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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 FEBRUARY 23, 2007:**

Presiding	Scott Monroe
Invocation	Billy Dooly
Guest Slips	Paul Rivaldo
50/50 Tickets	Larry Forsgren and Don McMillan
50/50 Winner	Bud Harper
Birthday Slips	Lou Underdahl
Birthday Cake Winner	Charolette Tidwell

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Mike Helm family on the loss of his mother
- Our thoughts and prayers are also with the Engles family on the loss of their brother
- The executive board will meet on March 5, 2007 at Paul Rivaldo's home. Maps are available
- There will be no luncheon meeting on March 23, 2007. We will have a "Project Saturday" on the following day at Girls Inc.
- The PGM Golf Tournament will be held on June 8, 2007 at Ben Geren Golf Course
- Welcome to Charolette Tidwell, the Book of Golden Deeds recipient as she joined us for lunch
- Membership stands at 129

### **PROGRAM:**

Thanks go to Byron Tate, the Program Chair for February. Great job!!

What a program! Our own Claude Legris provided an update on travel in and around Fort Smith. The bottom line in that regard is that the travel industry is boasting a 10.8% increase in 2006. Claude then introduced representatives from the Marshal Service, Holiday Inn, The Nature Center and Lake Fort Smith State Park. Each spoke briefly on his/her specific area.

First, the Marshal's Museum is a definite GO, and the task group is now working with the government to get things started. Even the Governor is onboard; calling the museum a National project. It should open in about four years. Next, the manager of Holiday Inn City Center reported that his hotel is undergoing a \$6 million renovation. Work is underway with various upgrades throughout the hotel. The Director of the Nature Center informed us that visitor numbers are increasing steadily. So much so, that "school visits" are booked for the rest of the school year. They are now taking reservations for next year. She also outlined the many programs that are available. Lake Fort Smith has been closed for several years now, but is nearing completion of the renovations there. The lake is filling. The Group Lodge and the Visitor Center are complete. Contracts are being let for the swimming pool and other projects. The park is expected to open in five to six months.

This was a great program; giving us good news regarding a wide range of projects spurring our local economy. Thanks, Claude!

**HUMOR:** Last Tuesday, as President Bush got off the helicopter in front of the White House, he was carrying a baby piglet under each arm.

The squared away Marine guard snaps to attention, salutes and says: "Nice pigs, sir."

The President replies "These are not pigs. These are authentic Arkansas Razorback Hogs. I got one for Senator Hillary Clinton and I got one for Speaker of The House Nancy Pelosi."

The squared away Marine again snaps to attention, salutes and says, "Excellent trade, sir."

### **FUTURE PROGRAMS:**

- 3/2 "Assisted Living" by Linda Short
- 3/9 "FCA" by Bob Lever