

the Blastoff

Official Newsletter of
The Rotary Club of Space Center
P O Box 58862, Houston, Texas 77058
Meetings Monday 11:45 at Bay Oaks Country Club
Clear Lake City Ph. 281.488.7888
Chartered 1964
February 23, 2009

Editor: Billy Smith

Photographer: Bob Mitchell



A message from Pres. Mike

A lot of water has gone under the bridge since our last meeting! We had our Board meeting where a number of issues are being discussed and resolved; a large group of Rotarians, from our club, and family members visited area nursing homes and handed out red roses of love to more than 300 senior residents in celebration of Valentine's Day; what seemed to have been a ton of recreational and training equipment was donated and delivered to the MD Anderson Children Cancer Hospital, they plan to call us back to have a formal presentation of the equipment to the children; preparations for the RNASA awards dinner scheduled for May 8 continue; as well as preparations for the Springoree that is planned for May 14. If this is not enough, just around the corner are the two weekends Rotarians will be constructing the wheelchair rated trail in Armand Bayou Nature Center. Work is scheduled for Saturdays March 7 and 14. Please sign up!!! The Endowment Foundation is also gearing up for another pancake breakfast on March 7. Make sure you go to breakfast early on the 7th so you can be at Armand Bayou ready to work by 8 a. m.! Continuing to move along the busy month, we have the All Club Meeting on Monday the 30th of March. Our regular meeting on that day has been cancelled to allow our members to attend. During that same day, the RI 2015 Convention Site Selection Team will be in town. It is important for all of us to attend the reception for the Team and the All Club Meeting in order to show we care and want the Convention to come to Houston. Please sign up!! We need to have at least 40 of our members attending, and each of you should be part of those 40! The All Club Meeting is also a great opportunity to show the projects you have worked on and the accomplishments of the club. As of now we only have one project signed to have a table display at the meeting. Contact Jon McKinnie and sign up your display! Another trip is being planned to the Guerrero Clinic, contact Earl Maudlin if you are interested in going. Remember, time is moving fast and we still have a lot of objectives to accomplish, such as the meeting at the memorial site, the blood donation drive, the formation of the Interact and Rotaract groups, the children immunization drive, teacher of the year award, excellence in law enforcement award, and lets not forget attending and having a great time at the District Conference at L'auberge du lac Hotel and Casino in Lake Charles. For all of these, your participation is needed. Get involved and join the different committees!

Yours in Rotary, Mike



Rotary International
President 2008-2009



Dong Kurn Lee



Rotary District 5890
Governor 2008-2009
Rhonda Kennedy



Chris Schneider
Alvin, Seabrook, Space Center
District Assistant Governor

Past District Governors
From SCRC

Dr. Floyd D. Boze
1981-1982



Billy Weseman
1993-1994



Suzi Howe
2006-2007

Service Above Self

Programs —

Kippy Caraway, Chair 2008-2009

**TODAY . . Feb 23rd Academic Achievement Scholarships
Awards presentation**

Mar 2nd Steven Jones, CEO of Clear Lake Regional Hospital

Mar 9th Roteract

Mar 16th Sylvia Garcia, Harris County Commissioner

Mar 23rd Dr. William Staples, Pres. UH—CL

Mar 30th All Club Meeting @ Geo. R. Brown

Convention Center

*Apr 6th Julie Robinson, Program Scientist for the Interna
tional Space Station*

Apr 13th SCRC Endowment Foundation

Apr 20th TBD

Apr 27th TBD

May 4th TBD

May 25th Holiday — no meeting

June 1st TBD

June 8th TBD

June 15th TBD

June 22nd TBD

June 29th TBD

Bring a Guest!!

Say Happy Birthday to —

Owen Morris	February 2ne
Peter Wuenschel	February 3rd
Floyd Boze	February 7th
John W. Tenini	February 8th
Don Kirchoff	February 10th
Laura Hale	February 12th
Tony Bloomfield	February 12th
Bob Swint	February 15th
Bill Geissler	February 16th
David Taylor	February 16th
Steve Owens	February 22nd



SCRC SOCIALS

Feb 24th ...Abe's Cajun Mkt, 1080 Clear Lake City Blvd.

Mar 17th Gilhooleys, 229 9th St., San Leon

AN IRISH CELEBRATION!

Mar 31stItalian Café, 4322 NASA Plwy.

