

The Rotary Club of Raleigh News



North Carolina's Oldest Civic Club
Chartered August 1, 1914

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- FOUR WAY TEST**
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?
- *****

Thought For The Day
Real Friends are those who, when you've made a fool of yourself, don't feel that you've done a permanent job.

— Ervin T. Randall

June 30, 2003
Today's Program

PEARL HARBOR DAY

Upcoming Programs

July 7—No Meeting July 4 Holiday

July 14—Installation of new club officers

July 21—TBA

Rotary Club of Raleigh **Bulletin** is published each week the Club meets. To contribute items contact Tom Wood: tpwood@coastalnet.com or phone 319-1793. Visit **www.raleighrotary.org** where bulletins since January, 2001 are posted ...or call Club phone at 848-2333 and request one be faxed to you.

JUNE 23, 2003 SUMMARY

The June 23, 2003 meeting of the Rotary Club of Raleigh was called to order by **President Elect Robert Barth** who gave the invocation. **Joan Baron** led the Pledge of Allegiance and introduced visitors and guests.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Elect Robert Barth introduced the Salvation Army's Al Smith who presented **Chuck De Smet** with an award for his Chairmanship of the Bell Ringing Committee. Our club raised over \$13,000 for the Salvation Army during the past Christmas Holidays.

President Elect Robert Barth asked on behalf of **David Middleton** that the Unsung Hero award committee stay after the meeting for a brief meeting.

Other new members ready for induction:
Ron Campbell—sponsored by **Zach Ashton**—His classification will be Sales—HVAC Equipment—Brady Trane

PROGRAM

Al Morris introduced our guest speaker, Dr. Susan Weaver, Medical Director for the Alliance Medical Ministry.

The alliance Medical Ministry was founded in late 2000 for the working uninsured people of Wake County who cannot afford medical insurance. Their primary objective is to represent the ecumenical church and its commandment: "Love thy Neighbor."

In 1999, Wake County did a study which reported that 1.1 million people in North Carolina are uninsured with a large population of uninsured in Wake County. Recently, unemployment and increased health care costs have added

PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

to this. The Ministry's patients earn on average \$25,000 for a family of four but make too much to qualify for Medicaid, etc.

The Ministry got 254 referrals from Wake Med Hospital in April alone. In Wake County alone, there are 56,000 working men and women without medical insurance representing 35,000 households.

Their programs are set up like private practice opening between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. There are two doctors and are assisted by volunteers. They are located at 2610 New Bern Ave (next door to Wake Med).

Dr. Weaver then explained the set-up of the day to day activities of the organization. About 70% of their patients have never had insurance or have been without it for over a year. The highest percentages are from the Latino and African-American communities. They have monthly ophthalmologists, dieticians and other specialists on call for patients.

Since they opened, they have provided care for over 700 patients. They see between 75 and 100 patients now per week. Patients are referred mostly by local emergency rooms.

Dr. Weaver gave some examples of patients they treat at the Ministry. They would include the following:

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL'S 2002/2003 THEME "SOW THE SEEDS OF LOVE"

Rotary International's new President, Bhichai Rattakul, was installed in Barcelona, Spain in June. President Bhichai said "... to Sow the Seeds of Love is to find opportunities to serve every day, every moment of our lives ... to think of others first, and ourselves in terms of what we can do for others . . ."

PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

1. One patient was an athletic coach for Dr. Weaver's children and had a child with sever medical problems and could not afford health insurance
2. Another patient they saw during their first week had sever asthma and several bouts in the emergency room at Wake Med Hospital.

Patients pay a small fee, based on their income. All fees include a visit with the Doctor, medicines, X-rays, etc. A local pharmacy provides medicine at cost.. A lot of patients are generous and pay in excess of the \$10 required for most visits. The Ministry never bills people. If they can not afford to pay, they serve them anyway.

Dr. Weaver then showed a brief film on the Ministry giving testimonials from various church leaders and other information on the Ministry. There was then a question and answer session to close the program.

President Elect Robert Barth thanked Dr. Weaver for her excellent presentation and adjourned the meeting.

Reported by Karen Happer



Stew Gully

GUESTS

Douglas Briggs—Guest of **Garrett Briggs (Son and physician in Kunming, China)**
Martha Leak—Guest and Rotary Ann of **Bob Leak**
Douglas Brocker—Guest of **Wilson Hayman**
Laura Hudson—Guest of **Beth Briggs**
Kathryn Lee—Guest & Daughter of **Whit Lee**

VISITING ROTARIANS

Chip Killian—Waynesville
Dick Hudson—West Palm Beach
Bill Fletcher—Cary
Frank Gray—Capital City
David Parker—Greensboro

RECENT MAKE-UPS

Craig Esty—North Raleigh



Chuck De Smet



Dr. Susan Weaver