



Downtown

Builder-Upper

Official Weekly Bulletin of Kiwanis Club of Baton Rouge, Inc. (Downtown)
Meets Thursday, 12:00 Noon at Woman's Club, 259 East Boulevard

Kiwanis Is A Global Organization Of Volunteers Dedicated To Changing The World One Child and One Community At A Time

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WWW.BRKIWANIS.ORG

Volume 08/09 Issue 1

October 9, 2008

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From President Chris

"Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end."

--Lucius Annaeus Seneca

One afternoon following a board meeting in the spring of 2006, I was approached by our club's president, Pat Davis, along with Steve Carleton and Robert Collins, who asked me to accept a nomination for the office of vice-president. Being a fairly new member, I was both surprised and honored that these gentlemen would consider me qualified for a leadership role in the organization. When they further explained that the vice-president is also the festival chair (Red Hat), who a year later becomes president, my emotion suddenly changed to fear. I very much wanted to say "no", but decided to sleep on it. I remember telling Robert Collins the next day that I had a very demanding and stressful job, and was therefore hesitant to accept additional responsibility. He quickly informed me that he, as well as the other officers, also had very demanding jobs. (In other words, I didn't have a good excuse.) I also remembered reading something that former president Freddie Martin had written in one of his columns, where he stressed what a great opportunity this was to acquire training in leadership, time management and organizational skills. So after praying about it, getting support from my husband and a "thumbs up" from my boss, I decided to take the leap. Robert told me he "never looked back" after making his decision... and neither have I.

My year as Red Hat is mostly a blur by now, but a few things do stand out in my memory. I remember how I first came to know we actually have angels in our club. One Friday morning I arrived at Perk's coffee shop for one of the 7AM pancake committee meetings that I'd scheduled (which were never well attended), only to find that not a single person showed up. I was nearly in tears when at about 7:15 Gordon Jarnagin walked in, apologizing profusely because he had overslept. Now, do understand that Gordon was not one of the pancake committee chairs, but he had heard my open invitation and somehow guessed that I could use some more support. What an angel! While waiting for the others to arrive (they never did), Gordon and I got to know each other better and developed a special friendship that I've cherished ever since. In that hour or so, I began to realize that the opportunity to lead this club was actually one of my greatest blessings.

I have watched attentively for the past twelve months as Robert so honorably served our club as its president. In doing so, he has shared with us generously his time, energy, and talent of which I am envious. Thank you, Robert, for a spectacular year of leadership. You're certainly a hard act to follow. Nevertheless, at your year's end comes my new beginning. So here I go....

My parents told me, "Finish your dinner. People in China and India are starving." I tell my daughters, "Finish your homework. People in India and China are starving for your job." ~Thomas L. Friedman

Program This Week

Charlotte Placide, Superintendent
E.B.R. School System

Our speaker this week received her B.S. in Accounting and her M.S. in Professional Accountancy from Southern and is a life member of the Southern University Alumni Association. She began her employment with the school system in the Finance Department in 1981 and was named unanimously by the School Board as the Superintendent effective November 22, 2004 after serving in an acting capacity since the previous May. She will retire this next July. Under her direction and management the school system has been awarded the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Association of School Business Officials International and the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for the past 20 years.

In 2002 she received the YWCA of Greater Baton Rouge Woman of Achievement Award recognizing her achievement for public service. She is a graduate of Leadership/Greater Baton Rouge and serves on the Board of Directors for the Salvation Army. She also serves on the board of the Academic Distinction Fund, Volunteers in Public Schools and the Cancer Services of Greater Baton Rouge. In 2005 the Business Report selected her as a 2005 Influential Woman in Business. She is recognized also as a valued leader in her church, Allen Chapel AME, serving on the Steward Board and Finance Committee.

Upcoming Programs

October 16	Countdown to Pancake Day
October 23	T.B.A.