Contact Roger Donnelly.

Ridonnelly@aol.com

EVENTS CALENDAR

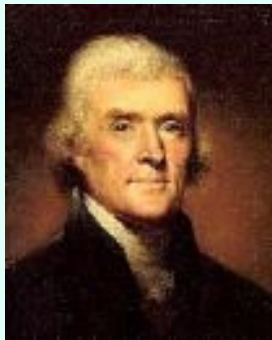
Club Board of Directors 3rd Tuesday @ 7 a.m.
RNASA Committee 3rd Thursday @ 5:30 p.m.
Endowment Foundation Board..... 2nd Tuesday @ 7 a.m.
Rotary Foundation Committee last Wednesday @ 7 a.m.
Membership Committee 2nd Monday @ 1:15 p.m.
District 5890 Conference, Lake Charles, LA Apr 30 — May 2, 2009
Rotary Space Award Dinner May 8, 2009
Springoree May 14th
100th RI Convention, Birmingham, England June 21 — 24, 2009

USELESS WISDOM

Question: What makes men chase women they have no intention of marrying?

Answer: The same urge that makes dogs chase cars they have no intention of driving.

THOMAS JEFFERSON, WE NEED YOUR WISDOM



He said:

- When we get piled upon one another in large cities, as in Europe, we shall become as corrupt as Europe.
- The democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work and give to those who would not.
- It is incumbent on every generation to pay its own debts as it goes. A principle which if acted on would save one-half the wars of the world.
- I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them.
- My reading of history convinces me that most bad government results from too much government.
- No free man shall ever be debarred the use of arms.
- The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government.
- The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants. To compel a man to subsidize with his taxes the propagation of ideas which he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical.
- I believe that banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than standing armies. If the American people ever allow private banks to control the issue of their currency, first by inflation, then by deflation, the banks and corporations that will grow up around the banks will deprive the people of all property until their children wake-up homeless on the continent their fathers conquered.

**AMOCO FEDERAL
CREDIT UNION**

**AOVOCO
Art Oswald**

**BASTION
TECHNOLOGIES
Mike Hernandez**

**BELINDA K.
SKLOSS
LLC**

DISTRICT 5890 RAFFLE

Raffle tickets are now on sale. The prize is an exciting \$5,000 voucher to travel anywhere in the world and a Rotarian gets \$100 credit with RI for a Paul Harris Sustaining Membership. See DAVID CONEY for more details.

**ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION
ST. PATRICK'S
PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

When?.....March 7th

**Where?Nassau Bay
Baptist Church**

Time?7:30 a.m. — 10:00 a.m.

**Menu: Pancakes, scrambled
eggs, sausage, biscuits, cream
gravy, fruit, coffee, juice &
FUN.**

**Price?\$7.50
Children under age 7, eat free.**

**Get your tickets from Flapjack
Jack and join the Fellowship**

SPRINGOREE AUCTION

Items are needed for the live auction to be conducted at the Springoree. Trips, weekend stays, fishing trips, etc. are always good. Please see what you can do to help with very important event.

Nanci Rutledge

Direct: 713-854-0153

Monday March 30th will be the **ALL CLUB MEETING** and our surprise luncheon for the Site Selection Committee. Please remember that Space Center has cancelled its meeting that day, so everyone has the opportunity to participate. Tickets for the event are \$25 each, so I need you to signify that you plan to attend by return email and bring your money to the Feb 23 club meeting. (make checks payable to Space Center Rotary, we will send one club check to district for all tickets) We want at least 30% of our club to attend if not more. The more Rotarians, the more fun! The club president that has the highest percentage of attendance from his/her club will receive a special prize, so let's help Pres Mike win that prize!! The event will be held at the George R. Brown Convention center in the main ballroom, on Monday March 30th starting at 11:30 am. (To Committee Chairs, we have an opportunity to display some of our wonderful projects, so please consider and advise) We will receive a weekly update from DG Rhonda. Let's not be the last to sign up. The District is shooting for 1,000 in attendance. Let's show RI that District 5890 wants the 2015 Convention! Remember these chants...

Bring it to Houston ! Bring it to Houston ! Bring it to Houston !

