

# 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 39401



2016 ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

*Night in Italy  
for  
The Children's Center*



## MINUTES: APRIL 26, 2016

President Sean Priebe presided over the meeting. Thanks to Wes Brooks who gave the invocation and to Tracie Fowler who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Thanks to Aaron Ladner and Mary Cromartie who served as our greeters today.

Sean introduced and welcomed Dean Cromartie the husband of Mary Cromartie, Greg Holifield the guest of Joey Johnson and Jerry Buti our visiting Rotation from the Sunrise Club.

Wes Brooks filled in today for Jaclyn Adams with our mystery Rotarian. This Rotarian is a native of Hattiesburg, Mississippi and graduated from Jackson State University with a Bachelor in Business Administration majoring in Marketing. He worked in the media before taking his current position today. He was appointed to Southwestern Province Chapter Certification Team in 1999 and was Mississippi Alumni Brother of the Year in 2009. Today's mystery Rotarian is Jerome Brown.

Sean then reminded members that next Tuesday is the Night-in-Italy event and circulated volunteer sign-up sheets for a few more positions that need to be filled. There will not be a lunch meeting next week.

Sean stated that Wes is ready to hand over the Spokes weekly newsletter to someone else. A volunteer is needed. Wes will sit down with the person and show them how to create the newsletter and will go through a few trials runs with them. We are always getting great reviews at conference about how wonderful our newsletter is.

Dan Davis then introduced today's guest speaker, The Honorable Eugene "Gene" L. Fair, Jr., Mississippi Court of Appeals, Associate Judge. Judge Fair previously served for five years as a chancellor on the 10th Chancery Court and has been the Court of Appeals Judge since 2012. He gave us the breakdown of the Judicial System.

The **MS Supreme Court** is the last resort among state courts. Decisions of the Chancery, Circuit and County Courts and of the Court of Appeals may be appealed to the Supreme Court. Some of these include death penalty cases, disciplinary matters involving attorneys and judges and election contests. Each Supreme Court justice participates in deciding appeals from the entire state. Decisions are by a majority vote of the court.

The **Court of Appeals** hears cases assigned by the Supreme Court. It hears and decides appeals on issues in which the law is already settled, but the facts are in dispute. The Mississippi Legislature created the Court of Appeals to speed appeals and relieve a backlog of cases before the Supreme Court.

**Circuit Courts** hear felony criminal prosecutions and civil lawsuits. Trials are heard with a 12-member jury and usually one or two alternate jurors. A judge may preside without a jury if the dispute is a question of law rather than fact.

**Chancery Courts** have jurisdiction over disputes in matters involving equity; domestic matters including adoptions, custody disputes and divorces; guardianships. Trials are typically heard by a chancellor without a jury.

**County Courts** have exclusive jurisdiction over eminent domain proceedings and juvenile matters. County Courts may handle non-capital felony cases transferred from Circuit Court. County Court judges may issue search warrants, set bond and preside over preliminary hearings.

**Justice Courts** have jurisdiction over small claims civil cases involving amounts of \$3,500 or less, misdemeanor criminal cases and any traffic offense that occurs outside a municipality.

**Drug Courts** are special courts that address crimes committed by persons addicted to drugs or alcohol. Drug courts offer the incentive of a chance to remain out of jail and be employed, and the sanction of a jail sentence if participants fail to remain drug-free and in compliance with all program requirements. As of October 2011, 42 Drug Courts were in operation in Mississippi.

**Municipal courts** have jurisdiction over misdemeanor crimes, municipal ordinances and city traffic violations.

The **Youth Courts** deal with matters involving abuse and neglect of juveniles, as well as offenses committed by juveniles.

For a listing of the Appellate Court Directory, please go to:

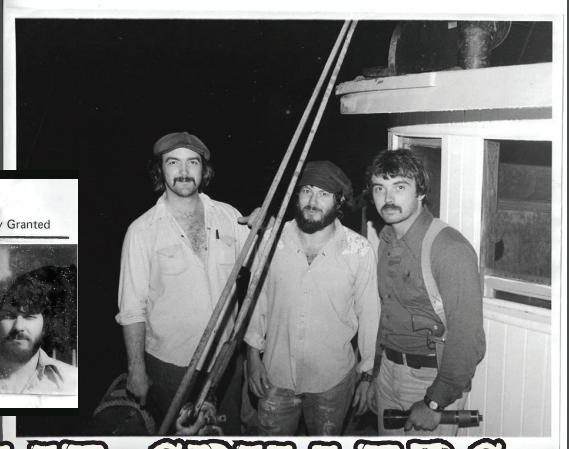
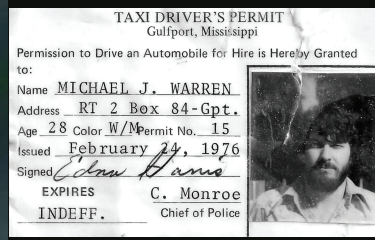
<https://courts.ms.gov/appellatedirectory/appellatedirectory.pdf>

