



The Bolo

Newsletter of the Rotary Club of New Orleans

Rotary of New Orleans
P.O. Box 19905
New Orleans, Louisiana 70179-0905
rotary12@neworleansrotary.org

This Week's Speaker: Ed Renwick, Loyola University

Dr. Renwick was awarded a PhD in Political Science from the University of Arizona in 1967 and has been at Loyola University New Orleans since 1970 where he teaches Political Science to undergraduates. Since that time, he has also been the Director of the Institute of Politics, training professionals in the practical applications of the profession of politics. Over 1,000 fellows have passed through the IOP under Dr. Renwick's tutelage, many of whom are leaders in the political arena both locally and nationally. In addition, Dr. Renwick has been a consultant and pollster since the early 1970s, having executed hundreds of surveys since that time, and was voted Best Pollster of New Orleans by Gambit Newspaper. He was elected to the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame in 1999. These surveys have been wide ranging – from issue polls, surveys done for political candidates, mall intercept studies, surveys for court cases and for the media.

Upcoming Programs

<u>Date</u>	<u>Program</u>
Sept 12	Gordon Mueller, WWII Museum
Sept 19	Caitlin Cain, Regional Planning Comm.
Sept 26	Kurt Weigle, DDD
Oct 3	Scott Cowen, Tulane University
Oct 10	No Meeting
Oct 17	Mark Singletary, NOPG
Oct 24	Julie Catellier, VA New Orleans

Warren Easton Event

Dear friends:

On behalf of the Warren Easton Charter Foundation, I cordially invite you to attend a special event to be held next week at our school. The press conference will be followed by a reception. Refreshments will be served. Please RSVP this invitation by replying to: mardihardy@aol.com.

Many thanks,

Arthur Hardy
Vice President
Warren Easton Charter Foundation
504-913-1563

When: Wednesday, September 12, 2007, 2:30-3:00 PM
Where: 3019 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA 70119
What: Press Conference and Reception
Why: Rededication of the Warren Easton Auditorium

On the 94th anniversary of its opening on September 12, 1913, Warren Easton High School rededicates its auditorium which has just undergone \$300,000 in repairs paid for by Sandra Bullock, PricewaterhouseCoopers, EPCO Construction, Duran, Duran and Sony PlayStation.

New band uniforms, funded by Sandra Bullock and The Rotary Club of New York, will also be unveiled.

Warren Easton, the oldest public high school in New Orleans, is operated by the Warren Easton Charter Foundation, which reopened the school thirteen months after Hurricane Katrina flooded the Mid-City landmark. In May the school graduated 97% of the senior class. More information about the school can be found on its website:

www.warreneastoncharterfoundation.com

Governor's Weekly Newsletter

Dear District Leaders,

Another happy week of official visits to clubs has been tucked away, not without a touch of celebrity and celebration.

Our first visit was to the unique Rotary Club of Stennis Space Center. No one can contest the fact that it is the most security-conscious club in our district. One should be sure to telephone well in advance President Chris Harvey, Chairman Rob Young, or some other member of the club about his/her expected visit. It reminded me of my visit to the Rotary Club of Moscow Kremlin. Back in 2002 I spoke to every Rotary club in the eight cities that I visited in Russia as a Rotary University Teacher Grantee. Despite this official capacity it was necessary to notify the Rotary Club of Moscow Kremlin of my coming one week in advance. Stennis Space Center had been privy to my official visit since March. Our Assistant Governor Whitson Christy had a brief time of negotiating at the gate but a quick telephone call to the club eased his entry.

The club was well prepared, as expected from one at a space center. As usual I was an hour early which gave time for a nice tour of the facilities. An overflow attendance awaited the visit. To no one's surprise, the club is very keen on the Rotary Foundation and has received Star Club recognition (after all, the chairman of the district Rotary Foundation Committee is member Rob Young). Although its position at a space center poses certain challenges unlike those of the other 52 clubs, this energetic group has accepted a membership development challenge that is exemplary. If they serve the catered bacon-wrapped pork and seasoned oven-fried sweet potatoes like we enjoyed, membership development should be a breeze.

