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Financial planner speaks to Rotarians



Lancent C. Warren Sr. shows a triangle to demonstrate aggressive investments, growth investments, growth and income investments, income investments and cash.

Story and Photos By Jeff M. Hardison © May 23, 2017 at 7:47 p.m.

WILLISTON -- Members and guests of the Rotary Club of Williston on Tuesday afternoon (May 23) enjoyed learning about investing money, and as the members of this club are so inclined, everyone had fun.

Once again, too, Angie Brooks, the wife of Rotary Treasurer Matt Brooks, had arranged a delightful lunch for everyone to enjoy in a buffet serving style. On Tuesday, it was submarine sandwiches, a wide variety of potato chips, salad and a freshly baked cherry crunch type of pie with ice cream on top. The dessert was still very warm – right out of the oven.

The ala mode option was by choice. Some diners went with the added ice cream and other just enjoyed the delicious, homemade, freshly cooked cherry crunch.

Soft drinks, such as Coca-Cola were the drink of the day.



Lancent C. Warren Sr. accepts a Rotary Club tumbler as a gift for being the keynote speaker. The Melbourne resident drove to Williston at the request of Rotarian Mary O'Banyoun-Abdullah.

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The keynote speaker was Lancelot C. Warren Sr., the owner of the L.C. Warren Group, which helps people through the LPL Financial Group of Melbourne.

Warren drove for two hours from Melbourne to Williston to be the speaker thanks to Rotarian Mary O'Banyoun-Abdullah inviting him.

Warren was born and grew up in the Melbourne and Palm Bay area.

His hobbies include fishing, shrimping and playing an occasional round of golf. He attends Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist church in Melbourne, where he serves on the Laymen's department. Warren graduated from the University of Central Florida with a Bachelor's Degree in General Business in 2001.

He has been providing financial planning services since 1999, initially with Edward Jones.

As he led into his presentation about investing, Warren spoke about an index of the American stock market based on the market capitalizations of 500 large companies having common stock listed on the New York Stock Exchange or on the National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations.

History showed gains in that index of 106 percent between 1997 and the year 2000.

Warren said the fear that something drastic was going to happen with Y2K (when the year went from 1999 to 2000), may have impacted the markets a little.

Then from March 24, 2000 to Oct. 9, 2002 there was a 49 percent drop in value of those stocks.

In five years, that index showed a 101 percent increase in value.

Then next two years there was a 57 percent drop.

From March 9, 2009 through April 30, 2017, however there has been a 252 percent increase in value in this particular index used to gauge one aspect of investing.

Using this, he asked the Rotarians for their projections on what would happen next in the near future.

One visitor predicted a continued increase at the rate shown over the past eight years.

Some people predicted a downward trend, perhaps basing their guesses on historic ups and downs.

Warren said the economic indicators now look decent. Companies are making money, and they are using that to increase revenue more.

There has been a lot of job growth, he said, but there has not been a lot of wage growth. So, when wages catch up with job growth, Warren said there may be some leveling off from the continuous increase in capitalizations of 500 large companies during the past eight years.

Beyond the prognostication, however, Warren shared with Rotary members and guests some essential foundations for considering the available mix of investment offerings.

He used a triangle as a starting figure. He showed the top part of it for the more risky investments, which may bring a higher percentage of return – but also may result in a higher percentage of loss. Those are known as aggressive investments.

There are growth investments, and then there other investments that pay dividends to help a person have more income as well as showing possible growth in value.

Cash investments, such as certificates of deposit, show the lowest percentage of return, but they are the safest.

A financial advisor will speak with an investor to determine what that person's goal is, where they are in their life, and what the best recommendation for investing results

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from these and other questions being answered.

While the triangle is a starting figure, depending on the investor's directions for the investment advisor, that triangle be revised in its shape.

Warren's presentation provided listeners with a quick starting point to understand general terms as an investor. He gave his speech in a friendly, easy to understand format.

As for the Rotary Club of Williston's meeting, in addition to the speaker providing listeners with insight, it was another fun event.

The 11-year-old Williston Rotary Club is a relatively small and yet powerful club. It helps Williston area children. On the broader perspective, these Rotarians are part of the global fight against polio worldwide.

One of the traditional games for the Williston Rotary Club is a trivia quiz of five questions where the table of contestants with an incorrect answer pays \$1 per each incorrect answer.

There is an opportunity for the table with the most incorrect answers to go double or nothing. The table with five incorrect answers Tuesday afternoon was the one with O'Banyoun-Abdullah, Warren and a visiting journalist. That group passed on the opportunity to pay either \$10 or zero dollars.

O'Banyoun-Abdullah paid \$5 to fight polio, and actually funded 15 children being vaccinated thanks to Gates' matching donation.

The one table that chose the double or nothing option was the table with Jim Mixson and Vice President Danny Etheridge. They guessed correctly and paid zero dollars rather than \$6 (for their three missed answers at \$1 each times two, to equal \$6, if they had answered incorrectly and paid double).

Past Rotary President Blake Fugate, who is the quiz creator as well as part of the life of the party, jokingly commented about Mixson and Etheridge taking \$6 away from children who would have been vaccinated against polio, and actually taking away \$18 because Bill Gates matches Rotary donations to fight polio with vaccinations three-to-one.

Williston Rotary President Jana Carlisle and Treasurer Brooks were unable to attend Tuesday.

The officers and members who were present were Vice President Etheridge, Secretary Fran Taylor, Past President Fugate, and members O'Banyoun-Abdullah, Mixson and Patsy Fugate. The guests were Warren and the rarely-appearing, but always-welcome journalist Jeff M. Hardison.

The meeting was at First Presbyterian Church of Williston in the Prudence Ross Fellowship Hall. Next Tuesday the meeting will be at Red, White and Blues Farm, 3250 N.E. 140th Ave., in Williston, with socialization at 11:45 a.m. and the meeting's start slated for high noon.