

August 4th, 2003

- Guests at the July 28 meeting included: Ed Lake, of the Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch; Lisa Stubeck, a CPA and prospective member attending her second meeting as the guest of Virginia Orenstein; Erin Bryce, a reporter with the Manatee Herald-Tribune; and Ducett, a Southeastern Guide Dogs dog who accompanied Frank Willett.

Frank Willett said he and his wife will travel with a local team in November to Nigeria to help with polio immunizations.

President Jeff Orenstein announced that Diane Lang will be resigning from our club. Her husband has accepted a new job with GE, and they will move to Cincinnati.

- Fifteen Rotarians have signed up to volunteer at the open house at McNeal Elementary School on Aug. 8. We need five more people.
- Wear your Rotary shirts to the McNeal event. If you don't have a shirt, give your size to Mike Searcy and pay \$20 to Anthony Swart.
- We will need to order at least 20 Entertainment Books to sell for \$30 each. We will make \$6 per book sold.
- The board meeting will be the evening of Aug. 13 at a location to be announced. Committees will meet for about 10 minutes at the Aug. 11 regular meeting in preparation for the board meeting.
- The speaker at the July 28 meeting was Henry Sheffield, who is fire marshal for the Braden River Fire District. He has worked in the district for 19 ½ years, including 18 years as chief.
- Sheffield talked to the club about the need for an automated traffic system in Manatee and Sarasota counties. The Florida Department of Transportation is working to upgrade old lights with the high-tech system, but community and local government support is needed.
- The system would allow emergency vehicles to transmit a signal to traffic lights as they approach an intersection; the light automatically would change to allow them to quickly and safely drive through. Sheffield cited national statistics: In 16,000 crashes involving fire trucks and ambulances nationwide, 23 fire fighters and 151 civilians died; 45 percent of the crashes were at intersections.

The system isn't cheap. A traffic light costs about \$75,000. An extra \$8,000 per intersection would be spent to install the high-tech system. It also costs about \$1,000-\$1,500 to install equipment in each emergency vehicle.

Sheffield asked club members to write to local county commissioners in support of the system. Two intersections in Sarasota – one on Bee Ridge and one on Fruitville – are currently being tested with good results.



The 4 Way Test

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?"