

## Hattiesburg Rotary Plans Literacy Program



Between the Lions Rotary Literacy Initiative is a program that helps preschool age children become interested in books and reading. It uses the popular Between the Lions television program and its characters to help build interest in books.

Preschools who have participated in the program are more able to recognize letters and sounds and test better in reading in elementary school.

Our club plans to adopt one preschool class this year. We will need volunteers that will visit the school on a regular basis to read to and interact with the children. Please talk to Erik Graham if you would like more information or to volunteer to help with this program.



## Hattiesburg Rotary Club Members Attend District Conference

This past Saturday Hattiesburg Rotary was well represented at the District Conference at Pearl River Community College. Club members present were Mary Cromartie, Maura McLaughlin, Bill McLeod, Tom Potter, Gene Owens, Aime Spears, Erik Graham, Wally Weakley, and Mike Ratliff.

Our club was presented with the Presidential Award for meeting goals set forth last year.

Two previous Ambassadorial Scholars shared their experiences while abroad as Rotary ambassadors.

There was time to meet in small groups to discuss Membership, Public Relations and Club Leadership.

The 2011 International Conference to be held in New Orleans was discussed and volunteers were requested to sign up on one of the 33 different committees. Many volunteers will be needed to accomplish all the details involved with hosting the large number of Rotarians expected from all over the world.

To learn more about what is going on in the district visit the [www.Rotary6840.org](http://www.Rotary6840.org) website, to learn more about Rotary international events visit [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org).

# Spokes

August 11, 2009  
[www.hattiesburgrotary.com](http://www.hattiesburgrotary.com)

District 6840

Club Number 04003

Organized 1918

**ROTARY YEAR**  
 2009-2010

**OFFICERS**  
 MARY CROMARTIE  
*President*

TOM POTTER  
*President-Elect*

BILL MCLEOD  
*Vice-President*

ROBERT CUMMINGS  
*Secretary – Treasurer*

LAMAR EVANS  
*Executive Secretary*

GENE OWENS  
*Sergeant-At-Arms*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Term Expiring – June 30, 2010**  
 Maura McLaughlin  
 Steve Ramp  
 Erik Graham  
 Wally Weakley

*Past President:*  
 Richard Topp

**Term Expiring – June 30, 2011**  
 Heath Hillman  
 Gene Owens  
 Mike Ratliff  
 Aime Spears

**SPOKES Editor**  
 Aime Spears  
[aspears@whlt.com](mailto:aspears@whlt.com)

*Official Newsletter of the*

## ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

P.O. Box 15185  
 Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39404



**“SERVICE ABOVE SELF”**

## MINUTES FROM 8/4/2009

President Mary Cromartie presided over the meeting.

A.D. Hunt gave the invocation. Mickey Allen led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mary then led members in the Rotary Four Way Test.

Gene Owens recognized today's visitors. Lance Nail had as his guests today Shannon Woodard and Jasmine Allen.

Thanks also for today's Greeters, Stanley Carpenter and Bill Hughes.

Jaclyn Adams reported that the Social Committee has set the tentative date of October 2, 2009 for the Club's first wine tasting fund raiser event. The event will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be held at Mary Cromartie's home. Tickets are \$40 per person or \$75 per couple. More details will follow.

Robert Cummings announced that the golf tournament date has been set for October 30, 2009. The tournament will be played at Shadowridge and will begin at 12:30 p.m. This year's tournament will not be held in conjunction with the Sunrise Club. Robert reminded members that they will need to increase their efforts of developing sponsors and teams.

David Owens gave today's classification talk. David is a graduate of Hattiesburg High. He attended two years at Mississippi State University and then returned home to the University of Southern Mississippi where he graduated in 2005 with a degree in speech communication. He now works for Owens Business Machines in outside sales. His hobbies include fishing and hunting and anything else outdoors.

## LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Mike Ratliff then introduced today's guest speaker, Sergeant Synarus Green, Public Information Officer for the Hattiesburg Police Department.

Sergeant Green reported that the department was expecting an "up-tick" in crime as the economic situation worsened. However, that expected increase wasn't as prevalent as anticipated. There was a 13% decrease in crime in 2008 when compared to 2007. The decrease going into the summer months was 16% below that of 2008 however, the rate is now down only 7% from last year.

A new field training officer program will be concluding in the near future. When the graduates take to the street the department will employ 128 officers. The City Council has allowed a full force of 440 however, only 128 are currently funded. The detective force is fully staffed at this time.

The department is currently investigating our third homicide for the year. Sergeant Green reports that arrests have been made in all three of those cases. The department has confiscated more than 2,000 pounds of marijuana, 12 pounds of cocaine and approximately \$50,000 in currency during the past six months.

Sergeant Green estimates that 90% of all crimes in the Hattiesburg area are related to either drug use or gang activity. He also notes that crimes are being conducted by younger aged citizens and that these crimes tend to be more violent. Efforts are being promoted to classify gang crimes and "anti-social activity" which will create stiffer penalties for these actions.

The department was involved in a Youth Summer Camp this year. That project is a part of the overall focus on community relations and youth activities. Efforts are underway to create a Police Athletic League for next year.

## THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

### Between The Lions Early Childhood Literacy Program

**Sharon Person** is the Early Childhood Director for Mississippi Public Broadcasting where she is responsible for directing and coordinating the Between the Lions Rotary and Delta Preschool Literacy Initiatives as well as other Early Childhood Projects. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with an emphasis on Marketing from Mississippi State University and has worked for Mississippi Public Broadcasting for eight years.

**Nikki McCelleis** is the Director of Education Services for Mississippi Public Broadcasting where she is responsible for all Early Childhood activities as well as all K-12 school services; instructional production; Mississippi Public Broadcasting Interactive Video Network; post-secondary/adult learning services; and several federal grants. Prior to her joining Mississippi Public Broadcasting in January 2006, she served as a Division Director in Curriculum and Instruction at the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE). Ms. McCelleis earned her B.A. at the USM, her M.A.T. at Belhaven College and her Ed.S/Ed.D at Delta State University. Ms. McCelleis has worked for Mississippi Public Broadcasting for three years.

**FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE....**Sponsors, Jaclyn Adams and Lance Nail have proposed Shannon Woodard for membership into the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg. Shannon is Director of Development for the University of Southern Mississippi College of Business

## IMPORTANT DATES

<b>Aug 11</b>	<b>Sharon Person and Nikki McCelleis - Between the Lions Program</b>
<b>Aug 22</b>	<b>Strategic Planning meeting at Mary's house 9:00 am- all interested members welcome</b>
<b>Aug 25</b>	<b>FEMA Program</b>
<b>Aug 31</b>	<b>Rotary Board Meeting at Mary's house</b>
<b>Oct 30</b>	<b>Rotary Golf Tournament</b>

## 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 155 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	<i>Friday</i>
MS Museum of Art		Pearl River C.C. Cafeteria	Rankin County - 12:00
Lucedale - 12:00		Richton - 12:00	Rankin Co. Med. Ctr. Annex
MS Gulf Coast Community		Magnolia Restaurant	Slidell, LA - 12:00
College Cafeteria		Waynesboro - 12:00	Pinewood Country Club
Petal - 12:00		Western Sizzlin	
Civic Center		Prentiss - 12:00	
South Hinds County - 12:00		Country Fisherman	
BoDons Catfish & Seafood			