2015...5890

2015...5890

2015...5890

Jon R McKinnie

**BEN BRIDGE
JEWELERS
Travis Vermeer**

**BILLY R. SMITH
Attorney at Law
Board Certified
Estate Planning**

**DELIA STEPHENS
Attorney at Law**

**DRDA
Olive Murphy-
Riker, CPA**

GAY & REITZ
Attorneys at Law

GREGG & GREGG,
P.C.
Attorneys at Law

GURRY
MECHANICAL,
L.P.
Ken Gurry

HOPPING EYE
ASSOCIATES
Vissett Sun

DEATH OF JACK BUSHONG

Darden Jackson (Jack) Bushong died from natural causes on his birthday February 1st at Mainland Medical Center, Texas City. A resident of Galveston since 1959, Jack was born in New Market, Virginia, on February 1, 1929. He will be remembered for his outstanding achievements in the hotel, tourism, and hospitality industry, his love for golf, and for his dedication to his Rotary Club and the International Golfing Fellowship of Rotarians. Jack attended Randolph Macon Business College and Cornell University's Hotel & Restaurant Management College before graduating from Bridgewater College in Virginia. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War as a Special Services Officer in the EUCOM HQ in Europe. After completing his military service, he held hotel management positions with the Hilton Corporation in Chicago, before being asked by the Moody family to move to Galveston to take over the Hotel Galvez, Moody Civic Center and Buccaneer Hotel (now the site of Edgewater Methodist Retirement Community.) Jack was general manager of these three properties during Hurricane Carla in 1961. Next, he was asked to oversee construction and was named the first resident manager of a new Jack Tar hotel property on Grand Bahamas Island. From there, he assumed the position of general manager of the Grove Park Inn in North Carolina, before returning to Galveston as general manager of The Flagship Hotel in 1964. After his first retirement from the hotel/hospitality industry, Jack was appointed Executive Director of the Galveston Convention & Visitors Bureau in 1979, a position he held for ten years. When he retired for the second time, he was appointed Executive Secretary for the Rotary Club of Galveston, a position he held until late 2007. Additionally, Jack served for almost twenty years as secretary for the Galveston Country Club. To many, Jack will always be known for his love of golf and Rotary. His lifelong and enthusiastic interest in both created the opportunity for him to join the International Golfing Fellowship of Rotarians (IGFR) organization in the late 60s. Since 1974, he has served on the Executive Committee, first as vice president, and since 1977, as standing Secretary/Treasurer. Locally, he has served on the Board of Directors of the Park Board of Trustees, and was chairman of the Tourism Development Committee and Park Board Chairman. He has served on the Boards for the Salvation Army, the Rotary Club of Galveston, the Galveston Chamber of Commerce, and the Galveston Country Club. His greatest volunteer achievements have been with Rotary International. In 1993, he received special recognition from the President of Rotary International for his leadership in World Fellowship activities. Jack was also a Paul Harris Fellow, recognized as Most Valuable member of his Club, a V.I.T. member, and was listed on the Roll of Fame for his Rotary District #5910. Most recently in 2003, he received the first-ever Heart of Rotary Award created in memory of Rotarian William Felts. Jack was also very well known and respected for creating and organizing golf tournaments in Galveston. Always motivated for "creating an event that would be good for Galveston and its economy", he founded in the early 70s and was tournament director for the "Alaskan Open," a regional tournament held in January; the National Super Seniors - an organization he created in 1976 for senior golfers 65 and over with a handicap of 20 or less - that was held in October; and he also created the "Mr. and Mrs. Tournament" held in November - all events that were held during Galveston's "slow" tourist season. Jack is survived by his wife of thirty-one years, Robyn Russell Bushong; a brother Robert Bushong and wife, Marie, Midlothian, Virginia; brother-in-law and wife Gregg and Becki Russell, Austin; and two nephews and one niece Bill Bushong, Rob Bushong, and Debbie Bushong Washburn. A memorial service was held Monday, February 9th at First Lutheran Church, Galveston, with the Rev. Douglas Guthrie officiating. Jack's wishes were that his body be donated to science as he was a participant in the Willed Body Program, coordinated through the University of Texas Medical Branch. As such, there will be no burial.

