



# 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](mailto:rotary12@neworleansrotary.org)

### This Week's Speaker: Dr. Gordon Mueller

Dr. Gordon "Nick" Mueller is President and CEO of The National World War II Museum Foundation, Inc. Previously, he served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of The National D-Day Museum, leading the organization since 1998 through its final fundraising and construction phases to the Grand Opening on June 6, 2000. His appointment to the full-time position of President and CEO allowed him to continue to guide the institution beyond its first years of operation and the opening of the Pacific Exhibit on December 7, 2001, into a major expansion on adjacent properties. Earlier this year, he retired from the University of New Orleans where he enjoyed a 33-year career as Professor of European Diplomatic History, Dean, Vice Chancellor of Extension, and President of the UNO Research and Technology Park.

Dr. Mueller also served in national leadership positions in the State University Land Grant Association and the National University Continuing Education Association. His local community involvement includes the Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Development District, the International Business Committee and the World Trade Center New Orleans, and as Founder and Executive Director of UNO's Business – Higher Education Council.

Dr. Mueller earned his Bachelor's degree at Stetson University, an M.A. and Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina, and has done postgraduate work at Yale, Harvard and several European Universities.

He and his wife, Beth, have two sons, David and John.

### Upcoming Programs

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

### Golf Tournament

The 61st Plaquemines Parish Orange Festival 2007 Golf Tournament is being sponsored by the Bell Chasse Rotary Club and will take place on Friday, September 21, 2007, at the Bayou Barriere in Belle Chasse. Registration is from 10:30 a.m. and tee time is at 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$90 per individual or \$350 for a foursome. Checks should be payable to the Belle Chasse Rotary Club. Questions or reservations: 504-931-7749.

### Reminder: Warren Easton Event

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. Please RSVP to Arthur Hardy at: [mardihardy@aol.com](mailto:mardihardy@aol.com).

## Governor's Weekly Newsletter

Dear District Leaders,

What a happy time we had visiting three more clubs this week, leaving us with a very tasteful flavor of berry.

We began with the closest Rotary club to my home and the second oldest in the district, the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg. President Freddy Walter had his 112-member club ready. They all were wearing bright green happy faces attached to their clothing. He explained that there were two reasons for this: one, to make Donna and me feel welcome, and two, so that if anyone asked the reason for the sticker later in the day, it would give an opportunity to explain Rotary. This strategy is a part of Hattiesburg's membership development drive. Seven "red badge" members became "blue badge" members at the meeting. Red badge members are requested to sit at different tables each week and to serve as greeters so that they can meet more of the members. Five new members are in the process of being approved by the board. It is good to see such a plan in action.

The Hattiesburg club also has a clever way of raising money for the foundation. Once a month, they have an auction of at least two items that bring in funds. This week they were a six-month membership to a fitness center and a \$100 certificate at a photography studio. The entertaining auctioneer suggested that the Rotarians buy the fitness membership for their wives. That suggestion was quickly silenced by a lady Rotarian who understands life better than the auctioneer.

One must commend the cuisine at the Hattiesburg club. They meet at Southern Oaks at the foot of Richburg Hill and always have tasty servings.

The Rotary Club of Poplarville rolled out the red carpet the next day. A large electronic marquee read "Welcome Rotary Governor Milton Wheeler" to greet us as we entered the campus of Pearl River Community College, which currently ranks number one in the nation among two year college football teams. It also has become a capital for district 6840, thanks to its central location and excellent facilities and food service. The room was beautifully decorated with Rotary colors. For decades Poplarville Rotarians have enjoyed piano music while they dine, so it was no surprise to hear

"Edelweiss" as we entered. The club is also a singing club. Interestingly, the four singing clubs are all contiguous to each other: Poplarville, Picayune, Bogalusa, and Franklinton. There must be something in the air in that part of our district that prompts Rotarians to sing. Each club sounds good.

President Steve Howard has a very successful club. Their most ambitious project in the last two years has been their Safe Harbor program spearheaded by Dr. Ted Alexander. They have raised more than \$2,000,000 to conduct camps and educational programs for children who were affected by the hurricane. This definitely places them in the running for the club that has independently raised the most in our district. Their traditional fund-raiser is the Blueberry Festival. To remind us of this fact, President Steve gave me a Blueberry Festival shirt to wear at the district conference. It seems that I shall be quite busy putting on and off the various shirts that clubs have presented. Two Assistant Governors were present at the meeting, Wayne Alexander in whose territory Poplarville lies, and Betty Gill of Franklinton. Of course, Governor Becky Askew graced the meeting as well.

