



The Bolo

Newsletter of the Rotary Club of New Orleans

Rotary of New Orleans

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This Week's Speaker:

Alexina Medley, Principal Warren Easton Senior High School

Though she started her professional life in pharmacology, it did not take Alexina Medley long to figure out that she needed to be in education. Changing her profession to education made her "happy because I think I positively affect the lives of young people". And helping young people has become a life long pursuit.

As a Special Education teacher, she provided her students with the resources needed to graduate from high school with a regular diploma. Three years at Beauregarde Middle School provided the experience needed to move to Easton as a special ed classroom teacher for seventeen years. Continuing to study, she completed her administrator qualifications and became assistant principal at Easton, a job she held for six years.

The need to expand her areas of expertise brought her to the New Orleans Public Schools central offices, where she organized, implemented and coordinated after-school programs throughout the district, and began the High School Reform program.

But she missed working with children. She accepted a position as principal of Thurgood Marshall Middle School, a position she held for four years prior to Hurricane Katrina.

She has just completed her first year as principal of the newly chartered Warren Easton Senior High School.

"It has been challenging, but my personal philosophy, 'do the best you can and make the best of what you have', has become my motto for these difficult and trying times."

Upcoming Programs

<u>Date</u>	<u>Program</u>
Aug. 29	George Shinn, N.O. Hornets
Sept 5	Ed Renwick
Sept 12	Gordon Mueller, WWII Museum
Sept 19	Caitlin Cain, Regional Planning Comm.
Sept 26	Kurt Weigle, DDD
Oct 3	Scott Cowen, Tulane University

Reminder: Our weekly meetings are now held at the Harrah's Hotel, with validated parking available at the Harrah's parking garage. You do not need to RSVP and, as always, guests are welcomed and encouraged.

Visit Our New Website

Tim and Morgan Harlan have been working hard to revamp our online presence. Visit our web site and provide us with your feedback:

<http://www.neworleansrotary.org/>

Contact Information

We are also in the process of revamping our newsletter, including changes to our distribution. In the coming weeks we will be asking you to confirm all of your contact information to ensure that we are using the latest info to reach you.

What Rotary Means To Me

I come from a very close-knit family, as children my grandparents, aunts & uncles on both sides of my dad and moms family -- all lived within a couple of houses of one another. My father comes from a Greek father and a German mother, he is the 3rd child of 5; he grew up in New Orleans. My Grandfather came to the US from Greece at age 16 and was a baker. My dad was my best friend and the smartest person I ever knew - My dad served in the Army reached the rank of Sgt. and was a very proud American. He belonged to many organizations: VFW, American Legion, NO Aux. Police - who was in charge of monitoring the Mardi Gras parades, manned the lost children area during Mardi Gras time, served with Civil Defense (manned the CB radios), was President of the NO chapter of CB Radio Club and many other clubs or organization. He believed in giving back and supporting his community. My dad passed away in 2000 after suffering a major stroke.

I moved on the Northshore in 1999 on property my grandmother purchased over 50 years prior. It was always her dream to have a member of her family live on this property. I am an insurance agent with AAA and worked in our Metairie Office, I transferred to Slidell when we opened the office here in 2001. The gentleman, Pete Dammon who designed our office invited me to attend a Rotary Meeting. I joined Rotary and like my dad; I am very involved in any organization I am a member. I am currently VP and soon to be Pres-Elect. My dad's older sister now lives in Atlanta and we speak to her every weekend. We were at a Rotary function one Saturday and my aunt had tried to reach us. We finally talked on Sunday and she asked where we were on Saturday. I was telling her about the Rotary function and that I had joined Rotary and how much I enjoyed being a part of such a wonderful organization and all the good things they do for people.

My aunt then told me the story of how my grandmother was going to take her 2 older sons

(one of which was my dad) out of school because it was during the depression and could not afford to keep them in school. Rotary Club of New Orleans somehow found out and gave both my dad and his older brother a scholarship to pay for their lunch, school supplies etc. They both attended S J Peters High School. My dad's older brother died before he graduated but my dad went on to not only graduate but also graduated 2nd in his class. If it had not been for the assistance Rotary provided to my dad and our family -- my dad may not have accomplished the many things he did in his life or be the man he became. Who knows, he may not have met my mother and I would not be here today sharing our story.

Every time I am involved in something with our rotary that helps someone less fortunate than myself, I look to heaven and let my dad know this was done with a proud heart and in honor of him and the NO Rotary that helped my family so many years ago. I will always be a member of Rotary. Words can never express the sincere appreciation and to the NO Rotary THANK YOU with all my heart. Rotary does make a difference.

With Love I share this story of my dad, Charles W. Magas.

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Slidell Rotary