Texas Reunion at the Birmingham Convention

Yes, we will have a Texas Reunion! And we hope to see you there. Our committee has decided that in lieu of a rather pricey breakfast, we will have a "Cowpoke Reception" where we will have a better opportunity to engage in conversation. Besides, most of us will have a full breakfast included in the cost of our room—that's the British way. The price of the reception, \$28 per person, includes room rental, canapés (we call them hors d'oeuvres, the Brits call them canapés) and ticket/chit/voucher for a beverage (soft drink, beer, or wine) which you will receive at the reception desk in the Pavilion Room of the Hilton Metropole. In addition, there will be an open cash bar with a broad range of choices. As you may know, the Pound Sterling is dropping v. the dollar so the beverage costs will be more reasonable than they were a few months ago. Details for the Cowpoke Reception are included on the attached flyer. DGs Ronney Reynolds and Charlie Tegarden are co-chairing this event. Send your checks to me and I will forward on to Charlie as soon as I receive your check for \$28 per person. He will send us our tickets upon receipt. The Pavilion Room that has been booked limits us to 300 people, so your early response will assure your participation! If you happen to be assigned to second seating for the Opening Session, not to worry. You will be with Kathleen and me (we are required to be at both seatings!). The Hilton Metropole is adjacent to the NEC Convention Center—a brief walk away. We will have the hotel staff replenish the canapés as soon as you arrive, and you will still have plenty of time to meet and greet your friends from our Zones. If you have any questions, please contact me,

Jon McKinnie, RI Convention Promotions Chair for District 5890

713-315-0220

jmckinnie825@comcast.net

HYDROCARBON
RESOURCE
RECOVERY
Scott Rainey

JSC FEDERAL
CREDIT UNION
Mike Brown

J. PAMELA
PHOTOGRAPHY
Pam Culpepper

KIRCHOFF
PETERSON CO.
Don Kirchoff

**LAS COLINAS
CUSTOM
INTERIORS**
Rae DeCastro

**LEXUS OF
CLEAR LAKE**
Joey Dupuis

**EARL
&
TERRILEE
MAUDLIN**

MAUI WOWI
Shelley Smith



Pictures from l to r top row: SCRC Sr. Citizens committee members at Bay Wind nursing home on Feb. 13th to pas out red roses to tenants; a recipient of a red rose; PDG Andy Smallwood delivers a tribute to Floyd Boze on the 91st anniversary of his birth. 2nd row l to r: Billy Smith tells his favorite Floyd Boze story; Bob Wren comments on Floyd; Floyd's birthday cake is delivered; s. 3rd row l to r: Floyd acknowledges the honor; a group shot of those Floyd Boze Fellows present; CCISD Sup., Dr. Gregg Smith, English teacher & drug essay contest winners. 4th row: English teacher, essay winner, Ryan, & his mother. Not pictured is the other winner, Peter, who was represented by his father who read his winning essay to the group. Each winner received a check for \$500 from SCRC. After the presentations, Dr. Smith described the Drug Awareness Program at CCISD and the very positive results thereof.