From the blueberry capital we drove to the strawberry capital, Ponchatoula. This is one of the clubs of our district that built and owns its meeting place, known as the Rotary Hut. I took a picture of it 18 years ago and another this week and it hasn't changed at all. President David Osborn mentioned that the chef had asked him, "What does the Governor enjoy eating?" He responded, "Everything." As it turned out, the chef prepared a delicious shrimp etouffee. I suggested that he bring this to district conference, once he has cleared it with foodfest chair Dick McCarthy. You will love it. The Rotary club is the most vital entity in the town, as is the case in so many communities of our district. As proof of this, each Rotarian was given a copy of The Ponchatoula Times, which had just come off the press. On the front page alone were four stories, each about one of the members of the club. Saints fans will be pleased to know that the new carpet in the Superdome comes via a member of the Rotary Club of Ponchatoula. Those interested in antiques should visit this quaint city. Donna has already asked to come back for shopping.

The leading fund-raiser in Ponchatoula, of course, is their Strawberry Festival. I told the club that when I was in Slidell last week celebrating the opening again of the centennial garden at the Harbor Center, strawberries

were served. My immediate reaction was, "Ah, Ponchatoula!"

To augment their scholarship fund, the club will have a golf scramble Monday, October 15 at the Oak Knoll Country Club. If interested, contact Sparky Wells at 985-386-3511.

Assistant Governor Mike Haight once again attended a meeting of one of his clubs, as he has now completed all five clubs in the Tangi Territory.

After saying goodbye to the members (and having one final taste of the shrimp etouffee), we returned to Hattiesburg to attend a membership development meeting with the Rotary Club of Petal. President Don Tassin had invited District Chair Don Bryan of Slidell to speak at the kickoff dinner for the 90-day membership drive. Sixteen ounce steaks were served to the members. If that didn't get them enthusiastic, Chairman Don did. They have already brought in two new members and three are in the wings. They should make their net gain of ten and maybe more. Clubs should remember that Chairman Don and Foundation Chairman Rob Young will have a makeup for membership development and foundation on October 13 at the Holiday Inn in Covington.

We are now at that stage that we should make our formal nominations for the Group Study Exchange Team. For several weeks now, we have been looking for engineers to leave April 25 for a month to the Netherlands all expenses paid. The theme of the GSE is levee construction. The Dutch are very anxious to host our team. Please forward to GSE Chairman Carlton Dufrechou the names of the non-Rotarians age 25-35 who could represent our district. Let's send to the Dutch our best.

In addition, there are two projects that also deserve our attention. District Vocational Service Chair Ron Mosel of the Rotary Club of the Westbank/Gretna has asked that each club consider the dictionary project for a vocational service activity. The logic for having it under vocational service stems from a program thirty years ago in which employers were encouraged to have literacy programs at their businesses to improve the skills of their employees. Hence, literacy programs like the dictionary projects can fit the vocational avenue as well as the community avenue of service.

The other project is President Wilf's emphasis on Family of Rotary. Please let me know how your clubs

will focus on this project. Suggestions include multi-club joint activities and club activities that involve family members of Rotarians. Poplarville and Picayune meet jointly once a year, Hattiesburg, Hattiesburg Sunrise, and Petal will have a three-club Christmas party, and Slidell and Slidell North Shore have many activities together, including Rotary Rebuilds Slidell, Inc., to give examples. The Zone Coordinator for Family of Rotary would like to hear of our activities and encourage other districts in Zone 29 to emulate them.

We look forward to next week. Our official visits will take us to Richton on Wednesday and Wiggins on Thursday. Tom Heanue serves as Assistant Governor for Richton, while Steve Howard has that role for Wiggins. After the Wiggins meeting we shall drive to Slidell to help celebrate the reopening of the Mt. Olive Food Kitchen, still another success story for Rotary Rebuilds Slidell, Inc. In Slidell we shall meet Rotarian Marty Peak from Maine who is in the district for ten days to help Plaquemines Parish South. The matching grant for that program currently stands at \$17,500.00. Belle Chasse club and Plaquemines Parish South will entertain Mrs. Peak Tuesday and Friday. We hope to have Quebec Rotarians to add to what our friends in Maine are contributing.

Our district certainly knows the meaning of the international theme, Rotary Shares! I salute my fellow Rotarians from Maine, Quebec, and all the other places that have been so generous to our great district.

Rotary Shares!

Milton Wheeler, DG6840

