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Williston Rotarians have fun



Williston Rotary President-Elect Jana Carlisle opens the meeting by welcoming members and guests.

Story and Photos By Jeff M. Hardison © May 26, 2016 @ 9:57 p.m.

WILLISTON – Once again on Tuesday afternoon (May 24), the Rotary Club of Williston established that they put the “fun” into meetings.

Members and guests in attendance that day at the Prudence Ross Fellowship Hall of First Presbyterian Church of Williston enjoyed a very entertaining speaker as well as having fun with some of the club’s traditions – such as paying dollars to say why they are happy or sad, and paying dollars for having their names published in the media, or for being absent or late.

This set of Rotarians added the question of “Is it fun?” to “The Four Way Test” to examine things.

The Four Way Test is a nonpartisan and nonsectarian ethical guide for Rotarians to use for their personal and professional relationships. The test has been translated into more than 100 languages, and Rotarians recite it at club meetings:

“Of the things we think, say or do:

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?”

President-Elect Jana Carlisle, who takes office on July 1 (the start of the Rotary Year), led the meeting in the absence of 2015-16 Williston Rotary Club President Blake Fugate.

Secretary Danny Etheridge, Treasurer Matt Brooks and Sergeant-At-Arms James Mixson were all present and accounted for.

Catherine Hill of Waldo was the guest speaker. She retired from Santa Fe Community College 10 years ago, after a 38-year career as a professional educator.

Hill was the guest speaker who was brought by Williston Rotarian Mary O’Banyoun-Abdullah.

Hill told a few comical stories about the leisure activity of world travel, and she shared some funny

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anecdotes about points along her career as a teacher.

The main thrust of her presentation was clichés.

The club enjoyed her interaction with them as she went through the etymology and use of several different clichés.

Hill began by citing some clichés from the 1500s.

William Shakespeare in the play *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar* noted "... but it's all Greek to me."

Hill said that in that time, the elite or the ruling class would speak in Greek because the commoners did not understand that language.

"The walls have ears," Hill said, is a cliché from the time of King Henry II (March 5, 1133-July 6, 1189). Ancient palaces would often have listening tubes built into the walls, she said.

This idiom means the conversation is easily overheard, someone is listening, as in "Be careful what you say; the walls have ears." This saying also may come from a story about Dionysius of Syracuse (430–367 b.c.), who had an ear-shaped cave cut and connected between the rooms of his palace so that he could hear what was being said from another room.

"Take the hair of the dog," where a person might take a drink in the morning to cure a hangover. This had its origins in the 16th century, she said.

A person bit by a rabid dog would burn the hair of that dog and pack the wound with the ashes from that. Hill said the practice went on for 200 years, and many people died from rabies because "the hair of the dog" was not a cure.

"Cat got your tongue," is a phrase where the person is stating the other person is not speaking for some unknown reason. This hackneyed phrase or cliché comes from the days when a person found to be a liar would have his or her tongue out and it would be fed to the king's cat.

"Put a feather in your hat" is a cliché that originated from warriors who would put one feather in their hat for each enemy soldier, she said.

"Bite the bullet" came from the battlefields, too, she said. That is when a medic did not have morphine, he would give the wounded soldier a bullet to bite, so that he would not yell as loudly.

"Idle hands are the devil's workshop," she said. This cliché is true, Hill added, because as summer happens there is an increase in petty crime.

"The way to a man's heart is through his stomach," Hill said her grandmother and mother told her. Neither one of them taught her how to cook, she added. Hill said she is not married.

She shared several other clichés before wrapping up her presentation.

"Stick a fork in me," she said as she ended her narrative with two clichés, "I am done. I hope I have left you food for thought."

Angie Miller Brooks, Matt's wife, brought and set up the lunch before anyone arrived. This week's lunch included fried chicken, tossed salad, potato chips, cookies and soft drinks.

Club members and guests had a jolly time playing the 50-50 game as well as donating money by saying all of the things that made them happy. Guest speaker Hill won the game and went home with \$14.

Many club members donated dollars to express their happiness at having Hill as the guest speaker of the day, and some members also felt inclined to say they were happy to have their favorite daily news web journalist in their midst, again as well.

There was that invitation from this Rotary Club for the local media leader to join, and as has been the routine for clubs in Gilchrist and Dixie counties, the invitation to join was noted to be appreciated as it was politely declined.

This Rotary Club, like those worldwide, is fighting polio in the few places it remains active on the planet. And the Rotary Club of Williston helps local youths and charitable causes in the area.

The Rotary Club of Williston meets every Tuesday in the First Presbyterian Church of Williston, starting at 11:45 a.m. and ending at 1 p.m.