MERRILL LYNCH
Jerry & Bill
Smith

**MRI
TECHNOLOGIES**
Tim Kropp

**PROSPERITY
BANK**
Mark Humphrey

**SPACE CENTER
AUTOMOTIVE**
Jerrold Dewease

STATE FARM INSURANCE Johnny R. White Agent	TEXAS CITIZENS BANK Mike Cornett	TEXAS WEALTH MANAGEMENT Mike Hesse	GENE & DONNA TROMBLEE																																							
MEMBERSHIP INFO The numbers have changed — <table><tr><td><u>7/1/06</u></td><td><u>7/1/07</u></td><td><u>7/1/08</u></td><td><u>11/30/08</u></td></tr><tr><td>118</td><td>114</td><td>111</td><td>113</td></tr></table> Compared to other large clubs in district: <table><tr><td>Club</td><td>Mbrs</td><td>Net Change</td></tr><tr><td>Baytown</td><td>98</td><td>-6</td></tr><tr><td>Brazosport</td><td>102</td><td>+1</td></tr><tr><td>Brenham</td><td>86</td><td>-14</td></tr><tr><td>Houston</td><td>263</td><td>-40</td></tr><tr><td>Northshore</td><td>95</td><td>+5</td></tr><tr><td>Pasadena</td><td>153</td><td>-1</td></tr><tr><td>Space Center</td><td>113</td><td>-5</td></tr><tr><td>Tomball</td><td>105</td><td>+6</td></tr><tr><td>West University</td><td>103</td><td>-5</td></tr></table> <div>Showers</div> With sadness and condolences to the family, we have learned that Bob Taggart's father passed away recently following surgery. No other details are known. We pray for your comfort and healing in this most difficult time of grief, Bob.		<u>7/1/06</u>	<u>7/1/07</u>	<u>7/1/08</u>	<u>11/30/08</u>	118	114	111	113	Club	Mbrs	Net Change	Baytown	98	-6	Brazosport	102	+1	Brenham	86	-14	Houston	263	-40	Northshore	95	+5	Pasadena	153	-1	Space Center	113	-5	Tomball	105	+6	West University	103	-5	HELP NEEDED March 14th — 17th the SCRC Sr. Citizen committee and volunteers will install ADA compliant walkways at Armand Bayou Nature Center. You can help. Call or contact Steve Waldner, Chr. For more information and to volunteer your time & talent to this most worthy project. Stwaldner@shelteringarms.org <div>SCRC ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION</div> Regular Board Meeting February 10, 2009: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A quorum was not present.• Those in attendance were Bob Wren, Chr., Bill Lowes, Treas., Gene Tromblee, Trustee, Art Oswald, Trustee, Al Ligrani, Jack Lister, Vic Marie, & Billy Smith, advisors.• The Treasurer reported current assets valued at \$133,266.70, down a little more than \$6k from the previous month.• There was discussion of the presentation on March 2nd to the club.		
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UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON CLEAR LAKE CAMPUS	WALDRON & SCHNEIDER Attorneys at Law	THE CITIZEN Mary Alys Cherry	TEXAS ROADHOUSE Tony & Sharon Bloomfield																																							

Rotary District 5890 All Club Meeting Registration Form

**George R. Brown Convention Center
(Ballroom)**

**March 30, 2009
(11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)**

“Houston 2015”

Houston has been selected as one of three cities to receive a site inspection visit for the 2015 Rotary International Convention.

This All Club Meeting will showcase District 5890 to the
RI Site Selection Committee.

It is requested that Rotary Clubs attend the All Club Meeting in lieu
of their regularly scheduled Club Meeting.

The Club President who has the largest percentage Club attendance to the All Club Meeting will be
awarded a “Houston Package” – tickets to both sports and cultural events.

Rotary Club Name: _____

Number of attendees: _____

Payment: # of attendees _____ **@ \$25 each equals \$** _____

Make checks payable to: “District 5890 All Club Meeting”

Tickets will not be mailed but will be available at the Registration Table for Club members to pick up.

Mail Registration Form with payment no later than March 23, 2009 to:
Rebecca Maddux P.O. Box 266105 Houston, TX 77207

**Tables will be available to showcase your Rotary Club or
Organization at the All Club Meeting – see the attached Ex-
position Registration Form for details.**

For additional information, please contact one of the following All Club Committee Members:
Derek Munger 713 218-2265 Janet Dahse 979 299-9340 Mindi Snyder 979 543-1822
Rebecca Maddux 713 569-6479 Gerald Lewis 979 240-9041

Exposition Registration Form Rotary District 5890 All Club Meeting

George R. Brown Convention Center
(Ballroom Prefunction Area and Sub Prefunction Area)
March 30, 2009

Please reserve: _____ table(s) for the Exposition (table size 6' X 30")

Name of: () Rotary Club () Committee () Organization

Contact: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Information/Materials to be Displayed: _____

Please note that the Exposition will begin at 10:30 AM. and end at 12:00 PM. Set up will begin at 9:00 AM; tables must be set up prior to the start and dismantled immediately after the luncheon.

There are adequate electrical outlets on the walls of the room to accommodate your electrical needs. Please check here if you will need access to an electrical outlet _____.

Signed: _____ Date: _____, 2009.

Please return this form no later than March 20, 2009 to:

Bill Haglund
9321 Katy Freeway
Houston, Texas 77024
713-467-3091 (office) / 713-467-4911 (fax)

Please note that no table will be reserved without prior notification.

The following is a contribution by Bill "The Toolman Ouch!" Lowes.

COMMON TOOLS DEFINED

Drill Press: A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer across the room, denting the freshly-painted vertical stabilizer which you had carefully set in the corner where nothing could get to it.

Wire Wheel: Cleans paint off bolts and then throws them somewhere under the workbench with the speed of light. Also removes fingerprints and hard-earned calluses from fingers in about the time it takes you to say, "Oh sh!#..."

Skill Saw: A portable cutting tool used to make studs too short.

