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Williston Rotary Has Fun



President Jana Carlisle of the Rotary Club of Williston strikes a pose Tuesday afternoon. President Carlisle and the whole Williston Rotary Club welcomed a visiting journalist even though it was a business meeting alone. Some Rotary Clubs in the Tri-County Area of Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist counties are more gracious, welcoming and fun than other clubs, as is the case in any area. Interestingly, among the fun things mentioned during the meeting was the upcoming 11th anniversary of this club. On June 17, the club heralds its 11th anniversary. Of the charter members, there were three present on Tuesday. Those three are Norm Fugate, Justin Head and Mary O'Banyoun-Abdullah. The Williston Rotarians had a very successful meeting Tuesday in the Prudence Ross Fellowship Hall at First Presbyterian Church of Williston. Members and guests enjoyed a lunch of tossed salad, barbecue pork, green beans, various types of potato chips, cookies and soft drinks. The club discussed the various causes where its members are planning to help. There was some discussion about the Interact Club of Williston Middle High School. Interact is Rotary Club for young people. There was some somber discussion about the late Gilchrist County Judge Ed Philman, who passed away last month. He was the Rotary District Governor for District 6940 (which includes Williston) during the Rotary Year of July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013. Before he was district governor, Judge Philman, who was a member of the Trenton Rotary Club, was among the people who helped the Williston Rotary Club to come to fruition.

Photo by Jeff M. Hardison © June 14, 2017 at 2:17 p.m.

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Below is the story that ran five years ago in *HardisonInk.com*, regarding Judge Ed Philman becoming District Governor Philman:

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Edward Philman becomes district Rotary governor

By Jeff M. Hardison, © July 2, 2012 <

TRENTON – Gilchrist County Judge Edward Philman, who took office as the county judge in 1989 and is retiring from that post this year, accepted the duties of being the District 6940 Rotary Club Governor during a ceremony Monday (July 2) at the Gilchrist Woman's Club in Trenton.

The building was filled to capacity with many past district governors and representatives from some of the clubs in the district, including those in the Rotary Clubs of Chiefland, Suwannee Valley (Chiefland), Williston, Dixie County, Lake City, Pace, Pensacola, Mayo, Tallahassee, Glenhaven, Gainesville, Live Oak, Panama City, Panama City Beach, Branford and elsewhere. Like Chiefland, some places had more than one club.

Southern Sisters of Bronson catered the event. The meal included everything from salad through dessert.

Trenton Rotary Club President Jo Buckles welcomed everyone after Monnye Brown played several tunes on the piano as a prelude.

"Peace Through Service" is the theme for Rotary Club International this year.

Bell High School's Army Jr. Reserve Officer Training Corps presented the flag and Hardee Myer sang a stirring rendition of the Star Spangled Banner.

Bill Clifton, a charter member of the Trenton Rotary Club, said he has seen the club grow since it began with 15 members in 1949. He read the Four Way Test and Trenton Rotarian Cheryl Jones shared the object of Rotary.

Past District Governor John Kuykendall introduced Philman, who, as he said, needed no introduction.

Philman has been active in Rotary since 1982, as well as being active in his church and community. In 2008, when Buckles was moving on from her post as assistant governor, Philman was tapped for the position, Kuykendall said. Since that time, Philman has been a very active assistant governor and has been preparing to be the District 6940 governor.

He was the best "AG" that Kuykendall has ever seen. Philman was involved with everything he possibly could be involved with; was always on time; and always did exactly what he was supposed to do, Kuykendall said.

"During my time as governor," Kuykendall said, "Ed made numerous trips up to Lake City to talk to me about what it takes to be a district governor."

Kuykendall said he believes Philman will be "the best district governor we have ever had."

Jeannie Quave, the 2011-2012 Rotary District 6940 Governor, installed Philman to his new post.

She provided him with a hat, and modeled a hat that Past District Governor Sylvia White had presented to her. First, she showed a jester's hat that someone had started as a tradition years ago, and she said Philman could wear that with "pride and joy" and of course pass it on to the next district governor.

The stovetop hat she gave Philman, as White had provided her with a hat, resembles one that Abraham Lincoln is known to have worn. She felt that was more fitting than the jester's hat. She

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then read a poem that she wrote, which compared him with Lincoln and noted some of his duties as incoming district governor.

Philman presented her with a large stemware drinking glass, with “It’s A Jungle Out There” engraved on it. Quave said the glass will hold a lot of wine, because it looks like a wine glass. Philman said it can also hold a lot of tea, either sweetened or unsweetened.

Chief Judge Robert E. Roundtree Jr., Eighth Judicial Circuit, was thanked by Philman for his help. The incoming district governor noted his realization of what he faces now.

“My priorities have always been God, family, work and Rotary,” Philman said.

He went on to say that his wife of 41 years, Jeanne, thinks that maybe Rotary has become his second priority. She has “kind of become a Rotary widow,” he said. Really though, he said, Jeanne and his granddaughter Audrey Philman are among his biggest supporters for his Rotarian work.

Philman said he tips his hat to Quave, because she is a full-time working mother who has teenagers, as well as having been the district governor for the past year.

Only parents and grandparents of teenagers can understand how difficult that job can be, he said.

“She did it all, and she did it tirelessly,” Philman said, “never losing her composure.”

District 6940 has 51 clubs with about 2,500 Rotarians, who put service above self as they help people locally, regionally and internationally, Philman said, adding that this area also has excellent assistant governors, district committee chairs and club presidents.

He touched on the theme for this year – Peace Through Service.

“Truly, peace is what we have all been seeking for ages,” he said.

Peace can be individualized, involve a family, or a community or beyond, he said. Even on a small scale, Philman added, peace is worth the effort as he concluded the meeting.