

October 27th, 2003

Visitors at the Oct. 27 meeting included LeeAnn Chung, of Ivy Ventures construction management and a member of the Sarasota downtown club; Jack Abbott of the Sarasota Bay Club; and Michael Nelson, a financial adviser who will soon join our club.

President Jeff Orenstein inducted new member Debbie Smith. He was assisted by Virginia Orenstein, Paul Adamson and Mike Searcy.

Lynn Hathaway-Howe said district clubs are offering flu shots. The actual cost is \$7.50, but Rotarians pay \$15. The additional \$7.50 is used to inoculate a needy person.

President Jeff Orenstein and President-Elect Paul Adamson thanked all of the Rotarians who volunteered to work selling tickets at the Taste of the Ranch event on Oct. 18. They also reminded people that it's important to show up to work events when pledged your service on a sign-up sheet. By working at the event, we collected \$2,200 to be given to Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee County. Virginia Orenstein congratulated Paul on his terrific efforts to organize the event. Schroeder-Manatee Ranch/Lakewood Ranch officials also were impressed. Lakewood Ranch's Ashley Carson made a surprise visit at the Oct. 27 meeting to present a plaque in appreciation for his many hours of service.

Our next fund-raising event will be the Jazz Fest on Nov. 9 at the Sarasota Polo Club. A sign-up sheet (three shifts are available) was distributed at the Oct. 27 meeting. The gates open at 1 p.m., and the concert begins at 2 p.m. We will sell wine (merlot, chardonnay and zinfandel) for \$3 per glass and water for \$2 per bottle. We'll also raise money through a 50/50 drawing.

The club will have a holiday party on Dec. 6 at a member's home. Who would like to volunteer their home?

Virginia Orenstein took over as membership chair from Dick Fields, who is taking a leave of absence from the club because of job demands. President Jeff Orenstein said we are growing our group in the right direction. We are a service club, not a leads group, but we still need diversity. Only 10 percent of the membership can be from one job classification. He advised that we also need some retired members for balance.

GUEST SPEAKER

The guest speaker at the Oct. 27 meeting was Ashley Brown, executive director of the Women's Resource Center of Manatee, which was formed in 1990.

The center's mission is: "To support the emotional and financial independence of women by encouraging educational and vocational success."

The center is not a hand-out organization, Brown stressed, but a place that gives women the tools they need to be successful.

Programs include emotional support, job planning and development, finances, and overall well-being. Some of the individual offerings under those categories include a cancer support group, mental health counseling, computer classes, free clothing for job interviews, yoga, and film and book clubs.

The center is funded by a \$33,000 grant from Manatee County and individual memberships, corporate sponsorships and private grants. Membership dollars help the center provide



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?"

many of the programs at no charge. The center is at 1926 Manatee Ave. W. For more information, call 747-6797 or visit the Web site at www.wrcmanatee.org..