Pliers: Used to round off bolt heads. Sometimes used in the creation of blood-blisters.

Belt Sander: An electric sanding tool commonly used to convert minor touch-up jobs into major refinishing jobs.

Hacksaw: One of a family of cutting tools built on the Ouija board principle. It transforms human energy into a crooked, unpredictable motion, and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.

Vise-grips: Generally used after pliers to completely round off bolt heads. If nothing else is available, they can also be used to transfer intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.

Welding Gloves: Heavy duty leather gloves used to prolong the conduction of intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.

Oxyacetylene Torch: Used almost entirely for lighting various flammable objects in your shop on fire. Also handy for igniting the grease inside the wheel hub out of which you want to remove a bearing race.

Table Saw: A large stationary power tool commonly used to launch wood projectiles for testing wall integrity.

E-z out Bolt and Stud Extractor: A tool ten times harder than any known drill bit that snaps neatly off in bolt holes thereby ending any possible future use.

Band Saw: A large stationary power saw primarily used by most shops to cut good aluminum sheet into smaller pieces that more easily fit into the trash can after you cut on the inside of the line instead of the outside edge.

Two-ton Engine Hoist: A tool for testing the maximum tensile strength of everything you forgot to disconnect.

Craftsman 1/2 X 24-inch Screwdriver: A very large pry bar that inexplicably has an accurately machined screwdriver tip on the end opposite the handle.

Phillips Screwdriver: Normally used to stab the vacuum seals under lids or for opening old-style paper-and-tin oil cans and splashing oil on your shirt; but can also be used, as the name implies, to strip out Phillips screw heads.

Straight Screwdriver: A tool for opening paint cans. Sometimes used to convert common slotted screws into non-removable screws.

Pry Bar: A tool used to crumple the metal surrounding that clip or bracket you needed to remove in order to replace a 50 cent part.

Hose Cutter: A tool used to make hoses too short.

Hammer: Originally employed as a weapon of war, the hammer nowadays is used as a kind of divining rod to locate the most expensive parts adjacent the object we are trying to hit.

Dammit Tool: Any handy tool that you grab and throw across the garage while yelling 'DAMMIT!' at the top of your lungs. It is also, most often, the next tool that you will need.

How many zeros in a billion?

This is too true to be funny. A billion is a difficult number to comprehend, but one advertising agency did a good job of putting that figure into some perspective in one of its releases.

- A billion seconds ago it was 1959.
- A billion minutes ago Jesus was alive.
- A billion hours ago our ancestors were living in the Stone Age.
- A billion days ago no-one walked on the earth.
- A billion dollars ago was only 8 hours and 20 minutes, at the rate our government is spending it.

How much in that *stimulus* package? While this thought is still fresh in our brain, consider the following. It's amazing what you can learn with some simple division.

Note: This is an example and the names have been withheld so as not to disparage anyone. A well known Senator is presently asking Congress for \$250,000,000,000 to rebuild a city in her state. Interesting number...what does it mean? Well... if you are one of the 484,674 residents of that city (every man, woman, and child), you each get \$516,528. Or.. if you have one of the 188,251 homes in that city, your home gets \$1,329,787. Or... if you are a family of four...your family gets \$2,066,012.

What are some of the sources for this money? Accounts Receivable Tax; Building Permit Tax; CDL License Tax; Cigarette Tax; Corporate Income Tax; Dog License Tax; Federal Income Tax; Federal Unemployment Tax (FUTA); Fishing License Tax; Food License Tax; Fuel Permit Tax; Gasoline Tax; Hunting License Tax; Inheritance Tax; Inventory Tax; IRS Interest Charges (tax on top of tax); IRS Penalties (tax on top of tax); Liquor Tax; Luxury Tax; Marriage License Tax; Medicare Tax; Property Tax< br> Real Estate Tax; Service charge taxes; Social Security Tax Road Usage Tax (Truckers); Sales Taxes; Recreational Vehicle Tax; School Tax; State Income Tax; State Unemploy- ment Tax (SUTA); Telephone Federal Excise Tax; Telephone Federal Universal; Service Fee Tax; Telephone Federal, State and Local Surcharge Tax; Telephone Minimum Usage Surcharge Tax; Telephone Recurring and Non-recurring Charges Tax; Telephone State and Local Tax; Telephone Usage Charge Tax; Utility Tax; Vehicle License Registration Tax; Vehicle Sales Tax; Watercraft Registration Tax; Well Permit Tax; Workers Compensation Tax; Cable TV Tax

Consider this: Not one of these taxes existed 100 years ago and our nation was the most prosperous in the world. We had absolutely no national debt. We had the largest middle class in the world. and Mom stayed home to raise the kids.

