



Southside Rotary Club of Corpus Christi Riptide

Club No. 2095

Chartered June 2, 1955

SEPTEMBER 9, 2009

2008-2009 Officers

President: Lari Young

President Elect: Jennifer Smith-Engle

Executive Secretary: Matt Beavers

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MEETING INFORMATION

PRAYER/PLEDGE: DAVID WALKER
INTRODUCTIONS: JERRY SMITH -
Mr. "Distinguished"
FOUR WAY TEST: Dr. GARY JEFFRESS

VISITING ROTARIANS & GUESTS

There were no guests present

Rotarians

Gene Seaman from Ingleside

Lou Carter from Corpus Christi Rotary Club

Debbie High from out of state and out of this world, otherwise known as West Virginia.

She is moving to Corpus Christi and interested in becoming a member of a Rotary Club in Corpus Christi.

SAVE THE DATE!



Samuel L. Neal, Jr.

Save Thursday October 29 at 6p.m. for our next Hometown Hero fundraiser where we will honor **County Judge Loyd Neal with a Paul Harris Fellow** while raising money for scholarships and our Ramp Project!

Information is available on the registration table and has been sent by e-mail. Donations of door prizes are needed

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

16 SEPT	THE NEW LIBRARY	Laura Garcia
23 SEPT	CC Birding	Patty Beasley

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REMINDER:

**RAMP PROJECT SATURDAY
OCTOBER 10, 2009**

**MEMBERSHIP SEMINAR THIS SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 12, 2009 AT FROST BANK at
4215 S. Staples (corner Everhart & Staples)**



BRAGGIN' BUCKS

- There were no brags today.

**Dr. TOM CRON won \$22.00 from the 50/50 raffle
for Polio Plus. Congratulations TOM.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **RAMP PROJECT – MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Saturday, October 10, 2009** – please see **DYKE HENDERSON**. He needs help!
- **SOUTHSIDE ROTARY** has several committees that need your help. **PRESIDENT LARI** passed around a sheet listing the committees needing your help.
- **The Membership Seminar** is this Saturday, September 12, 2009. You can sign up online at the **DISTRICT 5930** website.
- **Silent Auction Items** are needed for the **Hometown Hero Fundraiser**. Please see **ANITA**. Gift cards, gift certificates, large luxury items, trips, etc. are items that go over really well.
- The **Flag Project** with the Boy Scouts on Labor Day was a big success. Two new subscriptions were added that day. Thanks to all who helped.
- Next week will be a full board meeting right after our regular meeting. Please send **PRESIDENT LARI** any agenda items by Monday.
- **JENNIFER SMITH-ENGLE'S** father-in-law passed away on Labor Day. Please keep

JENNIFER and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

- **PAST PRESIDENT BETTY FRANTUM** reported the passing of former Southside Rotarian, **Larry DeVille**. The funeral took place at Seaside Memorial on Thursday.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

DYKE HENDERSON introduced our speaker, Captain Rocco Montesano (Ret.) who is Executive Director of the Lexington. Captain Montesano is from New Jersey, a graduate of the Naval Academy, and a Rotarian. He actually landed on the Lexington.

Captain Montesano spoke to **SOUTHSIDE ROTARY** previously when we were meeting at King's Crossing Country Club. He discussed the history of the Lexington and the part it played during World War II. The Lexington is recognized as a National Historical Landmark and has the record of having the most airplane landings of any carrier.

At the beginning of WWII there were only 7 U.S. carriers and by the end of WWII there were over 100 U.S. carriers. The U.S. had great manufacturing production during from its people during WWII building war machinery.

The Japanese plan was to destroy the U.S. Naval fleet using its carriers and airplanes. The U.S. moved most of its fleet consisting of battleships and cruisers into Pearl Harbor. When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor most of the U.S. ships were destroyed. The Japanese took islands in the Pacific and the first thing that they did was to build airfields.

There were two carriers named the Lexington. The first carrier was sunk in the battle of Coral Sea. Midway was a big defeat for the Japanese. John Waldron was a fighter pilot who fought the Japanese at Midway. He flew from the Carrier Hornet. Waldron Road and Waldron Field were named for him. The Flour Bluff school system mascot is the Hornets which came from the Carrier Hornet.

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The Lexington has the third most battle scars of U.S. Carriers and over 1,000 Japanese aircraft were shot down by U. S. pilots from the Lex. The Lexington was re-commissioned for the Korean Conflict. A female air mail carrier was the last person to land on the Lex.

Approximately \$4,500,000.00 is needed to operate the Lex each year. Last year the attendance was about 270,000 people. All of the airplanes on the Lexington are on loan from Pensacola, Florida.

PETE'S MARKET REPORT

September is normally a weak market month. Oil is up at \$72.00 and the DOW is up 65 points. Gold is \$1,000.00.

BETTY'S QUOTE

From Will Rogers on December 19, 1928

They finally stopped us from sending Marines to every war we could hear of. They are having one in Afghanistan. The thing will be over before Congress can pronounce it, much less find out where it is located.