From Stennis we made a reconnaissance tour to Diamondhead to explore the potential for

reactivating another club. True, evidence of the catastrophe that our district suffered two years ago still remains. For the most part, however, Diamondhead north of I-10 has regained its footing. Donna and I counted at least fifty classifications very quickly. At least three or four restaurants are available as meeting sites. The chef at one of them even won a prize for his gumbo (It WAS good!). Feeling good about the prospect, we went on to Bay St. Louis,

One has to leave early to be ahead of President Charles West of the Rotary Club of Bay St. Louis. We had just arrived when he appeared on the scene. The club currently meets at Daniels South Beach Restaurant, which is not on South Beach but on Seminary just across the street from St. Augustine Seminary. Its cuisine is highly touted, as I had learned at the Rotary Club of Stennis Space Center. Eighteen years ago they met at the Yacht Club and envision a return there in the future. The meal certainly lived up to its reputation. President Charles, aware that President George Bush would be in Bay St. Louis for a ceremony simultaneous to the Rotary meeting, had sent an email to his members urging them "to come hear the Governor, not the President." It paid off inasmuch as there was a capacity crowd at the restaurant. Assistant Governor Whitson Christy attended this club as well. President Charles declared that Assistant Governor Whitson could be the bouncer for the club (He is the largest Assistant Governor in the district.). As neighbors, the President and the Assistant Governor enjoy teasing each other.

To the delight of the club, I announced that they were in the top ten clubs in the district in membership. They applauded enthusiastically. I referred to them as a sleeping giant, not in Bay St. Louis, of course, but in the district. They had already made inquiry on what they could do on a district level. They have been the beneficiaries of a number of Rotary projects in rebuilding their beautiful city. In fact, Mayor Eddie Farve declared on January 12, "I shutter to think what the city of Bay St. Louis would be like were it not for Rotary." In response to their question, I suggested that they

sponsor a club in Diamondhead just to their north. This would be a classic example of the international theme for the year, "Rotary Shares!" Their proximity and their interlocking with the Diamondhead community make them a natural for this important opportunity.

After the meeting, Donna and I drove to St. Stanislaus to see if we could express our support to President Bush and the efforts to rebuild. We managed to arrive in time to view his motorcade driving along the beach. Hopefully he noted two enthusiastic and appreciative citizens in the crowd that waved goodbye to him.

From Bay St. Louis we took the Old Spanish Trail to Slidell. The occasion was the dedication of a beautiful garden at the impressive Harbor Center. Back in February, 2005, the Rotary Club of Slidell Northshore had celebrated the centennial of Rotary with this \$21,000 project. The K word rudely destroyed the garden on August 29, 2005, even partly burying the monument that described the centennial gift. But Rotary, like that handsome monument, refused to stay down. The garden, the monument, and other features have been restored. Spearheading the effort was President Joe DiGiovanni and centennial President Don O'Bryan. St. Tammany Parish President Kevin Davis, General Manager of the Harbor Center Kerry Painter, and I shared comments at the ceremony.

One group that has made it possible for me to make these 41 visits thus far who should be thanked are the students in my classes at William Carey University. We scheduled the visits with the most distance clubs, as a rule, first. This means that most of the other clubs on Tuesday and Thursday may be visited within a two-hour drive. Thus, I can still attend my 7:58 a.m. class and reach these clubs. For my 10:03 class, the students volunteered to meet on Monday nights "so you can do these good things for Rotary, Dr. Wheeler." What students! I shall turn all their names in to membership development committees in the future.

And speaking of students, let me salute the Rotary Club of Gautier. They have just handed out an incredible twenty-two (22) \$1,000 scholarships to students in their community. The \$22,000 was underwritten by their very successful golf tournament.

This week we shall have three clubs on the visitation list. On Tuesday we visit President Freddy Walters' Rotary Club of Hattiesburg, the closest club to my home; on Wednesday we shall enjoy the Rotary Club of Poplarville led by President Steve Howard; and on Thursday it's back to the Florida Parishes to the Strawberry capital and President David Osborn's Rotary Club of Ponchatoula. Our Assistant Governors for these three are Tom Heanue for Hattiesburg, Wayne Alexander for Poplarville, and Mike Haight for Ponchatoula. It should be fun!

Rotary Shares!

Milton Wheeler, DG6840

