

ROTARY DISTRICT CONFERENCE MAY 7 TH - 9 TH

NOTES FROM THE MONTHLY BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 27...

1. Nominating Committee appointed and headed up by Freddy Walter to select the recipient for the non-Rotarian Paul Harris Fellow and the Rotarian of the year.
2. Approved for membership; Janis Touchstone, Wes Brooks, and Lance Nail.
3. Contributions approved as follows: Presbyterian Christian School Forensics-\$100; Association for Retarded Citizens-Summer Program-\$600; American Legion Boy's and Girls State-\$475; booth cost for Water Project Event at Hub Fest-\$250
4. We have raised approximately \$411 in our Pennies for Polio drive and need to finish strong until the end of the Rotary year to meet our goal.
5. R3SM House dedication will be this Thursday at 9:00 A.M. at the house on Katie St. Let's have a good turn-out for this.
6. We held our meeting at the Children's Center for Communication and Development at USM and observed this great program for children at work.

BEAR, A BOOK, AND A BAG LITERACY PROJECT has been completed with the help of many. Thanks to those volunteers who helped deliver the books and read to the students at Hawkins Elementary. Dr. Annie Wimbish worked with Perrin Lowery and together they made this a successful project. Hattiesburg Rotary received coverage from all the local press including WDAM, WHLT and The Hattiesburg American. Job Well Done!

R3SM DEDICATION CEREMONY

Everyone is invited to attend the dedication ceremony this Thursday at 9:00 am. Patrick Ward has done a tremendous job of coordinating all the subcontractors and representing Rotary. Thanks Patrick! The R3SM House is located at 701 Katie Ave. Hattiesburg.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE is May 7-8th. For a complete list of all the events and registrations visit the district web site at rotary6840.org. See Erin Granberry to volunteer to participate in our club's skit. Our theme is Court TV.

District Conference Raffle tickets are available for \$5 each. A Blue Dog screen print will be raffled off to one lucky person. See Maura to purchase tickets. You do not need to be present to win.

THE NIGHT IN ITALY fundraiser was a huge success! Hattiesburg Rotary and The Children's Center along with many wonderful volunteers served 270 in the dining room and 917 meals were picked up to-go. A total of 1,187 meals were served. We have not yet tallied the total funds raised. For those Members who have not paid for their tickets, please do so as soon as possible so that we can pay for our expenses for the event and deliver a check to the Children's Center.

The Children's Center hosted the Rotary Board meeting yesterday and Margaret Brinegar expressed her gratitude for Rotary and all that has been accomplished with the funds that have been donated. The Board toured the Children's Center and was impressed with the work that they are doing to help children and their families.

Special Thanks to many individuals and businesses for their support:

For displaying our event on their outdoor signs: Citizens Bank of Meridian, The First Bank and Wesley Hospital.

Special Thanks to Greg Buie and Brown's Bottling for supplying the drinks and our banners.

Larry LeBlanc and Southland Florist donated our lovely flowers.

Community Coffee donated our tea.

CBS22/WHLT and Hattiesburg American for being our Media Sponsors.

We would especially like to thank Lisa Gunter, Frank and Jimmy Cade with Southern Oaks for hosting our event and for all their support with the food preparation and service.

Thanks to all the Rotary and Children's Center volunteers.

Spokes

April 28, 2009
www.hattiesburgrotary.com

District 6840

Club Number 04003

Organized 1918

ROTARY YEAR 2008-2009

OFFICERS

RICHARD TOPP
President

MARY CROMARTIE
President-Elect

A.D. HUNT
Vice-President

KRIS KING
Secretary - Treasurer

LAMAR EVANS
Executive Secretary

HEATH HILLMAN
Sergeant-At-Arms

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Term Expiring - June 30, 2009

Todd Bradley
Kristy Gould
Perrin Lowrey
Bill McLeod

Past President:
Freddy Walter

Term Expiring - June 30, 2010

Robert Cummings
Maura McLaughlin
Steve Ramp
Erik Graham

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Official Newsletter of the

ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

P.O. Box 15185
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39404

A CENTURY OF SERVICE



A NEW CENTURY OF SUCCESS

“SERVICE ABOVE SELF”

MINUTES FROM 4/14/2009

President Richard Topp presided over the meeting.

Dan Kibodeaux gave the invocation. Tom Potter led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance. Richard Topp then led members in the Rotary Four Way Test.

Heath Hillman and introduced today's visiting Rotarians and guests.

Jack Gay attended from the Petal Club.

Janice Touchstone was a guest of Jaclyn Adams.

Dan Davis was a guest of Dan Kibodeaux.

Wes Brooks and Margaret Brinegar were guests of Valerie Sartin.

Bebe McLeod and Rachel Quave were guests of Bill McLeod.

Members were reminded that the regular lunch meeting will not take place next Tuesday. Everyone is invited to attend the Night in Italy event that evening. All remaining tickets need to be sold prior to the event. Margaret Brinegar invited Club members to attend their 35th anniversary open house scheduled for this Thursday afternoon.

Bill Oliver was introduced and reported that he will be retiring from Forrest General Hospital later this year. He introduced and welcomed as a new Rotary member Evan Dillard. Evan was then installed by Richard Topp.

Perrin Lowrey reported that the Bears and Books project is about to be completed. A total of 106 books will be on display at the Night in Italy event. Members are encouraged to write a personal note of encouragement to the students who will receive the books. The project will conclude next Friday at Hawkins Elementary School. Club members are encouraged to be in attendance and read from the books to the students.

A speedy recovery is wished for Steve Ramp who underwent surgery recently.

LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Ric Corts then introduced today's guest speaker, Dr. Doug Rouse, a member of the state's Institutions of Higher Learning board. Dr. Rouse was appointed to the ten year position in May 2008. The IHL board appointments are made by the Governor, therefore

the board consists of members appointed by the sitting and the most recent past Governor. Dr. Rouse noted that he is pleased to be working with the Interim Commissioner of Higher Education, Dr. Aubrey Lucas.

According to Dr. Rouse, although our state is the poorest in the nation, we support eight public universities. An effort was made in the 1980's to consolidate the universities but was blocked in the legislature. Dr. Rouse doesn't think the issue will come before lawmakers anytime in the near future. The state legislature controls the budgets and the number of institutions of higher education.

Our state lags other states by 10% in the number of college graduates. Dr. Rouse believes that our state's economy would improve as would our ranking in many measurements if we were to increase that number. In order to do that, he insists that we will have to create a culture of learning that will give our children the ability to compete nationally and sometimes internationally in the job market. According to Dr. Rouse, a college graduate can expect to earn approximately one million dollars more than a non-graduate in his or her lifetime.

With the passage of the Children's First Act, students in K-12 grades have an improved chance of obtaining an improved education. Additionally, the state legislature has provided excellent funding opportunities for the state's junior college system. Dr. Rouse says it is time for the legislature to address state funding of the institutions of higher learning. As an example, he reports that in the 1980's approximately 50% of the state university's budgets consisted of state appropriations. In 2009 that number has dropped to approximately 25%. In order to provide adequate operating resources, the IHL has had to approve tuition increases to offset the difference. Dr. Rouse says those increases have eliminated some students from every being able to afford a college education.

At a recent retreat, IHL board members adopted three goals. Goal number one is to graduate more students. Goal number two is to retain more of the graduates in Mississippi and goal number three is to recruit and keep talented teachers. Dr. Rouse maintains that out state and our younger generation would be much more competitive if we could achieve college graduation rates close to the Southeastern Average. He insists that such a goal will not be accomplished until the legislature puts more focus on higher education.

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

Elected in November 2007, the Honorable C. Delbert Hosemann, Jr. serves as Mississippi's seventh Secretary of State since 1900.

Secretary Hosemann is committed to serving the public with open and fair government. In the short time since he was elected, he has worked tirelessly to ensure the integrity of Mississippi's vote, ethically manage state lands to guarantee the future for our children, and make our State more business-friendly and attractive for economic development.

Secretary Hosemann has long served the citizens of the State of Mississippi. Delbert was Chairman of the Board of Mississippi Blood Services and Treasurer of the Jackson Medical Mall Association and served on the Board of Directors for Jackson State University Development Foundation. He was a Paul Harris Fellow and is a member of the North Jackson Rotary Club. Some of his accolades include the George L. Phillips Community Service Award from the US Department of Justice in appreciation for his distinguished service as Chairman of Project Safe Neighborhoods, and for his efforts in the Hurricane Katrina First Responder Assistance Project. Delbert was also awarded the J. Tate Thigpen Award for exemplary leadership, support, and commitment to the American Red Cross.

In his spare time, Secretary Hosemann is an avid hunter and marathoner. He belongs to the National Rifle Association, Delta Wildlife Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, and the Mississippi Wildlife Federation. He has completed both the New York Marathon and the Boston Marathon and represented Mississippi in the Senior Olympics

Raised in Warren County, Mississippi, Secretary Hosemann comes to the position with a background in Business and Taxation Law. He has his undergraduate degree in Business from Notre Dame, a law degree from Ole Miss, and a Masters of Laws in Taxation from New York University. He is a former partner of Phelps Dunbar, LLP and was selected to the Best Lawyers in America for 18 consecutive years. Secretary Hosemann also served his country in the United States Army Reserves.

Delbert has been married to his wife, Lynn, for 38 years. They are extremely proud of their three children: Kristen, Chad, and Mark; and granddaughters Grace and Nora Lynn

IMPORTANT DATES

Tues 4/27 Delbert Hoseman, MS Secretary of State
Thurs 4/29 9:00 am R3SM House Dedication
May 7-9 District Conference - Bay St. Louis
June 21-24 International Convention
Birmingham, England

Meeting Dates for Area Clubs

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>
Bay Springs - 12:00	Columbia - 12:00	Clinton - 12:00	Madison-Ridgeland - 12:00
City Hall	The Backdoor Restaurant	Baptist Health Plex	Steam Room Grill I55 N
Bolton - 7:30	Flowood - 12:00	Gluckstadt - 12:00	Jackson
Methodist Church	River Oaks Hospital	Parker House Restaurant	Taylorville - 12:00
Collins - 12:00	Laurel - 12:00	Hattiesburg Sunrise - 7:00	MS Power Co. Building
Cedars Restaurant	Laurel Country Club	Wesley Medical Center Cafeteria	Wiggins - 12:00
Ellisville - 12:00	North Jackson - 12:00	Heidelberg - 12:00	Gulf Coast C.C. Cafeteria
J.C.J.C. Cafeteria	St. James	Library	
Jackson - 12:00	Episcopal Church	Poplarville - 12:00	
MS Museum of Art		Pearl River C.C. Cafeteria	<i>Friday</i>
Lucedale - 12:00		Richton - 12:00	Rankin County - 12:00
MS Gulf Coast Community		Magnolia Restaurant	Rankin Co. Med. Ctr. Annex
College Cafeteria		Waynesboro - 12:00	Slidell, LA - 12:00
Petal - 12:00		Western Sizzlin	Pinewood Country Club
Civic Center		Prentiss - 12:00	
South Hinds County - 12:00		Country Fisherman	
BoDons Catfish & Seafood			