

MEET TODAY'S SPEAKER

Dr. Mark H. Yeager

Often referred to as the "Father of the Mississippi Autism Movement", Dr. Mark H. Yeager has been in service to persons with autism spectrum disorders and other related intellectual and developmental disabilities since 1975. His experiences range from being a classroom teacher to a program developer creating new and innovative community based programs. He is a Co-Founder of TEAAM Autism and the Founder and Director of The Center Ridge Outpost, the Country's only totally inclusive summer camp for youth and adults with autism spectrum disorders. Dr. Yeager has dedicated his professional career to bettering the opportunities for families affected by autism spectrum disorders through his advocacy and leadership in this field.

Dr. Yeager is considered the foremost authority in the State of Mississippi on the topic of autism spectrum disorders; however, his contributions are not limited to Mississippi. He is the author of the Autism Bill of Rights, a document that guides the service delivery system in the United States as to the obligation they have in serving individuals with autism spectrum disorders. He is also the lyricist for "A Life with a Different View", an autism awareness anthem that is used to promote a broad understanding of the challenges and hope for persons diagnosed with an autism spectrum.

Dr. Yeager presently serves as the Executive Director of TEAAM Autism and the Director of Program Practice for Dore USA. He is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and has served as a adjunct professor both at the University of Southern Mississippi and William Carey University. Dr. Yeager developed and taught the first classes solely dedicated to the topic of autism spectrum disorders at any Mississippi institution of higher learning. His teachings are greatly sought after and include a lecture series provided to the Minister of Education of India and program practitioners in the United Kingdom. In addition to his many lecture offerings and presentations, Dr. Yeager is published in fourteen languages and consults with schools, universities and other autism programs across the United States.

Dr. Yeager and his wife, Bridgette, have five children, two girls, Tiffani and Jordan and three boys, Garrett, Mason and Drew and two granddaughters, Carsyn and Lynnlee. The Yeager's reside in Smith County, Mississippi and work as a family to further the opportunities and causes for persons with an autism spectrum disorder.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Valencia Williamson is being proposed for membership by Mike Ratliff. She was a Rotarian in the DeFiniak Springs Club.

Chase Munro and Curtis Smith were inducted last week. Please take a moment to welcome them.. Curtis is a lawyer and Chase works for the Red Cross. They were both sponsored by Bill McLeod.



Spokes

April 3, 2012
www.hattiesburgrotary.com

District 6840

Club Number 04003

Organized 1918

ROTARY YEAR
2012-2013

OFFICERS

ROBERT CUMMINGS
President

MAURA MCLAUGHLIN
President-Elect

PATRICK WARD
Vice-President

SCOTT HUMMEL
Secretary – Treasurer

LAMAR EVANS
Executive Secretary

SEAN PRIEBE
Sergeant-at-arms

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jaclyn Adams
Wes Brooks
Bill MacLauchlan
James Duncan
Dan Kibodeaux
Lucy Parkman
Jennifer Payne
Janice Touchstone

Past President:
Bill McLeod

SPOKES Editor
Aime Spears
aspears@whlt.com

Official Newsletter of the

ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

A CENTURY OF SERVICE



A NEW CENTURY OF SUCCESS

“SERVICE ABOVE SELF”

MINUTES FROM 03/27/12

President Robert Cummings, Jr. presided over the meeting.

Thanks to Scott Hummel, who gave today's invocation. Also, thanks to Bill McLeod who led the Club in the Pledge of Allegiance. Robert then led members in the Four Way Test. Thanks to Wes Brooks and Stan Causey for serving as today's greeters.

Sean Priebe welcomed today's guests and visiting Rotarians. David McPhail is visiting from the Sunrise Club. Bill McLeod has Andreas Moffett as his guest.

Chris Price then gave members an update on the Night in Italy event. Volunteer sign-ups are going well, however, if you've not picked a time to work, please do so soon. In an effort to have more money to contribute the club will be assuming more of the labor involved in the event and saving money that would have been paid to Southern Oaks staff. Chris also noted that a new t-shirt will be sold for \$15 this year. When you sign up to volunteer and put your shirt size on the form you can be expected to be billed \$15 for the shirt. Again, this effort is aimed at raising more money for charity. The Night In Italy event is scheduled for the evening of April 17th. The club will not have its regular monthly meeting that day. Tickets have been distributed. If you have not received your tickets, see Chris or David Owens. Anyone who has tickets that will not be used is encouraged to give those tickets to Chris. They will be provided to a family from the Children Center that may not be able to afford tickets.

Patrick Ward reported more details about the April 27 ARC respite service and social event. More details about this event will be provided in the quarterly billing statements.