Minutes provided by:

Lamar Evans, Executive Secretary



# OUR GUEST



## CHARLIE SPILLERS

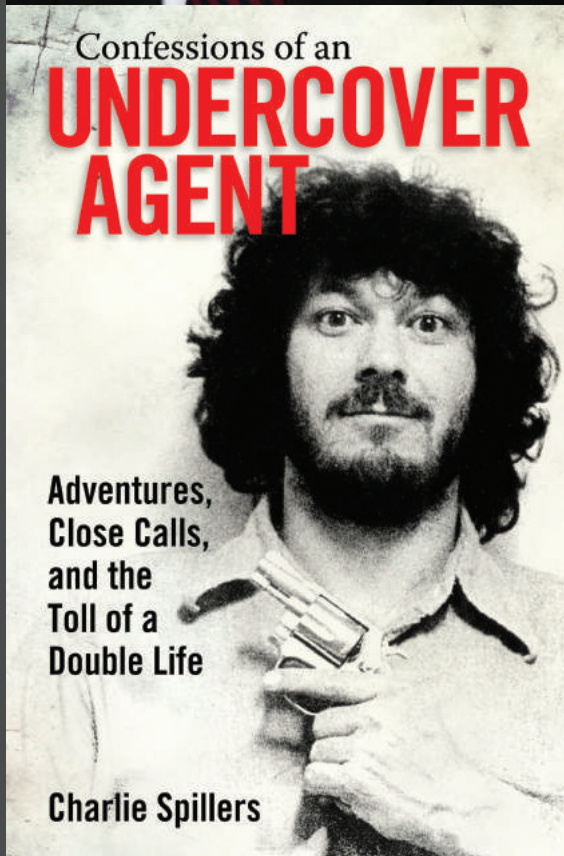
Charlie Spillers of Oxford, Mississippi, a former career federal prosecutor, is the author of "Confessions of an Undercover Agent: Adventures, Close Calls, and the Toll of a Double Life" published by University Press of Mississippi. The book describes his experiences during a decade of undercover crime fighting and narrow escapes.

As a young officer with the Baton Rouge Police department, ex-Marine Charlie Spillers went undercover to infiltrate criminal groups. During almost six years undercover his closest associates were safecrackers, burglars and drug traffickers. But the longer he worked, the greater the risks. His final and perhaps most significant action in Baton Rouge was leading a battle against corruption.

After Baton Rouge, he joined the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics and for the next five years continued working undercover, from the Gulf Coast to Memphis; and from New Orleans to Houston, Texas. Playing different roles and adopting multiple identities, he infiltrated drug trafficking groups, auto theft rings, and Mafia and Mexican drug smuggling operations. During his last undercover operation, drug smugglers delivered 3,000 pounds of marijuana to him in Houston, Texas.

He capped off a unique career by becoming a career federal prosecutor stationed in Oxford. While with the Department of Justice (DOJ), he volunteered and served three tours in Iraq. First as an attorney-advisor to the Iraqi High Tribunal, the court that tried Saddam Hussein, Chemical Ali and other high level regime members. He then served as the Justice Attaché for Iraq and led a joint project to disrupt al Qaeda terrorist financing.

His work related to Iraq was recognized by the British Ambassador, the FBI Director, the President of the Iraqi High Tribunal, the DOJ Deputy Attorney General, the First Secretary of the Italian Embassy, the British Ambassador and Britain's Minister of State for the Armed Forces.





## UPCOMING

### 2016 ROTARY DISTRICT TRAINING ASSEMBLY—MAY 14

*FOR INCOMING CLUB PRESIDENTS AND YOUR TEAM, BE SURE TO COME TO THE DISTRICT TRAINING ASSEMBLY*

The one thing that past Club Presidents have told the District over and over again, is that they want the District to provide better practical help to them and their club's leadership. That is what the District Training Assembly has been created for: Fast, practical help.

There will be breakout sessions for:

- Incoming Presidents and Strategic Planning/Visioning Chairs
- Secretaries and Treasurers
- Foundation Chairs, Annual Giving Chairs, PolioPlus Chairs, Fund-raising Chairs
- Membership Chairs
- Youth Service, Youth Exchange, Interact, Rotaract, and RYLA Chairs
- Public Relations Chairs
- Service Chairs: Community, Vocational, International
- Program Chairs, Club Service Chairs
- Rotary's 100 Days of Service.

And there will also be the last chance to attend the Foundation Grant Seminar which qualifies clubs to submit a District Grant request.

There will also be a Strategic Planning session to begin the process of creating a District long-range plan for 2017-18.

