



The Bolo

Newsletter of the Rotary Club of New Orleans

Rotary of New Orleans
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This Week's Speaker:

George Shinn
New Orleans Hornets

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A full bio is attached to the end of this newsletter.

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/>

Upcoming Programs

<u>Date</u>	<u>Program</u>
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



USA Today Editorial on Our Recovery

USA Today ran an interesting perspective on our recovery and some examples of what perseverance and disappointment have meant in our city.

<http://blogs.usatoday.com/oped/2007/08/in-new-orleans-.html#more>



Photo Credit: Rudy Bierhuizen

Superintendent Riley speaking at our Aug 15th meeting.

From: Milton Wheeler, miltonlobos1@megagate.com

Sent: Friday, August 24, 2007 10:43 PM

Subject: Governor's Weekly Newsletter

Dear District Leaders,

We knew last Saturday that this would be a great week for the district. The excellent seminar for the Foundation and Membership Development anticipated this very successful week. Yes, there were more than 90 who attended the dual seminar in Poplarville last Saturday. Dr. Stuart Guey and the District Conference Committee worked simultaneously during the sessions in another room. At one time they were laughing so heartily some expected them to break into a second line and parade themselves into the two seminars. Believe me, we are planning to stage one fun-filled District Conference in New Orleans next April 17-20. Our deepest appreciation goes to Chairmen Don Bryan of Slidell and Rob Young of Stennis Space Center for such thorough seminars. In addition, we practiced time management by enjoying Randy Feldman of the Rotary Club of New Orleans who presented an excellent address during lunch on fund raising. In all, we enjoyed six hours of Rotary school last Saturday. The enthusiasm matched the attendance. At the end of the six hours one fine President of a Louisiana Rotary club told me, "Governor, I think this Rotary thing is gonna catch on." So far that is the understatement of 2007. For those who missed the seminar, we shall have a makeup October 13 at the Holiday Inn in Covington. May it be as fine as the first.

One reason we have had this torrid schedule of completing 36 clubs so early in the Rotary year is because classes at William Carey University began this week. My first class met Thursday. I could barely wait to sink my teeth into those students. This meant we did only three clubs this week. We started on Tuesday with the dynamic Rotary Club of Slidell Northshore. This is the largest breakfast club in the district by far. The drive to a breakfast meeting in Slidell meant arising about the time PDG Milam (Sonny 34) Cotten usually puts his feet on the floor, 4:44 a.m. One must love Rotary to keep such a schedule. But it was worth it. The Slidell Northshore club can be counted upon for doing everything right. They and their fellow Rotarians of the noonday club have set a model for the Family of Rotary. Their cooperative spirit is beautiful. They are now having a reciprocal arrangement whereby the members of the two clubs do not pay for makeup meals. Like the three clubs in Hattiesburg/Petal the treasurers settle the matter at the end of the month. These are also the two clubs that have mustered 2.1 million dollars for the Rotary Rebuilds Slidell Inc. This has caught world attention. With leadership from President Joe DiGiovanni, Governor Neil Alford, and a host of talented members, one is not surprised at their record. Assistant Governor Mike Rich attends to this club.

From Slidell we traveled to Bogalusa to meet with the Rotary Club of Bogalusa. This is another one of our clubs that meets at a country club. One would not believe that a person can play 18 holes of golf, including the cart fee, for \$14.00. This may be the bargain of bargains in our district. If Japanese Rotarians hear about this they will be coming on the weekends to Bogalusa. The club has an imaginative President in GSE alumnus Merlin Duke. Like his namesake he can wave a magic wand and a room changes. One should have seen the decorations in that dining

hall. Everything was blue and gold, the colors of Rotary. The meal had a Mississippi theme with catfish and hushpuppies. Dessert was Mississippi Mud cake and a blue cookie in the shape of the state of Mississippi and exactly where Hattiesburg/Petal sit was a gold star. The club is one of our remaining singing clubs. They serenaded me, to the tune of You Are My Sunshine, You Are Our Governor. One of the lines in the song promised to raise their membership for me. This they have already done. As you will see in the next Governor's Monthly Newsletter, Bogalusa jumped off to the fastest start in the district with four new members in the first month. In fact, I was granted the privilege of installing them at the meeting as well as presenting two Paul Harris fellows. They look forward to the district conference and gave me an I Love Bogalusa t-shirt which I shall wear during that happy occasion. Not only did Assistant Governor Wayne Alexander attend the meeting, as it is one of his clubs, but Assistant Governor Betty Gill drove over from Franklinton for the occasion as well.

