

WARNER ROBINS ROTARY CLUB

July 7, 2009

Greeters

Today George McCulley, Lee Minor, Jim Newton
July 14 Marlan Nichols, Laverne Norris, Larry O'Neal

Invocation..... Randy Randall
Pledge of Allegiance..... Steve Williams
Four-Way Test Laverne Norris

TODAY'S PROGRAM **Club Assembly**

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- July 14 Joe Watson, Chief Rabban, Al Sihah Shrine Temple
Shriners Hospitals for Children
- July 21 Les Arent,
2008-2009 Assistant District Governor
International Rotary Project in Indonesia
- July 28 Ed Grisamore, columnist, The Macon Telegraph
- Aug. 4 Terry Di Diego, executive director,
CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates)
of Houston County Inc.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Anyone who has information that needs to be printed in the weekly bulletin is asked to get it to Rex Gambill by 5 p.m. Friday. Information can be e-mailed to rexgambill@yahoo.com, or call Rex at (478) 447-7676 (cell).

PROGRAM REPORT

June 30, 2009

Larry Walker, former state representative and vice chair, Georgia Department of Transportation

A 32-year veteran of the Georgia General Assembly - half of which as House majority leader - a judge, attorney, writer, and outgoing member of the Georgia Department of Transportation's board of commissioners, it's little surprise Larry Walker has been ranked among the 100 Most Powerful and Influential People in Georgia twelve times.

Walker reflected on the many blessings Houston County has been afforded in the past 40 years, particularly in its elected representation.

He also noted that in all the time he has been a public servant, he has seen political power become less decentralized and more concentrated in the metropolitan Atlanta area. Whereas the state legislature was once run by rural representatives, it is now dominated by those from the metro area - and transportation, Walker said, is what brought them together.

As a member of the board of commissioners for the state DOT, Walker has seen the result of this power shift - a recent movement that would have called for "merit"-based road building. Such a program would have resulted in 85% of the roadwork in the state focused in the Atlanta area.

"More ought to be spent in the Atlanta area, but not at the expense of rural areas, said Walker, a Perry native.

Through controversy involving budget constraints, a top-level sex scandal, and a sex harrasment charge filed against another commissioner, Walker came to realize that serving on the DOT board was "no fun." He said he told a colleague that he "didn't get on the board to be Ann Landers."

Ultimately, what he learned is that the state is doing little more than maintaining existing roads, rather than improving or adding to them.

"There is not enough money in the DOT to do what needs to be done," he said.

Walker foresees more toll roads in Georgia's future, created by public/private partnerships. And while high-speed rail is too expensive - \$25 million per mile, he said - he does see a value in a road that would bypass Atlanta by traveling through the granite underneath the city..

ROTARY ON THE WEB

Club website www.warnerrobinsrotary.org
District website www.rotarydistrict6920.org
District and Club Database www.dacdb.com
Rotary International www.rotary.org
eClub One www.rotaryclubone.org

A ROTARY PROMISE

If I volunteer to serve, I will serve with all my heart.
If I promise to do anything, I will not rest until it is done.
If I am asked to give of my time or money, I will give without reservation.
In Rotary, as in life, we lead by example.

MAKE-UP SCHEDULE

Monday.....noon, New Perry Hotel, Perry
Monday.....1 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, Macon
Tuesday.....7:30 a.m., Piccadilly Cafeteria, Centerville
Tuesday.....noon, Community House, Cochran
Wednesday.....8 a.m., Country Cupboard, Byron
Wednesday.....noon, The Steak House Restaurant, Hawkinsville
Wednesday.....12:30 p.m., Macon Centreplex, Downtown Macon
Thursday.....noon, Goodwill Industries,
..... west of I-475 near Macon State College, Uptown Macon
Thursday..... noon, Holiday Inn, Forsyth
Thursday..... 12:30 p.m., Country Club, Milledgeville
Friday.....noon, Sidetrack Cafe, Eastman
Friday..... 12:30 p.m., Dublin Country Club, Dublin
eClubOne (24/7).....www.rotaryclubone.org

OFFICERS

President, Rotary International.....John Kenny
District Governor.....Clyde A. Taylor
Assistant District Governor....Bill Pitts
President.....Doug Hayes
President Elect.....Lee Minor
Secretary.....Justin Ritchie
Treasurer.....Lynn Hudson
Sergeant at Arms.....Brian Fern