

# Rotaripost

Mav 8, 2018

# Keynote

## The 1954 Wallace Lake Plane Crash



Ernie Roberson

Ernie Roberson has been Registrar of Voters for Caddo Parish since 1990. He is a lifelong resident of Shreveport and a graduate of Fair Park High School and Louisiana Tech. Prior to becoming Registrar, he served as district manager for the 1980 census in most of North Louisiana and was a public school teacher in Caddo Parish. He also served on the staff for both Congressman Buddy Roemer and Congressman Jim McCrery.

In addition, Ernie is an avid amateur historian, author, collector of scrapbooks and historic memorabilia. He was intrigued by the 1954 plane crash into Wallace Lake and has done extensive research into the facts and circumstances of the crash.

Imagine a plane crash that in one fell swoop took the lives of Shreveport's Mayor Ollie Tyler, cartoonist William Joyce, the commander of the 2nd Bomb Wing and several major local business owners. That essentially was what happened to Shreveport and the rest of Caddo on January 10, 1954 when a twin-engine Grum-

man Mallard amphibian airplane, its wings caked with ice from bad weather, crashed on its way back to





Tuesday, 12:00 Noon

12:13 p.m. Historical Start

> Shreveport Convention Center

#### Rotarians Serving Others

Debra Money Williams Table

Carl Raffle
Thibodeaux

John Scanner-Greeter-4Way

Lawrence Invocation

Brandon Inspiration

Charlotte

Nordyke

And Music

Kermit Poling

#### **More PHF Level-Ups**





Tom Mee

**Tom Mee,** a native of Minneapolis, received his PHF+2 pin last Tuesday. Tom was in the glass business for 47 years and retired several years ago when he sold his business—Nall's Glass Service.

In 1981 he was sponsored in our club by Dan Miller. In 1990 he dropped out for a short while and then in 1992 he came back to the club, sponsored by Jimmy Turner.

Tom was a club director in 1995-1996 and is very active in the Rescue Mis-

sion project and the Sgt at Arms duties. When we had our dictionary project, Tom was the first to volunteer to deliver to the schools. Since retirement, Tom spends time with his six

PHF+2 pin with two sapphires grandchildren, travels and does woodwork.

**Bob Robinson** was presented with his PHF+6 lapel pin. Bob is a native of Bossier City and graduate of Bossier High School.

He received his B.A. in radio/television production from LSU. He then attended the University of Texas and earned his masters in infectious disease and his Ph.D. in international health. Bob then began his career in epidemiology in public health service and has a deep and abiding interest in Rotary's efforts to eradicate Polio.

He is the owner of R.R. Robinson Enterprises, LLC with interests in oil & gas exploration, health care consulting, real estate development and land management.

Long a member of the board of directors of the Shreveport Opera, Bob is active in the Krewe of Gemini and served as King Gemini XX.



Bob Robinson with his PHF+6 pin showing one ruby stone.

Bill Reyenga sponsored him in our club in 2008. For several years, Bob served as our club's Foundation chair. With his encouragement, our Polio Plus donations were higher during those years then they have been.

### **Another PHF level up**

**Greg Lott** received his PHF+1 lapel pin on Tuesday. Greg grew up in the Ark-La-Tex area and has been in the banking profession for over 30 years. His currently serves as Market President for Progressive Bank in Shreveport-Bossier.

Gard Wayt sponsored Greg in our club in 2012. Greg didn't hesitate to get involved in several committees: grants, greeters, JA project and Sgt at Arms duties. He will serve as one of our club directors in the Rotary year 2018-2019.

Greg enjoys hunting, fishing and golfing.

*Greg Lott with his PHF+1 pin.* 





Several weeks ago, there was a teaser question in the Tuesday morning e-mail reminding you of the Rotary lunch. Here's the answer to the question (which no one could answer): the Rotarian who sang in Carnegie Hall 2 weeks ago was our very own Reggie Abrams who performed Haydn Missa Cellensis in C Major with his choral group. They got a standing ovation!

#### 2017-2018 Civic Grant Awards

Our civic grant committee began soliciting grant applications in December 2017 and accepted them through February 28, 2018. The committee received 43 applications by the deadline. Committee members were asked to review all applications, select their top five applications, and rank them.