From Bogalusa, we drove to the Westbank to be ready for another early club the next day, Algiers. In the late afternoon I gave Donna a five hour tour to Thibodaux. She loved it. It is a quaint town with a rich culture. On the way back we heard the loudest screaming on the bayou by cicadas, crickets, frogs, and who knows what other creatures we have ever heard. It reached such a pitch we stopped at a well manicured grassy area along side Highway 1 to take it all in. Those creatures must have been exhausted when they finished their concert (if they did finish it). It was quite a performance.

Early on Wednesday we were on our way to the Rotary Club of Algiers. They meet at a very fine retirement center, Woldenberg Village. This is another club that illustrates what a small number of Rotarians can do, reminding us of Summit and Long Beach. They not only gained Star Club recognition from Rotary International (an average of \$100 per member to the Rotary Foundation), they could have had three such citations. It is no wonder that they know so much about Rotary. One third of the club attended the Salt Lake City International Convention and the President and Secretary of the club have been to numerous Rotary institutes and training sessions. The President, as you know, is Carolyn Fortino, the wife of the Secretary, PDG Jerry Fortino. These two worked tirelessly for projects that have helped to rebuild our district from the catastrophic hurricane. A local New Orleans television station had a feature the night before the meeting on one of the prize projects of the club, the restoration of City Park. After the meeting, President Carolyn took us to their home for a tour of their extraordinary art collection. Their home is teeming with representative art pieces. I have visited galleries in Russia and other places that could not match those in the Fortino home. Assistant Governor Dick McCarthy made the early rising for the meeting as well even though he had arrived the previous night from Las Vegas at midnight.

In the late afternoon it was a pleasure to attend another meeting of the HOC for the 2011 international convention. Once again, President Subhash conducted a very productive session in the board room offered by President Byron Harrell of the Rotary Club of New Orleans. It was good to have again representation from District 6200. They are very committed to helping us stage a most successful convention in 2011. Thank you to those clubs who have already sent in to Governor Subhash your financial assistance for this most important event. It will certainly be a boon to the economy of New Orleans and the district.

One common theme from these three clubs was their enthusiasm for our district conference April 17-20. This is the spirit that will carry over to the convention year of 2011.

Next week, again because of my university teaching schedule, we shall have an abbreviated official visit schedule. Indeed, it will be the shortest thus far, only two clubs. On Tuesday, we visit Stennis Space Center, where Chris Harvey serves as President and then on Wednesday, Bay St. Louis for Charles West's club. Whitson Christy is Assistant Governor for both of these clubs. I look forward to visiting these two in the Bay Pass Territory.

Tomorrow we have a very important meeting of the Nominating Committee that will choose from three candidates our Governor for 2010-2011. We shall meet in Slidell where Don Bryan has once again opened his church facilities for Rotary. What an example of the international theme, "Rotary Shares!"

Thanks to all in our district for your daily work in restoring D6840 to its golden days. We are right on target.

Rotary Shares!

Milton Wheeler, DG6840

George Shinn – Owner



Growing up in the small North Carolina town of Kannapolis, businessman George Shinn dreamt of owning a professional sports franchise. Armed with only a love of sports, seasoned sales skills and strong faith, Shinn set out to accomplish this seemingly impossible task in 1985 when he initiated his charge to obtain an NBA franchise. He needed just two years to realize his dream. On April 1, 1987, NBA Commissioner David Stern called Shinn to deliver the good news – he had been selected as the first to receive one of four expansion franchises and would begin play in Charlotte, N.C. in 1988.