Patrick also announced that this year's golf tournament will be held at Timberton on a Friday in September.

Maura McLaughlin encouraged club members to purchase at least two of the District's raffle tickets prior to this year's District Conference. The money raised from the raffle is used to fund the District and to provide matching grants to local clubs.

Wes Brooks reported that the deadline for RYLA scholarship nominations is April 1. See Wes for details. He is also accepting applications for the Grover Anderson Scholarship.

The GSE team will arrive in the Hattiesburg area in late April and early May. If you're interested in hosting the team, please see Robert Cummings.

Tracie Fowler then introduced today's guest speaker, ADP President Chad Newell.

Chad thanked the Rotary Club for the many service projects provided to the area and for the club's ADP membership. He encouraged more active involvement in ADP events and activities.

The ADP is the community and economic development "chamber of commerce" for Lamar, Forrest and Perry counties. Sumrall, Hattiesburg and Petal are also members. The program has a 1.4 million dollar budget and currently employs six people. Seventy-one percent of the budget comes from the private sector while the remaining 29% comes from the public sector. Above and beyond the operating budget the ADP raised 2.4 million dollars in a recent 5-year campaign. That money is being used specifically to attract new industries and businesses to the area.

The ADP recently unveiled a new website, theadp.com. Chad reports that the new site has generated several new unsolicited memberships.

The ADP is involved in several programs and event. The Hub Fest scheduled for March 31 is expected to see twenty to thirty thousand visitors to the downtown area. The fun festival is expected to have a significant economic impact on area businesses.

Leadership Pine Belt is the ADP leadership development program. Twenty young and upcoming area citizens are selected to participate in the program each year. The twenty candidates will develop three major projects in the area. The purpose of Leadership Pine Belt is to groom new leaders for the future.

The ADP also provides loans to small businesses. A total of 265-thousand dollars have been loaned to new businesses. All of these businesses are creating new employment opportunities in the area. A total of forty projects were tracked in the ADP's area last year with a projected spending of seven-hundred-thirty-eight million dollars and creating one-thousand-three hundred new jobs.

In 2011 the Hattiesburg market landed two of the six largest development projects in the state. The Stion Corporation is investing one-hundred-twenty-five million dollars and has already hired one-hundred-and-twenty people.

Our unemployment rate is now at 8.8% compared to 10% statewide. The 8.8% rate is the same as the rate for the entire United States. Our cost of living is at 96.2% of the national average and our housing prices are at 77.1% of the national average. Stable growth continues in the Hattiesburg area according to Chad. He expects that to continue due to the diversity of our economy and our quality of life.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SMALL BUSINESS LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON

MAY 2, 2012

HONORING THE LATE RICHARD JONES

The late Rotarian Richard "Pepper" Jones is being recognized at the Small Business Leadership Award Luncheon on May 2. Annie Jones will receive the recognition in his honor. The luncheon is co-hosted each year by William Carey University and the ADP.

If you would like to contribute the scholarship that is being established in his name, you may write a check to William Carey University with "Richard Jones Scholarship" in the memo line.

You may also give to the scholarship online at www.wmcarey.edu/givingtocarey. If you would like to attend the luncheon call 601-318-6231. Tickets are \$25.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| April 3 | Dr. Mark Yeager
Autism Awareness Month |
| April 10 | Sarah Newton Albert and Associates'
Renovation of Beauvoir after Katrina |
| Apr 17 | Night In Italy - (All members sign-up
to help with this event) |
| Apr 19-21 | District Conference - Metairie |
| April 24 | Dr. Steve Stogner
FGH Intensivist Program |
| Apr 27 | ARC Respite Night - Member
Social to follow at the Parkman's |
| Apr 30-May 2 | Group Study Exchange Team visits |

REMINDERS

5th Annual Rotary Club of Hattiesburg-Sunrise 5K Run/Walk Longleaf Trace, April 21, 2012, 8:00 am. Contact Nadine Archuleta 601-268-5035.

Night in Italy tickets are being distributed. Sign up for as a volunteer. Now pre-ordering for T-Shirts \$15. See Chris Price or David Owens for details.

Maura McLaughlin is leading our club's sign up for District Conference April 19-21. See Maura to purchase district raffle tickets.

Our club will sponsor an ARC Respite Night April 27 and have a member social at the Parkman's following. Activities will include serving the kids dinner and play time following.

We are accepting RYLA applications. See Wes Brooks.



READING BETWEEN THE LIONS LITERACY PROGRAM

Volunteers needed each week to read children's books to Pre-Schoolers at The Family Y - Veterans Memorial Blvd. See Bill MacLauchlan to volunteer.