\$22,600 was available for Civic Grants which were funded by our dues structure (3/4 of the funding) with the remaining 1/4 funded by the net proceeds from our Fall golf tournament.

The top five ranked applicants and their projects were these:

\$5,000 to Holy Angels—support of AngelCare: Critical Support for Total Care Individuals without Families.

\$4,000 to Gingerbread House—operational support for the comprehensive Child Advocacy Program benefiting child victims of sexual and severe physical abuse.

\$4,000 to Shreveport Bossier Rescue Mission—support of Vocational Training to the mission's guests.

\$4,000 to STARBASE Louisiana—promote STEM interests; purchase supplies for the public school 7th grade drone project.

\$4,000 to Heart of Hope—implementation of a Nutrition Program

The grants committee is also responsible for selecting organizations to receive six \$300 speaker honorariums totaling \$1,800. These organizations were the next highest ranked for the honorariums:

Alzheimer's Agency of Shreveport/Bossier LSUS Intergenerational Literacy

Food Bank of NWLA Community Renewal
Literacy Volunteers Centenary Volunteers of America

Thanks to our committee members: Rich Brontoli (chair), Mike Ferrell (co-chair), Wes Attaway, Doug Bland, Jerry Boughton, Lawrence Calhoun, Charles Grubb, Miles Hitchcock, Milton Hutchinson, Charlotte Jones, Jon Keith, Greg Lott, Renee Petree, Gil Shanley, Graham Thompson, John Tuggle and Bruce Willson.

Application for our next grant cycle will begin in December 2018. Because of increased interest in our grants, the board of directors will be fine-tuning our grant qualifications for the next cycle.





(Left) Darrell Rebouche sports a sling as he tells Bob Fitzgerald about his gutter experience. Darrell's advice—don't stand on the top step of a ladder when you're cleaning gutters

(Above) Kembal Thomas, guest of Paul Pratt

#### Rotary programs beginning July 1, 2018

Some of our most popular programs have been those recommended by our own members. Many of you said that you were not expecting a lively program from the Audubon Society speaker last Tuesday. But, the information Dr. Erik Johnson provided was very interesting and many questions were asked during the Q&A. Several members commented how much they enjoyed the program.

With the beginning of our next Rotary year, our program chair will be Amanda Simpson. If you have a recommendation for a program, please contact her at this email address.

Bare in mind that we are a popular audience for speakers and we generally are booked months ahead of time.

#### Thanks to our May Rescue Mission Volunteers

Bob Neff (2 times)
Jerry Boughton (2 times)
Fred Ratzburg
Terry Moore
Zelda Tucker
Delbert Chumley
Charles Grubb





#### Rotaripost

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Call Judy Bellew if you have any questions about the club.

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#### **Raffle Winners Last Week**

TRF Raffle—Jack Lamb

Thanks for donating to TRF—this goes toward your next PHF

Mystery Bag from Rose-Neath Florist— Larry Evensky

Andy Shehee's hen eggs—John Tuggle
"Attack Dog Marketing" (book by Scott Wysong

"Attack Dog Marketing" (book by Scott Wysong and "Jeb Who?")—Brad Graff and Gil Shanley

Program on May 15, 2018

Cyber Security Protection Stephanie Sievers and Amanda Simpson

**Rooms 206-208, SCC** 

# May Club Anniversaries \*PHF +Past President \*Major Donor (includes PS prior service)

43 years	John Cox*, Bob Neff*
42 years	Jim Echterhoff, Hoyt Bain*
40 years	Jim Hill*
39 years	John Parsons*
29 years	Andy Shehee*, Clovis Burch*, Harold Turner*PS
34 years	Cody Mayo*
24 years	Leslie Quinn*PS, Paul DemopulosPS
22 years	Jeff Clark*, Sue Lee*
20 years	Vernon Chance*
17 years	Lawrence Calhoun♦, Mark Medicus*, Charlotte Jones*, Delbert Chumley*
15 years	Renee Petree*
13 years	Reggie Abrams*+
10 years	Bob Robinson*
6 years	Greg Lott*
5 years	Troy Bain, Rodney Ellis*PS
4 years	Hardy Foreman*
2 years	Christine Wasner, Lawrence Brandon*

