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## Fifty five years of pancakes

The Florence Kiwanis Club has now hosted fifty five years of pancake events as the club's major fund raiser. Though it is a highly attended Florence event now, its' beginning might have predicted early failure. Master pancake ticket salesman Jerry Landrum recalled that the first Pancake Day was held in a vacant building which later became Blevins' Furniture. Electric skillets were used for frying sausage and found insufficient to meet the large crowd's appetite. Several cafes were asked to help fry sausage and Jerry remembered two grills for pancakes. For many years the event was hosted at the First Presbyterian Church building. In 1996 it was moved to the Florence Lauderdale Coliseum and realized tremendous growth. We now use fourteen grills for pancakes and an electric oven for sausage and still have difficulty keeping up with the crowd. It's a great social event for the city. It brings families and friends together around sixty five tables in a relaxed atmosphere to enjoy their meal. We often recognize the same people coming Friday and Saturday. Repeatedly, the event raises substantial funds "to change the world, one child and one community at a time."

Such an event depends upon hard working dedicated club members, volunteers, and sponsors. Excluding preliminary work, over 1200 service hours are needed for this day and a half event. Special thanks go to the pancake committee of 2006. Sylvester, Mickey, John Williams and Ernest Brothers managed procuring supplies. Jim Sak and Grand Rentals Station moved equipment into place. Tom and Don notified the community of the event. Peter and Sylvester recruited volunteers and club members to work. John Soileau and Tom McReynolds distributed tickets to club members and Andy solicited ticket sponsorship. Pat and Ivan managed the money. Thank you, Maxie for hosting the committee meetings.

When he was President, Sylvester recognized members who sold over \$500 of tickets by reserving one table designed as the "Big Boys Table". With a couple of price increases since that time, qualifications for the "Big Boys Table" should be \$1,000. Our sales leader for 2006 was Andy Betterton, whose sales totaled \$4,173. Great job, Andy. Don Rohling followed with \$3,090; Jimmy Ray Stanfield with \$2102; Bobby Watkins with \$1884; Sylvester White with \$1679; and David Beasley with \$1600. Eight other members sold over \$500.

Assuming there is always a better way, several suggestions for improvement were offered at a recent meeting. These will be included in a manual David Beasley is preparing for the committee of 2007.

Mark your calendar for March 2-3, 2007.

Thank you, Kiwanians for a job well done.

David B. Beasley  
Vice President

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