What happened?



Pictured:

Reading the winning essays are Drug Essay Award winner, Ryan, on the left & father of winner, Peter, on the

EVELING URBINA BRINGS THANKS TO SPACE CENTER

[a belated report]

Rotary first met Eveling Urbina Zapata in 2000 when a group of Rotarians including PDG D'Lisa Simmons visited the St. Lucia School for the Blind in Nicaragua. Eveling was the number one student in her classes. After several years at St. Lucia, Eveling returned home to Leon to complete her high school education, graduating with highest distinction. From the first meeting, Eveling won the hearts of the group of Rotarians, specially of D'Lisa who has supported her all along. Eveling is now a full scholarship student at the Universidad de Leon, the oldest and largest university in Nicaragua. There, she studies Spanish Literature and recently was recognized in the Dean's List. Rotarians have been assisting Eveling along the way, with financial assistance, the purchase of manual Braille machines, a Braille Lite machine, a computer and adaptive software, and recently, with a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship to study at University of St. Thomas. Eveling will be graduating from St. Thomas with her full 12-level program this coming Friday, November 7. She is planning to return to Nicaragua to continue her university studies and teaching blind children. While in the U. S., Eveling has also learned fundamental skills of daily living that she can take back to Nicaragua. Club Past President JB Fox spear-headed the fundraising for portable Braille machines that were donated by the club for Eveling's blind students. Eveling is visiting us today to thank the club and to present JB with "Braille thank you notes" made by her students.

Below:

(Pictured on left) Eveling Urbina addresses the Club after being introduced by President Mike



(Pictured on right) Past President JB Fox



Thanks, J. B. for your Special Service Above Self. You certainly made a difference.

Editor's note. This write up was inadvertently left out of the November 10, 2008 publication. No picture was taken of Eveling handing PP Fox the Braille notes.

Bury Me In Books

Nine years ago, District 5890, in conjunction with District 9300 (South Africa) launched the "Bury Me In Books" campaign to promote literacy in South Africa. Since then, Rotary clubs in Texas have collected and shipped close to nine million books to Durban, South Africa. This project is highlighted in an article "South Africa gets Buried in Books" on page 13 in the March issue of The Rotarian Magazine. Another book sorting work party has been scheduled for February 28th. Please come help us with this wonderful project.

Location: Exel Warehouse, 9701 Highway 225, La Porte

Time: 8 am until 2 pm or sooner if we finish early.

Please come when you can and leave when you have had all the fun you can stand.

Directions: The Exel gate is on the north access road for Highway 225 in La Porte between Millers Cutoff and Battleground Road. Pull into the entrance and up to the gate which will be open. Please report to the front warehouse "9701", and enter in the TRUCK DRIVERS DOOR or the "Shipping & Receiving" Office. Gate passes will be available @ 9701.. and tell the person at the desk that you are there to sort books for Rotary, ask them for an exit slip, and ask for our Rotary book sorting site in the building. Bring safety glasses if you don't wear glasses. Wear closed toe shoes. Your personal safety is important. When you leave, place your exit slip in the scanner to open the gate. Be aware of the truck traffic as you move about the Exel facility since this is a working warehouse.

Charlie Clemmons, PDG

c.clemmons@worldnet.att.net

West U Rotary Fellowship

Come join us for West U Rotary Fellowship Western Style at the Texas Social Club BBQ pit 5-11pm Friday 27Feb and/or Saturday 28Feb. (Saturday is usually crowded). Space C430, C432 and C433 in the Reliant Center Parking lot. In addition to very best all you can eat BBQ brisket, ribs, chicken and sausage we open pit roast an entire pig. Open bar. Live Western music by the Kevin Robinson Band. Tickets are \$60 per with \$10 going to rotary. Email me at johnurbanek@sbcglobal.net so I can put you on the will call list at the door. This is truly an event like no other! Questions? Call me 713-410-6369. There is a mandatory \$7 entrance fee to the cook-off area which is a charitable donation to the HLSR scholarship fund.