WORLD PEACE SCHOLAR REPORT

The Rotary Club of Southside Corpus Christi sponsored Dr. Andrew Piker, Professor of Philosophy at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as a Rotary World Peace Scholar. Andy has just returned from his travels to Thailand and has this fascinating report to share with our club. He will give a presentation to us in the spring.

Rotary Final Report

Andy Piker

Rotary World Peace Fellow

Rotary Center for International Studies In Peace and Conflict Resolution

At Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand

June-August 2009 Program Session

Impressions of the Program

Academic Aspects of the Program

Quite a few of the lecturers were very good. Tom Woodhouse and Irene Santiago provided a helpful overview of the Peace and Conflict Studies field at the beginning of the course, accompanied by some excellent exercises requiring application of the lecture material. Eric Melander's detailed account of conflict analysis and the application exercises he assigned were exceptionally useful: he gave us valuable conceptual tools for understanding conflicts, and helped us begin to develop the skills needed to use them effectively. Similarly, Jan Jung-Min Sunoo's lectures and assignments on mediation, negotiation, and facilitation supplied us with both a clear theoretical understanding of the material and beneficial practical training in resolving conflicts. Dr. Chaiwat Satha-Anand's presentation on non-violence was very engaging and thought-provoking.

Some of the lecturers were not as strong, in my opinion. In at least one case, limited English language skills seemed to cause some problems; and in several cases, conflict resolution practitioners (whose conflict resolution skills were no doubt highly developed) did not, in my view, demonstrate effective teaching skills or provide significant guidance regarding how to practice conflict resolution.

In general, the course covered a lot of academic ground very quickly – sacrificing some depth for the sake of breadth. The conflict analysis paper, however, required a deeper examination of a specific topic, and that examination yielded knowledge that helped me throughout the course.

Field Studies

I found the field studies to be powerful, memorable, and important components of the course. Jenn Weidman and her staff did an outstanding job of planning and coordinating them, so things went smoothly and our time was put to good use. As an ethics teacher I regularly read, talk, and hear about unethical behavior, abuse, and exploitation of people. It is very different, however, to directly witness the behavior or its impact on people and societies – as we did on the Thailand/Myanmar border and in Cambodia (visiting a refugee camp, the illegal learning centers which are the only places migrant workers' children can go to school, the killing fields, the S-21

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torture prison, and the war crimes tribunal in Cambodia, etc.). As sad as all of that was to see, it was encouraging and inspiring to see the responses to the conflicts and mistreatment: victims fighting for rights and justice, outsiders working to aid and empower them, many people risking imprisonment and even death. I am not yet sure how those experiences will affect my actions (I will address career plans below though), but they have certainly made me more aware of how much more fortunate I am than many others, and increased my motivation to help others by contributing to the resolution of conflicts and the building of peace.

Overall Impressions of the Program

In my opinion the program is a very strong one. In the classroom it provides a broad, relatively quick survey of many aspects of peace and conflict studies. That approach will not meet everyone's needs, of course, but was an excellent fit for me. The three-month time frame allowed me to participate without quitting my job, and the broad introduction to the field has given me a basis for deciding which areas to pursue further.

The field work is essential to the program, bringing the Fellows face to face with the realities of peace and conflict studies practice. As a result of our field studies we learned about what works and does not work in practice, by observing and comparing different practitioners and organizations (some less effective, some exemplifying "best practices"); and we developed an awareness of the obstacles practitioners encounter, as well as the successes they may expect to achieve. We also learned an enormous amount about ourselves, particularly about our reactions to (for example) the conflicts themselves, their effects on people, the difficulty of resolving them, and the efforts and contributions of those working to resolve the conflicts and build peace. The practical knowledge we gained from the field studies, along with the academic knowledge obtained in the classroom, will be very useful to us as we return to our work and make decisions about our career plans.

Challenges and Successes

The course challenged me in various ways. Among the academic challenges, the most significant was the writing of the conflict analysis paper. With no previous knowledge of the systematic approach to

conflict analysis we learned in the course, and no prior knowledge regarding the conflict (youth gang violence in the United States) I chose to analyze, I needed to work hard and quickly to do justice to the assignment. As far as I can tell, I was reasonably successful in my efforts. I certainly learned a great deal about how to analyze conflicts, and about the causes and ways of resolving conflicts.

The challenge that surprised me the most was that of dealing with conflicts among the Fellows. Our group was composed of exceptionally nice people, with strong commitments to peace and conflict resolution. Nevertheless, many conflicts arose among us. Perhaps I should not have been surprised: we spent day after day together for three months (in the same room all day every day, except during the field studies); the course was demanding and tiring; the Fellows came from many different cultures and religious backgrounds, and therefore held very different values; and the work was usually collaborative, requiring us to reach agreement in spite of fatigue, cultural differences, etc.

Meeting the challenge of resolving inter-Fellow conflicts was one of the most educational parts of the course, and the part that may have resulted in the most personal development and growth for me. We did not always reach agreement, of course; but we learned to listen to each other more receptively, to be more open to change, and more accepting of unresolved differences; and to accomplish things collaboratively even when we did not reach perfect agreement. Most importantly, we learned to respect and care about each other in the midst of our conflicts and our imperfect efforts to resolve them – and the strong relationships we gradually developed helped us work through the conflicts that arose.

