 80 to 100 "Fellowships" and 14 "Action Groups." These eventually included "Support Groups" for Rotarians and their families.

Long-time foundations include the Buckner Foundation, Mattson said. Web sites have been added so that information is available (www.shoesfororphansouls.org). Clubs in the Dallas/Fort Worth area of Texas have supported this project for years. The contact person is Shaun Hawkins at shawkins@buckner.org.

Another is Seeds Program Inc. To provide seeds for vegetable gardens in orphanages around the world. (www.seedquest.org or contact John A. Batcha, president, at jabspi@prodigy.net.)

He said there is the Echo of Chernobyl Pediatric Rehabilitation Center in Chisinau, Moldova. Training is provided by Ronald McDonald House in North Carolina.

Another is the Romania Free Cancer Screening Center in Bucharest, See Problems of Poverty, on Page 2

Club Hears Progress Report On 'Underground Utilities'



Tim Smith,
PSO Engineering Supervisor for this district.

Tim Smith gave us a Public Service Company report on progress on "underground utilities" last week. Smith is the District Engineering Supervisor for PSO.

The official answered questions about the progress of a PSO underground utility plan and tree trimming in various areas of the city.

When one of the spring storms blows lines down, the company finds it "saves a lot of time and customer satisfaction" to have already put in underground utilities.

Green Meadows, he said, is putting in underground lines "ahead

of houses," so that when a house is built, it has the underground lines installed. The whole development is completed, Smith said.

Trees have been trimmed in the south part of McAlester. And the next underground utility work now looks like it will start next winter.

Asked about price increases, Smith said most of them are for the price of fuel.

The company next will work on the "Reynolds Road area," which includes Fourteenth, Wood Road and Thirteenth. Then the area from Comanche to Wal-Mart will be scheduled, he reported.

Wal-Mart is a problem, he admitted, and "limited easements" are a problem.

But the company is using a GPS system to locate lines. And "cable system technology" is "going out the roof."

Smith said his district includes most of Southeastern Oklahoma.

Attendance, Visitors and the Big Winner

There were just 34 people at last week's meeting, with no guests.

We had 40 people at the previous week's meeting. Guests were Paul Northcutt, son of Jim Northcutt; April Motley, guest of Steve Smith. She also is the mother of Cassie Motley, the Junior National Scholar.

On May 13, there were 33 present. Eighteen of the total were the high school Jazz Band members.

On May 6 there were 50 present. Dick Wheeler was a guest of Helen Wheeler. Mark Derichsweiler was a guest of Don Brumley.

On April 29 we had 46 present. Jayna Santine, Clem's wife and Nancy Miller, Clem's mother-in-law were his guests.

Dorothy Chatenay was a guest of Jack. Student guests were Tyler Wilson and Sara Brueggman.

'We Have A Winner' proclaimed Brett Smith on May 6, and the big drawing was over. Ron May took home \$520, and there's no telling what some of them got.

But the drawing wasn't over. Just the big money. Now there is a new pot, and you can still win it, says new President Brett Smith.

Brett reports the club put \$100 in the new pot, to get it "boiling." And he figures it raises about \$80 a week.

So it's like the Indian Casinos. It just keeps on and when you draw the Joker, Brett will have a new deck of cards.

(Until that woman comes back to speak against gambling.)

THE HANDSHAKERS-Last week Lynn Edwards gave the buck to Jim Bland. On May 20th, Jim Thompson gave \$1 to Banker Paul Million. And on May 13, Tim Whips gave (the same \$1?) to Jim Thompson.

On May 6 Ted Welch gave the buck to another banker, Bruce Hall. Paul Green had it on April 29.

And if you wonder what happened after that, so do I. Maybe we should ask a banker.

Club Nears 50th Year Edwards Introduces Boys, Girls Club Youth of Year, Allen Scholarship Winner



Lynn Edwards

Lynn Edwards, head of the McAlester Boys and Girls Club, gave a report on the club on April 29, and introduced Ashton Santine, who won the W.W. Allen \$60,000 Scholarship to Oklahoma State University. He also introduced Bret Lalli, this year's State Youth of the Year from the McAlester Boys and Girls Club.