Greeters

October 9	October 16
John Daly	Mike Futrell
Pat Davis	Elliott Gentry
Clay Flournoy	Nelson Goings

Program Chair

October	Bruce Hammatt
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Happy Birthday

Jesse Bankston
10/7

Andrew Redmond
10/11

**Special Birthday Wishes
To Jesse Bankston
Who Turns 101 This Week**



**Program Last Week
Raymond Jetson
Louisiana Family Recovery
Corps**

Our speaker began by telling us that he had reflected with Marjorie about his transitional visits to our club. His first visit was right before he started with the Louisiana Family Recovery Corps and now he is back just as he is about to leave. He also thanked us for what we do for the children and that we are needed now more than ever. When he started with LFRC after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Baton Rouge wasn't as directly impacted as other parts of the state. Now as he leaves in the wake of Gustav and Ike, Baton Rouge has been hit. All four 100 year hurricanes impacted many communities and some were hit by all four. As they were still recovering from the first duo in 2005, they were hit by another two just last month. The southern part of the state will remain fragile. Part of this is that we haven't addressed the issue of housing that began with Katrina. There are still over 30,000 people still in temporary housing with most being from metro New Orleans. Many were renters before and less than 10% of the rental stock has returned. The crisis is looming as support for temporary housing will end in March 2009. This is critical since many of these individuals live here in Baton Rouge and cannot afford a place with federal help.

He was critical of the process. Contracts are let but they are given to people who only follow disasters making money off of them. He pointed out that two years after Katrina \$20 million was allotted for trailers for people who were elderly or had a disability. He believes it would have made more sense to get these people something more permanent with this kind of money. After the type of disasters we have experienced, government is ill prepared to deal with the needs of the people. It would be better to have them met by local organizations such as churches that know what is needed. Government instead requires people jump through hoops to get the help that a local organization could easily handle. Not all can do it but those who can deserve the chance to do it. He noted he had been in government a long time and there are lots of good people in government but real solutions for real problems will not come from Washington but from groups such as Downtown Kiwanis and not from those who get contracts for profit.

**PANCAKE DAY
OCTOBER 18
13 Days Left
Ads Due This Week**



A Message From the Redhat

Marjorie and Bonnie continued their vaudeville act in urging us to sell pancake tickets and ads. This past week they pantomimed their story and without saying a word (which for these two is a lot like the rest of us not breathing) they acted out climbing a ladder and putting money/tickets in the bucket. Bonnie's aim was much better than Marjorie's. They held up signs for audience participation and were only missing the upright piano with a ragtime player to make it complete. They finished and told us it was "Step Up and Sell those Tickets" which was on the tip of everyone's tongue with their superb acting skills. But the point was well taken. We only have 13 days left. So step up, out or in or whatever it takes to get those pancake tickets sold.

Remember that additional tickets, deposit slips; Pancake Ad



Invoices, last year's programs etc. are available in the back of our meeting room

The collection table--. We will have this available at every

Thursdays meeting from now until October 9.

Those who sell ads please note that you need to:

- 1) Complete the Pancake Ad Invoice with check or cash and bring to the collection table in the back of the meeting room or give to Tom Nielson, Pat Davis or Chris Tabor.
- 2) If the ad is a renewable and has not changed since last year this is all what you need to bring.
- 3) If it is a NEW AD you need to bring a copy of the Ad. This can be hard copy, CD or electronic (computer) transfer.

Ads will be collected until October 9.

DID YOU KNOW THAT WE COLLECTED \$ 21,000 IN ADS LAST YEAR? LET'S BEAT IT TIGERS.

Those of you that have not been able to attend our weekly Kiwanis meeting and do not have a "Pancake Packet" with tickets, please contact me, "The Red Hat" Dietmar @ 296-4900 or 933-2732 or by e-mail "drietschier@amitebasin.org". I will glad to mail or hand deliver.

The Red Hat El Gorro Rojo Der Rote Hut
Dietmar

Don't New Officers and Board Installed

Lt. Governor Charlie Jordan made the trip over to our meeting this past week to install the new officers and board members for our club. Someone had asked him if he was still running for office to which he replied No, It's over I didn't run fast enough. He noted that he had been in the Red Stick Kiwanis Club for 38 years and recalled his first Kiwanis club visit in 1952. He asked if their were any members present who were in the club back then and Maury O'Rourk, Louis Curet and Billy Karns all acknowledged that they were. Charlie said he was at our meeting back then as a 6th grader

who was receiving one of our Courtesy Awards. He also encouraged us to attend both International and District Conventions so that we can find out what Kiwanis is really about. He noted over the years he had heard many great speakers and was able to meet them. He noted Jesse Owens (1974), Roy Rogers and Dale



Evans(1988) and just this past District Convention was able to meet Olympic Marathoner Dave Wattle. He then installed our new officers first by bestowing on Robert Collins the most coveted position in Kiwanis, Past President. He then reinstalled long time secretary and treasurer, respectively Ken Paxton and Carl Benedict before finishing up with Dietmar Rietschier, Bruce Hammatt and the new incoming board members. Last was Chris Tabor who Charlie installed as President for 2008-09.