Recommendations for Future Fellows

In general, I would recommend to future Fellows that they make the most of the opportunities with which the course presents them, right from the start. The course goes by quickly, and many of the opportunities for learning and development it offers are rare or unique. Taking full advantage of them includes, for example: staying focused and asking questions of instructors or classmates even at the end of long days; and recognizing that dealing with disagreements

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among the Fellows is hands-on conflict resolution experience, and a highly beneficial part of the course.

Career Plans

I am currently employed at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi as an Associate Professor of Philosophy (specializing in Ethics), and expect to continue in that position for the foreseeable future. My work will be affected by my learning and experience as a Fellow, though. For example, I have begun thinking about how I might integrate what I learned in the program into my teaching. My ethics classes focus on ways of understanding and resolving ethical conflicts, and I expect to apply the methods of conflict analysis I learned in the program to ethical conflicts (and to ask my students to do so). I may also experiment with the use of conflict resolution methods such as mediation and interest-based negotiation in my classes – for example, by asking students to use those methods in small group assignments on ethical conflicts.

I have already begun exploring the possibility of working as a mediator in the community. I have obtained contact information for the director of Nueces County's Dispute Resolution Services program, and will get in touch with her next week. Other mediation possibilities I am interested in pursuing in the future include conducting mediation workshops for members of the ethics committees on which I serve at local hospitals; and developing mediation programs on the TAMU-CC campus or in local schools.

Rotary Activities

During the program I went to lunch with my host counselor (PP. Krairat Wilson) twice (both times he was kind enough not only to invite me to lunch but also to invite another Fellow; the other Fellow's host counselor also attended one of the lunches). In addition, I attended three Rotary meetings. The first was a Rotary Orientation for Fellows, at the Rotary Center in Thailand. The other two were meetings of the Rotary Club of Bang Rak (my host counselor's club), District 3350 R.I., at the Tawana Bangkok Hotel. At the first meeting of the Bang Rak club I gave a very brief presentation, introducing myself and describing my background. I gave a somewhat longer presentation (about five minutes) at the second meeting, in which I talked about some of the things I

have learned in the course (this meeting took place during the last week of August, when the course was almost over), and ways in which I would be able to apply what I have learned in my work.

Since returning to the United States, I have begun making arrangements with Dr. Marilyn Spencer (my Sponsor Counselor) to give at least two presentations at Rotary meetings: one at a Southside Rotary Club meeting, and a second presentation at the District Conference. I expect those arrangements to be finalized soon.

DISTRICT 5930 THEME FOR 2009-2010



DO NOT FORGET

***BOARD MEETING NEXT WEDNESDAY
FOLLOWING THE REGULAR MEETING***

***MEMBERSHIP TRAINING
SEPTEMBER 12, 2009
AT FROST BANK BUILDING ON STAPLES***

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Rotary at a Glance

Click this link for the [Rotary International District 5930](#) Website

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Click This Link to make up a meeting at [E-Club One!](#)

Club Location	Established	Club Number	Number of Members	Day/Time	Location
Monday					
Corpus Christi Sunrise	1984	#22125	15	M 7 am	La Bahia
Aransas Pass	1960	#2059	15	M noon	Aransas Pass Civic Center
Tuesday					
Corpus Christi Padre Island	2001	#55912	16	Tues noon	Padre Island Country Club
Kingsville	1923	#2073	59	Tues noon	Sirloin Stockade
Ingleside	1948	#2072	27	Tues noon	Garden Club
Portland	1967	#2085	46	Tues noon	Northshore Country Club
Taft	1938	#2096	13	Tues noon	Kiva Hut
San Diego	1938	#2093	23	Tues noon	Rotary Pavilion
Wednesday					
Alice	1938	#2058	32 (I)	W noon	Alice Country Club
Corpus Christi Northwest	1925	#2090	11 (I)	W noon	Chicken Shack, I37 & Violet Rd
Corpus Christi Southside	1955	#2095	61 (R)	W noon	Corpus Christi Country Club
Raymondville	1929	#2087	25 (I)	W noon	Casa Blanca Restaurant
Sinton	1947	#2094	23	W noon	Backstreet Cafe
Thursday					
Corpus Christi	1914	#2062	318 (I)	Th noon	Solomon Ortiz Center
Corpus Christi Evening	1992	#29110	6	Th 5:30 pm	Katz 21
Falfurrias	1927	#2067	12	Th noon	Stricklands
Kingsville Sunrise	1999	#52338	23 (I) (R)	Th 7 am	Linda's Mainstreet Cafe
Port Aransas	1985	#22399	45 (I)	Th noon	Pelican's Landing Rest.
Rockport	1948	#2091	37	Th noon	Rockport Country Club
Friday					
Corpus Christi West	1966	#2100	47	F noon	Corpus Christi Town Club

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