Lynn also told about going to the Governor's Mansion when Rich

Lopez, a National Youth of the Year for the Boys and Girls Club, told about going to Washington and visiting with John F. Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson and J. Edgar Hoover.

Lalli said his mother and father were divorced and he moved to Arizona with his mother. Later they moved back to McAlester and he came to the Boys and Girls Club for "something to do."

Lalli played football, basketball and baseball at the club and played at



Bret Lalli

high school. But his sophomore year he broke his leg and said he was told he couldn't play sports again.

Lalli was "devastated," but said he again turned to the Boys and Girls Club which helped, as he coached several teams.

Lynn said a Harris poll shows that every seven minutes, a boy or girl is arrested on a liquor or drug charge. He said the Boys and Girls Clubs can have the influence these boys and girls need in their lives. The club looks forward to its 50th year, he said.



Ashton Santine

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Romania. The center was opened in June of 2005 for the 90 percent of Romanians who have no access to cancer screening. Cost of supplies for laboratory services are around \$1,500 per month, but services are free of charge. Clubs can sponsor a month's supply or even part of a month, to "Romanian Screening Center."

The Woman's Hospital Cord Blood Center at Baton Rouge is a multi-million in the formation stages. It involves initially, the Rotary

Clubs of Districts 6190 and 6200. The contact person is Dr. Beverly Ogden, BEVERLY.Ogden@womans.org Rotary will need to raise \$50,000 initially, from the districts to cover developmental costs. A Rotary Foundation "Donor Designated Fund" will be established to handle donations.

"Rotary is changing the world," he said. "We're the best there is."

Everything is donated, he said. He said he is "the happiest guy in the world," working with the Rotary groups.

Coburn Aide 'Applauds' Change in Local Leadership

Josh Brecheen, field representative for Republican U.S. Sen. Tom Coburn, told us May 20 he "applauds" McAlester for its change in the leadership of the city.

Brecheen said he attended an annual Chamber of Commerce dinner several years ago, at which a city leader at that time, told an "off-color joke." Brecheen was not with Senator Coburn's office at the time. But he said he left the dinner early.

The aide apparently referred to the city administration prior to current Mayor Don Lewis.* However a Chamber of Commerce official said the speaker that year was a national newspaper columnist. Although she was not there, Brecheen apparently referred to the reaction of city officials to the joke.

The previous administration, consisting of former Mayor Dale Covington and City Manager Randy Green, has been part of a federal investigation into state and city politics, by the connection of a former state senator, in which former legislators and candidates for office have "turned state's evidence" concerning contribution limits and alleged "kickbacks" to legislators who voted for funds for specific "economic development" projects owned by the same former state senator.

The speaker referred to "text messaging" on cell phones by today's teenagers, when he asked what "LOL" means. "BAT" means "Be all there," which signifies doing your best and becoming a leader.

Brecheen said he does not consider himself a Democrat or a Republican. But he said that Medicare, Medicaid and the Social

Security, particularly the "prescription cost" of Part D, will become 80 percent of the federal budget, and use the future health and education funds of our children and grandchildren, if it continues at the present rate.

He said "his boss, Dr. Coburn, had held 90 bills, with "unjustified spending," including the Farm Bill, meaning they required 60 votes to get to the senate floor, to be voted on.

Most members of Congress are trying to figure how to be reelected, and would not "vote against the farmers." But most of the spending in it was for other things, which were not justified, he said. He talked about "values" and not being "swayed by public opinion, when it is wrong."

"God bless you and thank you so much," he concluded.

*Don Lewis said he was not mayor yet when the speaker attended an annual meeting of the McAlester Chamber of Commerce. He added he does not tell off-color jokes and does not listen to them, when he can avoid doing so.

Club Hears From 'Jazz Band'

Last week club members heard from the McAlester High School Jazz Band, directed by Jason R. Smith.

There are 22 members in the Jazz Band. They played three numbers.

First was "25 Or Six To Four" by Chicago. Next was "Blue Bones."

The third number was "Freebird" by Lynard Skynard.