

Drumright gets Legislative Up-date

June 15, 2012

At Friday's Drumright Rotary Club's meeting, Rotarian, Dick Seeberger, introduced guest of honor, Senator, Brian Bingman. Senator Bingman serves as the Senator Pro Tem for Oklahoma and visited our club to provide an up-date of Oklahoma's recent Legislative session.

Senator Bingman reminded everyone that primary elections are on June 26th. He has been using his time to show support for incumbents and assisting with various fund raisers.



L to R: Dick Seeberger, Brian Bingman

The main items that were on the agenda during the Legislative session involved lawsuit reform and worker's compensation reform. Also on the agenda, were discussions on creating an environment conducive to attracting new businesses and growing job opportunities for Oklahomans. Senator Bingman talked about how Oklahoma's economy has been very blessed by the Oil and Gas Industry, and the Senate is working to promote all sectors of industry in Oklahoma.

One of the changes that came from the Legislative session was a drop in state income tax from 5.5% to 5.25%. Bingman mentioned that tax credit reform will be discussed in up-coming sessions. This will be the opportunity to review, keep or remove any tax credits that are currently available – all in an effort to provide the best economic environment for Oklahomans. Any savings from tax credits can be used to reduce income tax further.

Consolidation and efficiency is one of the goals and the Senate has been hard at work with various state agencies to help meet that goal. "We are stronger than what we were last year", says Bingman, referring to Oklahoma's state budget. This year, money didn't have to be shifted around to help fill gaps.

According to Bingman, several pieces of legislation were not ready by the end of the session and will be looked at next year. At that time, the Senate will re-visit tax reform, worker's compensation reform and other important issues as well.

Senator Bingman talked about our wonderful state. Oklahoma has a low cost of living, is one of the friendliest states, maintains a balanced budget, and is considered one of the top places to retire.

Thank you Senator Bingman for visiting our club, we look forward to having you visit again.

Our other guests included Jimmie Cook of Drumright; Sandy Perry of Drumright; Dick Seeberger's daughter-in-law and grandson, Pat and Phillip Seeberger, from Cushing; and Judy Robinson, LaDonna Gear, Stephanie Pool, Anita Reynolds, Bruce McKinzie and Robert McClanahan from Central Tech.

Please join us at Friday's meeting for our annual Leadership Installation Ceremony, beginning at 11:30 at Joseph's Fine Foods.

If you would like more information about Drumright Rotary Club, please contact us on our FaceBook page, Drumright Rotary Club, or go to our website www.wix.com/drumrightrotary/drumrightrotary.

Written by Jena Drake, Rotarian