

FARMINGDALE ROTARY CLUB MEETING – WEDNESDAY, 7 SEP 2005

The Farmingdale Rotary Club held its weekly luncheon meeting at Annabella Restaurant in Farmingdale, New York. President Ruth Betz opened the meeting at 12:10 p.m. A thoughtful and inspiring Rotary invocation was given by Bill Carman, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Our sassy secretary Rob Diaz calculated today's attendance at 63%. Visiting Rotarians include our District Governor Ella Abney, her husband Al Abney PDG, Tina Diamond – President of Farmingdale Breakfast Rotary, Al Licci. Kathleen Callahan and Anne Metzendorf were the guests.

Kevin Bagnasco collected the happy bucks for the club. Our happy bucks/Hurricane Katrina collection was \$1,565!. Thanks to everyone that contributed. Many of our members had already supported one or more Katrina fund drives.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Katrina: Our district is seeking donations to help the hurricane victims. The people are in dire need of help. The District 7250 Foundation is raising funds for the relief effort. All checks should be made to 'District 7250 Foundation'. All donations over \$100 will be acknowledged in writing by the Foundation. Bring the checks to Ruth.

The District has also provided a label to put on cans or jars to collect funds from the public. If you have any jars or cans that are appropriate for this fund raising effort, please bring them to the meeting. We will also need volunteers to place, log and pick up the funds from the cans. Speak to Ruth.

Stony Brook University is accepting college students from the Gulf at its new Southampton campus. They have the facilities for the students. However, they do not have beds for them. If anyone has a contact that can supply mattresses and beds for the displaced college students, please call Ruth. She will provide her Stony Brook contact info.

Our website www.farmingdalerotary.org is officially on the internet. Prakash worked hard to get the Hurricane Katrina information on the site. Lenny and Ruth are on the website committee with Prakash. Please contact one of these members if you have any suggestions for our site. Additional volunteers are welcome for the committee.

Rotary has been granted exclusive rights to solicit funds at the U.S. Open Tennis matches. Dennis Klainberg is coordinating the volunteers. They are needed September 7th, Wednesday night by 5 p.m. for the big match – sold out to 36,000 people. Also Thursday 9/8, Friday 9/9 and Saturday 9/10 – day matches by 10 a.m. – evening matches by 5 p.m. Sunday 9/11 – day matches only. Jamie Ortiz is constructing a display for us. There will be a roof-tent so you will not be out in the sun (if you like). The collection spot will be at the entrance where people line up to go into the stadium. If you can donate a few hours, please call Dennis Klainberg at work 718-656-6066.

Our Fund raising for the relief effort had a successful beginning:

Jim Anderson has agreed to coordinate the canisters in business locations. If you would like to display a canister in your place of business or visit other businesses, please contact Jim or Ruth. Bill Metzendorf has printed fantastic color posters so people will know the business is participating in Katrina fund raising.

Kevin Bagnasco and Nancy White have agreed to coordinate a fund raising campaign outside of Waldbaum's, etc. on a Saturday.

Chris Simonetti has volunteered to receive the items requested by the Mississippi Rotary District at his office A-1 Realty. His office is located on Rt 109 across from Roslyn Savings Bank. The collection will continue for no more than 2 weeks. To repeat, the District has requested summer clothes, nonperishable food and any baby items (bottles, Pampers, etc.)

Red Cross is conducting a training to get Health service professional to deploy them to Hurricane Katrina relief. Individuals need to email ARC to sign up for this class. It will be Saturday 9/10/05 9:00-12:00pm, for EMT, LPN, RN

will need NYS license information. ARC expects volunteers to deploy for a 2 weeks assignment. This is a hardship assignment. Speak to Ruth for more info.

Ruth can get you Rotary polo shirts for \$25 Ea.

Yasuo has the history of the Ford motor company books for sale for \$25 Ea. Lou LaRocco was able to sell a case of books in a few minutes, at a car club meeting. He is in the process of selling 2 more cases. More volunteers are needed to sell these beautiful books, which actually sell themselves.

The Daler news letter will no longer be mailed to you. You must pick up back copies at the meeting. This was done for financial reasons.

The board has proposed to raise dues to \$145 Per Year. We will vote on this at the next district assembly on Sep 28.

The Rotarian Evil Eye of Attendance is searching for the following missing members: John Allen, Greg Carman, DiOrio, Fanning, Federlin, Giordano, Lorocco, Lembo, Ed Lucie, Meares and Yovine.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Next board meeting is at 6pm on Wednesday, Sept 14th. Meeting will be held in east teachers' cafeteria at Howitt Middle School.

PROGRAM

President Ruth Betz introduced guest speaker Ella Abney, our Governor for District 7250. Ella wasted no time and moved on to address the Katrina disaster. The goal of district 7250 foundation is to raise \$100,000 for the support of the people affected by Katrina. She described the efforts of Dennis (JFK Rotary). Dennis met with the borough President and they decided to raise funds from the attendees of US Open Tennis event in Flushing Meadows. Volunteers will display the banners of "Rotary International" and "Service above Self". Ella appealed to all, to open the hearts and purses to help the people in need.

Ella enlightened everyone with the "Service Above Self" theme, selected by RI President Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar. She mentioned that last year Rotary had more public exposure than ever before. The opportunity was developed therefore, to continue the publicity during 2005-06, a Public Image Resource Group to capture this opportunity and help clubs use it as a platform in our continued efforts to enhance our public image. She appointed Jaime D. Ortiz as the person to contact in our district. Apart from public relations for continuity other priorities are literacy, Water Management and membership.

Ella mentioned that Carolyn Jones is the first lady trustee of Rotary Foundation. Carolyn belongs to the clubs of Alaska and Russia.

Ella brought back the old memories of Rotary by displaying a replica of the public toilet in Chicago, which was the first rotary service project. The club burst into laughter when she pointed the inscription on the toilet, which said – MEN.

We closed the meeting with the singing of "God Bless America".