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## **Fort Smith Noon Exchange Club**

### **Officers and Board**

PRESIDENT	SCOTT MONROE
PRESIDENT-ELECT	BARRY MCCORMICK
IMMEDIATE PAST PRES.	BILL SAMPSON
TREASURER	PAUL ULMSCHNEIDER
SECRETARY & BULLETIN EDITOR	GARY MARCOTTE (648-2949)

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

TOMMY FOWLER (646-6902), PAUL RIVALDO (452-5246), CLAUDE LEGRIS, PAUL BRIDGES, BUDDY ACOACH, BILLY DOOLY

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### **STATISTICS FOR DEC 8, 2006:**

Presiding	Scott Monroe
Invocation	Leo Faulkner
Noon News	Jack Freeze
Guest Slips	Jerry Tomlin
50/50 Tickets	Tommy Fowler and Ruth Pitts
50/50 Winner	Gary Marcotte (returned to the club)

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Golden Deeds Banquet will be held at Fianna Hills Country Club on February 2, 2007 at 6:30pm. Tickets will be sent out with dues statements for Jan-Mar. See a club officer if you'd like a nomination form. Likewise, if you are interested in being on the secret selection committee, please see Scott Monroe.

**From the president:** On the last meeting of this year, December 15<sup>th</sup>, instead of holding a 50/50 drawing, we'll take a collection for the dedicated folks that serve as our wait staff every week at the Hall at Taliano's. Think about the good service you've received from them on dozens of Fridays in the past year, and let's be generous.

### **PROGRAM:**

Clay Roper visited with the club. He is the Executive Director of the Children's Emergency Shelter in Fort Smith. Clay's presentation was very moving; in that he described, in detail, what some children of our community go through.

The Shelter opened in 1997 with a capacity of eighteen children. They range in age from six to seventeen and can be male or female. They are now full every day. In fact, they must refuse an average of 45 kids per month because of the capacity limitations. A child may stay at the facility for up to 45 days and may return after six months. The Shelter is funded primarily by the state through the DHS system; however, the state currently funds at a rate of 13 children per day. The shortfall is made up from within the community. That support comes in many ways such as free admission to the Carmike Theater, or free supplies from Wal-Mart. Other local businesses have actually pulled together to build an addition to the facility. Fort Smith Schools even send a tutor to the shelter daily to help out with academic affairs and projects.

The actual function of the Children's Emergency Shelter is to provide a temporary home for children whose parents are unable to be present. Often, that's due to the arrest of one or both parents. The child or children are taken to the shelter where Clay says that they provide "Someone who cares". The shelter sees to it that the kids are fed, have a decent wardrobe, and get to school. They make as many as 14 different stops to various schools each morning. After school, there are chores, homework, dinner, and recreational outings.

Clay says "Thank you" to the community for its support...the community says "Thank you" to Clay, as well.

### **HUMOR:**

Yogi Berra said it: "Ya gotta be careful when ya don't know where you're going...you may not get there"

**NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM:** The Northside Highschool Choir, directed by Bill Cromer.