John Urbanek, West U Rotary Club 713-410-6369

Alvin Rotary Park District Work Day.

by Charlie Thorp, PDG

Alvin Rotary Park was greatly damaged from hurricane Ike. The Alvin Rotary Club has asked for assistance from the District to help financially and with "Sweat Equity". The District and the Alvin Club is planning a Work Day on Saturday March 21, 2009 from 8:00 am till you ware out. The Alvin Rotary Club will have free BBQ and soda and water drinks or you can bring your own. The more people we have the more progress we will make. They lost over 30 trees and had a lot of damage to the different structures on the property. Please consider this a great club project. Bring your glove, hammers, chainsaws and your Rotarian enthusiasm and be ready to work. We are also inviting the Youth Exchange students to get involved. This could be a fun day for them as well. Both the incoming and outgoing students, They will need rides to get there. Can you help with that as well. Let's have a great turn out.

Directions to the park. The physical address is 6810 County Road 172, Alvin, TX 77511. Starting at 610 and 288. Go South on 288 - 23.1 miles. Exit at FM 1462 and go left toward Alvin (east). Go 4.7 miles, right on CR 511. Go 2.2 miles - CR 511 becomes CR 172, cross Chocolate Bayou, Rotary Park on the left. This is the simplest I can come up with coming from Houston. South people can come north on 288 and exit 1462 also. Sharon Dickerson's cell phone is 713 542 2062 and anyone that's lost can call it.

Rotarians Bring Smiles to Senior Citizens Faces on Valentines' Day

A group of our club members brought early Valentines' Day greetings to Senior Citizen residents of our Bay Area nursing homes. On Friday, February 13th, Rotarians visited Rosemont, Baywind Village, Regency Village and Neighborhood Centers bringing residents Valentine greetings by presenting them a red rose. Close to 300 senior residents were surprised and in awe when Rotarian smiling faces came into the rooms handing out roses and greeting cards. "This is one of my most rewarding moments, seeing their faces glow with a smile when they receive the roses", said one of the Rotarians when asked what prompted him to visit the nursing homes.



Space Center Rotary Summary of Club's Operating Financials as of January 31, 2009

Administration:	
Dues payments:	\$26,355
Meetings and meals:	
Payments received	\$20,660
Club paid meals	\$ 1,681
Payments to Bay Oaks	\$22,341
Expenditures:	
District Dues	\$ 2,775
2015 RI Convention Support	\$ 1,665
General Administrative	\$ 244
Insurance (D&O Liability)	\$ 450
First Half of RI Dues	\$ 3,889
President's Contingency	\$ 250
Projection Screen	\$ 232
Bank Charges	\$ 53
Membership Recruitment	\$ 357
Membership Retention	\$ 0
Programs	\$ 832
Club paid meals	\$ 1,681
Total Expenditures	\$12,428
Approved Expenditures for February:	
Contribution to District Conf	\$ 300
Second Half RI Dues	\$ 3,511

Applications for District Governor District 5890

"Service Above Self" is the defining phrase for District Governor for the Greater Houston area. Providing leadership for District 5890 will be an experience you will cherish for the rest of your life. The selection committee is now taking applications for the District Governor position for the Rotary year, 2011-2012. To those of you who are qualified and has the desire to serve as District Governor 2011-2012, please consider getting your club's support and sending the application to Walter Branson. Click on one of the following highlighted words, qualifications or application, to access the documents. But you must hurry. The deadline for District Governor applications is February 28. You may email the application to Walter@BransonConstruction.com, or Fax to 979-297-6658. Please feel free to contact myself or DG Rhonda Kennedy with any questions you may have. Thank you for your consideration and good luck to each of you.

Walter Branson, Chairman of Nominating Committee.

Work — 979-297-1970
Cell — 979-236-1970
Fax — 979-297-6658

Geurrero Clinic Trip

Many of you have expressed a desire to attend one of our clinics in Mexico....well the next clinic is March 17-22. If you would like to attend, please contact Walter Branson at

Walter@GuerreroClinic.org

or you can go to the website www.GuerreroClinic.org and download your application. Although the deadline has passed, I will extend the invitation through Monday Feb. 23, 2009. For those of you who have been supporting the clinic through your club or as individuals, I want to say thanks from the bottom of my heart.

Walter Branson, Director of Guerrero Surgery and Education Center

work:979-297-1970
cell:979-236-1970
fax:979-297-6658