

Rotary celebrates newly chartered community club

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BROOKHAVEN

Brookhaven has a newly chartered civic club, and its members are ready to serve.

The Rotary Club of Brookhaven-Lincoln County officially became one of the latest of approximately 33,000 clubs worldwide Thursday during a charter luncheon at Mitchell's.

"This is a great occasion for our club and our community," said Terry Puckett, club president.

The local club held its first meeting last November and was able to be formally chartered once it attained a minimum of 20 members. Puckett said it was likely that Brookhaven was the largest community in the state that did not have a Rotary Club.

"It's high time we had one," he said.

Alluding to some previous attempts, visiting Rotary officials acknowledged some difficulties in getting a club up

and running in Brookhaven. They cited the strength of existing civic clubs in the community.

However, Rotary District Governor Chuck Jordan referred to the "service station principle." The theory goes that one gas station on a corner does well, but move in others and all do more business because the area gets noticed and gets more attention.

"I think that applies to Brookhaven," Jordan said. "They all are improved and all will be better."

Jordan touched on a number of Rotary Club focus areas. Its primary area is the eradication of polio, a goal that has virtually been accomplished, but also service projects to help fellow man around the world in places like Kenya.

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Photo By MATTHEW COLEMAN

Natchez Rotary Club member and Past District Governor Albert Metcalfe (left) smiles after presenting Brookhaven Rotary Club President Terry Puckett with the new club's bell Thursday during a charter luncheon at Mitchell's.

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Literacy is another main area, and Jordan said Brookhaven children will be able to participate in the club's "Between The Lions" project it pursues along with PBS. He also mentioned an upcoming South Korea study program and ambassador scholarships that allow selected students to study abroad for one year.

"It's amazing what Rotary does," Jordan said.

Puckett said the Brookhaven club would be considering what service areas and projects to focus on locally.

The Brookhaven-Lincoln County club was sponsored by the Natchez club. Natchez club president Sim Mosby congratulated the Brookhaven club's 24 charter members on their efforts to form the new organization.

"That's where the hard work has been in getting this club started," he said. "We helped but the work was here."