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Shinn's leadership and resolve once again came to the forefront when the Hornets were faced with perhaps the biggest challenge in franchise history. In the aftermath of the tragedy caused by Hurricane Katrina, he was able to work with the NBA to secure the team a temporary home in Oklahoma City for the 2005-06 season. Under his leadership, the Hornets turned a potentially devastating situation into one of sports' most uplifting success stories when they finished 11th in the league in attendance. The 2006-07 season was again split between New Orleans and Oklahoma City, and Shinn's business and marketing acumen were key to successfully executing games, special events and charitable efforts in both cities. In the summer of 2007 he brought the Hornets back to Louisiana full-time, focused on two goals; the successful relocation of his business, and the rebuilding of New Orleans.

As a champion of the causes of education and responsible corporate citizenship, Shinn takes great pride in creating, implementing and supporting a variety of initiatives that leave a positive and lasting impact in the community.

In New Orleans, Shinn sits on the boards of the Boy Scouts of America, The National D-Day Museum, the New Orleans Metrovision Executive Committee and Loyola University. He has made significant financial contributions to organizations such as the United Way and served as co-chair for the fundraising committee at Tulane University. Through the team's 12 Days of Giving program, Shinn and his wife, Denise, personally visited the Children's Hospital of New Orleans to deliver gifts and spread holiday cheer, took 26 essay contest winners on a shopping spree at Target, purchased 50 bicycles to donate to underprivileged children, hosted 1,000 local senior citizens for a holiday luncheon and donated new shoes and socks to clients at the Grace House and Bridge House addiction recovery centers. For these efforts, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin asked Shinn to serve as Grand Marshall of the city's Martin Luther King Jr. parade and then presented him with the Quiet Hero Award at a prayer breakfast that launched the city's MLK weekend activities. Every year on his birthday, Shinn spends time at hospital maternity wards donating diapers, bottles and other essentials to every mother who gives birth on May 11th.

During the Hornets' tenure in Oklahoma City, Shinn reciprocated the generosity the team received by reaching out to the community at every opportunity. He and Denise led a group of 75 staff members in a Breast Health Awareness march, an effort which earned him recognition as a Pink Tie Guy as a highly-respected community leader that has made significant contributions to the Susan G. Komen Foundation's goals and aims. The couple also joined Governor and First Lady Henry at a Habitat For Humanity workday and invited the recipients of the new home to sit with them at a Hornets game. During the holidays, Shinn spearheaded the team's NBA Season of Giving activities that included a luncheon for 1,000 senior citizens and a shoe giveaway at a downtown homeless shelter. And when tragedy struck the OKC Police Department, he responded with the largest single donation ever made locally to a slain officer's fund.

These examples of dedication to making a difference in the community in which he lives and works come from the core of Shinn's personality and background.

As a young man in Kannapolis, Shinn worked in a textile mill, at a car wash and even as a janitor in a school that he would eventually own. Lessons learned in those humble beginnings would soon pay off when in 1975, at the age of 34, Shinn was the youngest person ever awarded the prestigious Horatio Alger Award, which recognizes "rags-to-riches" business leaders who achieve success while maintaining values in patriotism, faith and civic involvement. His purchase and development of the Rutledge Education System and its chain of proprietary business schools would form the cornerstone of his fortune and eventually lead him to real estate developments, auto dealerships, publishing ventures and professional sports franchises including the Hornets, the Charlotte Knights AAA minor league baseball team and the Charlotte Checkers and Atlantic City Boardwalk Bullies of the East Coast Hockey League. Although he owns championship rings from the Knights and the Bullies and a World Series ring as a AAA affiliate of the Florida Marlins, Shinn's number one goal has been and will continue to be winning an NBA championship with the Hornets.

Shinn was inspired to share his success secrets with others and authored five books, including his 1977 autobiography "Good Morning, Lord!" (later reprinted as "The American Dream Still Works") and "Leadership Development," which became a best-selling college textbook. Later, a biographical account of his life and experiences as an NBA owner was told in "You Gotta' Believe," and he published "Introduction to Professional Selling" and "Miracle of Motivation," which are still on the market today. His success in the publishing world makes Shinn a highly sought-after public speaker, especially on topics related to sales and motivation.

For a lifetime of achievement in business and higher education, Shinn was one of twelve to receive an American Success Award from President Bush in a White House ceremony. He also holds six honorary degrees in humanities.

Shinn and his wife, Denise, were married in New Orleans on March 8, 2003. He has three children, Chris, Susan and Chad, from a previous marriage.