

MARCH 1, 2016

DISTRICT 6840



# SPOKES

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

## 2015-2016 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Sean Priebe, *President*

Jaclyn Adams, *President-Elect*

Brett Phillips, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Lamar Evans, *Executive Secretary*

Wes Brooks, *Past President*

Dan Davis

Tracie Fowler

Faye Gilbert

Ryan Kelly

Bill MacLauchlan

Mike Ratliff

Rotary Club of

Hattiesburg

629 N. Main St.

Hattiesburg, MS 39402

**L-R: Sean Priebe; our guest, Mikal Dickerson and Wes Brooks.**



## MINUTES: February 23, 2016

President Sean Priebe presided over the meeting. Thanks to Allen Anderson who gave the invocation and to Holt McMullan who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Thanks to Jonathan Shemper and Bill McLeod who served as our greeters today.

Jaclyn Adams then introduced today's visiting Rotarian. Robert Harrison is attending from the Gulfport club. There are no other guests.

Our Mystery Rotarian only attended public school for 12 weeks. He was a hyperactive child and was homeschooled by his mom. At age 19 he was working for the Associated Press. At 21 he married his first wife. He moved to New York and developed his first invention which was an improvement to the stock ticker. Several years later he set up a small laboratory and manufacturing facility in Newark, NJ and became an independent entrepreneur. This Rotarian perfected the phonograph, was granted a patent for the light bulb and founded a company that would later become the General Electric Company. This Rotarian was heard to say, "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." Today's Mystery Rotarian of course is Thomas Edison who was a member of the Rotary Club of Orange, NJ.

Sean noted that Rotarian Tracie Fowler served as the Grand Marshal of this year's Coke Classic Rodeo and was mentioned in their coverage. It was also noted that she is a Rotarian.

Sean then recognized Robert Harrison and invited him to speak on behalf of the Boy Scouts. Robert reported that the Eagle Scout Recognition Banquet is scheduled for the USM Campus on March 11 at 6:30 p.m. All of the new Eagle Scouts will be introduced and welcomed during the event. If you are interested in attending, call 601-582-2326 for ticket information.

Wes Brooks then introduced today's guest speaker, Mikal Dickerson. Mikal is originally from Louisville, MS and was impressed with the Rotarians in a club in his hometown. He moved to

the Hattiesburg area approximately 10 years ago and plans to stay as long as possible.

He created HubCitylife.com which is a website designed to tell the Hattiesburg story. Originally the site focused on local restaurants but continues to expand as the stories of our city expand. Telling our story is important according to Mikal, especially as we continue our efforts of communicating with the Millennials and the Gen-Xers who will drive commerce for the next thirty to forty years.

Mikal says he learned a very valuable lesson from his football coach in college. That lesson is, "everything you do matters." As a community he challenged us to be willing to accept that everything we do individually and as a community matters. Every time we engage other people those engagements matter. In some instances those engagements can even be life changing. A single conversation changed Mikal's life and made it possible for he and his wife to grow their future in Hattiesburg.

Are we asking the right questions of each other? He suggests that, as a community, we may want to focus our questions of each other to make Hattiesburg's future more viable.

Do we have the necessary infrastructure to compete in the technological revolution? Are we creating jobs and opportunities for the new economy and the new generation? Are we marketing our potential to companies who can bring hundreds and perhaps thousands of in-servicing jobs into our economy?

These are some of the questions he suggests that we begin asking and answering as a city.

Sean thanked Mikal for his presentation and reminded Rotarians of a few upcoming events. These and other events are listed on the SPOKES. The District Conference is set for April 7 – 10 in Biloxi. April 28 is the date for Night in Italy. The Bike-a-Thon is set for September 24.

**Minutes courtesy of:  
Lamar Evans, Executive Secretary**



## MIKE LOPINTO FESTIVAL SOUTH

Mike Lopinto is a Pine Belt arts icon. At Southern Miss, he coordinated events with classical celebrities from Plácido Domingo, Renée Fleming, and Sir James Galway to pop icons Dionne Warwick, the Pointer Sisters, and Patti LaBelle as well as designing and directing the award-winning Symphony Galas and later, the Arts Galas. He is the PR/Marketing and Event Coordinator for the School of Music, artistic director of FestivalSouth® and founder of The Hub City Players.

A true Renaissance man, he has written, directed, music directed, designed sets and lighting for numerous productions, most recently directing Showbiz Showstoppers (2014), Sweeney Todd (2013) and the upcoming production of Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's Mary Poppins for the School of Music. He also directed Sondheim in the City in its Off-Broadway premiere in 2011. On stage, his theatrical credits include Les Misérables (Thenardier), Hairspray! (Edna Turnblad), The Producers (Roger DeBris); Disney's Beauty and the Beast (Cogsworth), Cats (Old Deuteronomy), Annie (Daddy Warbucks), Carousel (Mr. Snow) and many more.

His voice can be heard at all Southern Miss games as "The Voice of The Pride" and on commercials across the South.

**NEXT WEEK**

**EXTRA  
TABLE**



**April 2**  
**Downtown Hattiesburg**

SOUTHERN BEVERAGE PRESENTS

**Over the  
EDGE**

## UPCOMING

**MARCH 8:** EXTRA TABLE, OVER THE EDGE

**MARCH 29:** TOUR OF THE CHILDREN'S CENTER

**JULY 7-19:** ROTARY TRIP TO DISTRICT 5360, CALGARY STAMPEDE

**MARCH 4-6:** OLE MAN RIVER PETS

**APRIL 7-10:** DISTRICT CONFERENCE

**MAY 28—JUNE 1:** ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION (SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA)

# a night in Italy



The Children's Center

FOR COMMUNICATION AND DEVELOPMENT

April 26

**BIKE-A-THON**  
ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG



SEPTEMBER 24, 2014