



## THE SUNRISE CIRCUIT

Newsletter of the  
Stuart Sunrise Rotary Club, Florida



### MEETING OF 5/26/2011

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 by President Jamie Chapogas.

The Pledge was led by Cy Buckley.

The Prayer was presented by Rhonda Werner Schultz

#### **Scholarship Letter**

Gene Van Curen read a letter from one of earlier winners requesting a 3rd year scholarship. The author is attending the University of Florida.

#### **Backpacks**

AG David Shoaf requested that club members consider providing backpacks of school supplies for the children in Nassau. The District 6930 Conference includes a cruise with a work day in Nassau. The backpacks would be distributed on Saturday, June 4.

#### **Haiti**

International Service Chair Brenda Gerdes announced that Scott Simmons had flown to Port-au-Prince, Haiti this week to try to get the sustainable gardens out of customs. He was meeting with members of the Port-au-Prince Rotary Club on Thursday to work on that problem.

#### **Ak-Tenamit Scholarships.**

While the club supported one scholarship for a student at the Guatemalan boarding school, a member of the club approached our Foundation about funding a second scholarship to another student as well. We now have 2 students at the school. They are Miguel Francisco Perez Corio who is a 13 year old orphan from Guatemala City, and Mirza Chub Choe, 20, of Lampara. The bios and pictures of the students were circulated at the meeting.

#### **RI Convention update**

Tom and Sue Whittington reported that Bill Gates spoke on Tuesday and said we have Polio 99% beaten and active cases exist in only 4 countries. He got a 5 minute standing ovation for his work as well. More stories to follow.

#### **Sergeant-at-arms**

John Gonzalez welcomed visitors and fined members for good works and great smiles in the media..

#### **Rotary Minute by Jack Langhorne**

Here's another massive, and successful International project funded and organized by a gaggle of Rotary Clubs. Clubs everywhere are celebrating probable elimination of the Guinea worm in Ghana, which has been accomplished through a series of 7

Foundation Matching Grants, totaling more than \$1 million over six years, to provide safe drinking water to remote communities. The devastating and debilitating disease is contracted when natives drink standing water containing a tiny flea whose larvae disables the native after about a year of parasitic growth inside the individual. Clubs in Canada, Ghana, Switzerland, and the United States joint ventured the fight against Guinea worm by creating a co-operative relationship between the Carter Foundation; the Ghanaian government; Rotary International Foundation; and multiple Rotary Clubs from 14 Districts; and four Countries.

#### **Harbor Branch Institute**

Jan Petri, Director of Business Development at Harbor Branch spoke about the key areas in marine research, engineering and education that have evolved in the last 4 years since they joined with Florida Atlantic University.

Jan pointed out that Harbor Branch lost the financial support of the Seward Johnson family in 2004. At that point they had to begin reinventing themselves to recover from the hurricanes of that year as well as find new financial support for the future.

In 2007 they joined with FAU and started to focus heavily on educational and research aspects of marine life.

They received some funds from the state, sold their major research ship to Brazil and sold some of their smaller submersible research vessels to Australia. They retained the right to use this equipment for their own research in those two marine areas and built that into their educational programs.

Recently they have been using a submersible to investigate the coral reefs on Florida's West Coast for damage from last year's oil spill.

They also are studying sponges for natural compounds to be used in battling cancer and malaria. They are working with Novartis on one of their patents for this medical approach.

Aquaculture has become a major area of development of a sustainable closed system to grow Redfish, Trout, Pompano and Snook in a controlled environment.

The Institute features a Semester by the Sea for marine biology students from FAU as well as laboratories and research facilities for PHD and graduate students in FAU's Marine Science and Engineering programs.

For more information check out the web site at [www.hboi.fau.edu](http://www.hboi.fau.edu).

#### **Activity Schedule**

6/2 District Conference and Luau – Cocoa Beach Doubletree Inn [www.rotary6930.org](http://www.rotary6930.org)

6/3-6 District Conference and cruise on Monarch of the Seas – Port Canaveral

6/30 New Officer Installation at Crystal Ballroom - No morning meeting!

#### **50-50**

**Meg Rodgers took home the big bucks. See you at 7 a.m., Meg to sell tickets!**