

## Hewko responds to The Economist

Rotary International News -- 19 August 2011

John Hewko, Rotary's general secretary and chief executive officer, recently responded to an article in *The Economist* magazine about the efforts of the [Global Polio Eradication Initiative](#) (GPEI) that did not mention Rotary.

The 21 July article, "[Late? Or never?](#)", cited the most recent [GPEI Independent Monitoring Board](#) report and stated that the goal of stopping polio transmission by 2012 is in jeopardy due to a funding gap and other issues.

### Rotary's efforts detailed

In his 6 August letter to the editor, "[Keeping polio at bay](#)", Hewko pointed out that Rotary is a "big partner" in the GPEI and has contributed more than US\$1 billion to polio eradication efforts. He noted that India has not had a new case of polio in the past six months. Hewko also stated that Rotary welcomes the Independent Monitoring Board's assessment, and he urged government and private-sector donors to step up to help meet the funding gap.

In a portion of the letter that was edited out by *The Economist*, Hewko wrote: "Rotary's role -- through our network of 1.2 million members in 200 countries and regions -- is to raise awareness and the critically needed funds to end this crippling disease once and for all, and that includes donating countless volunteer hours to reach children worldwide with the oral polio vaccine."

### BBC quotes Rotary

BBC News ran an online article about the monitoring board's report, "[Goal to rid world of polio by end of 2012 'off track'](#)", and approached International PolioPlus Committee Chair Robert S. Scott for comment. "We will work with our members in countries affected by polio to follow the board's recommendation of creating a checklist to enhance the impact of the immunization teams and ensure standardization," Scott said.



# Spokes

August 23, 2011  
www.hattiesburgrotary.com

District 6840

Club Number 04003

Organized 1918

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2010-2011

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## ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

A CENTURY OF SERVICE



A NEW CENTURY OF SUCCESS

**“SERVICE ABOVE SELF”**

## MINUTES FROM 08/16/11

President Robert Cummings presided over today's meeting.

Thanks to Chris Strebeck, who gave the Invocation and to Bill McLeod, who led the Club in the Pledge of Allegiance. Robert then led members in the Four Way Test.

Special thanks to Wes Brooks and Tracie Fowler for serving as our greeters.

Wes Brooks filled in for Sean Priebe and welcomed today's guest. Bill McLeod had Roger Penn as his guest.

Congratulations to Mary Cromartie, the lucky winner of today's Rotary Foundation Raffle which was a beach chair and umbrella provided by Greg Buie and Brown Bottling.

Richard Topp invited members and their companies to consider sponsoring the Dining with the Stars event being organized by the Salvation Army for the Boys and Girls Club. The event will be held during the evening of September 15th at the Lake Terrace Convention Center. Anyone interested should see Richard.

Robert announced that Brian and Kimberly Moore are expecting their second child in December. Congratulations to the Moore family.

Robert also read a thank you card from the children of Joe Spell. They were honored to see as many of Joe's Rotary friends at visitation and his funeral.

The Club's FaceBook page now has 22 likes. If you'd like to join the crowd, log in to Facebook and search for Hattiesburg Rotary.

Janice Touchstone gave members information on the Foundation which was shared during the recent District Seminar. Rotary International has raised just over \$174 million in its fight against Polio. Another \$75 million is needed. We're down to just one remaining case in India. More than 2 million vaccines have been administered since the program began. Club members are encouraged to become sustaining members at \$100 annually. Those funds are returned to Rotary clubs throughout the world for specific projects. Additionally, members are encouraged to sign up for their \$33 annual Polio Plus contribution.

## PROGRAM SUMMARY

Greg Buie then introduced today's guest speaker, Dr. Marco Giardino with the NASA John C. Stennis Space

Center. Dr. Giardino is currently researching the history of the families who lived in what is now known as the Buffer Zone or the area that now comprises the Space Center. He is an archeologist and has spent his career compiling the land records and history of the people who inhabited this land as far back as 10,000 BC.

The Buffer Zone consists of 3,200 individual parcels of land. Property owners back in 1961 were given the option if either selling their property, leasing easements or having their land taken by eminent domain. The parcels represent 215 square miles. According to Dr. Giardino the noise from the rocket engines being tested as the Center would have broken windows and damaged property had the owners remained in the area. Homes and other structures were either moved or torn down.

The land where the Space Center stands was formed by the last ice age. It is the highest coastal ground from Texas to Alabama. Because of an abundance of artesian wells, the high ground, the closeness to the Gulf of Mexico and the Pearl River, Native Americans inhabited the area early as far back as 10,000 BC.

Napoleon is one of the cities that was purchased. It is believed that this was the first European Settlement in the area and dated back to the 1700s. Gainesville, another city purchased in the development was the county seat for what is now Hancock and Pearl River Counties. Bayou LaCroix was the last Choctaw Indian village in the area before the tribe was moved to the reservations.

The records that have been discovered and organized by Dr. Giardino will be preserved and will be available for generations to come. He hopes to have a virtual map of 19th century Gainesville available in the very near future. By using satellite and the Geographical Information System, future researchers will be able to reconstruct the history of what is now known as the John C. Stennis Space Center.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Aug 23 Christina Ghents - United Blood Services**

**Aug 30 Mandi Stanley- Certified Speaking Professional**

**Sept 6 Justice Randy Pierce**

**Sept 13 Marcelene Thompson, DHS Children and Family, Adoption Unit**

## WEEKLY FOUNDATION RAFFLE

Our Foundation Chair, Brian Moore coordinates a raffle each week to help raise funds for the Foundation and also Polio Plus. Last week Mary Cromartie won a beach chair donated by Greg Buie and Brown Bottling.

If you have items to donate to the raffle contact Brian Moore or Janice Touchstone.

## We Have a Facebook Page!

Thanks to Jared Eastlack for setting this up and Jaclyn Adams for getting some items posted. Please go to Rotary Club of Hattiesburg on Facebook and "like" our page. Post your pictures and comments.

## READING BETWEEN THE LIONS LITERACY PROGRAM

Volunteers needed each week on **Tuesday or Friday** mornings at 9:30 to read children's books to Pre-Schoolers. Read for about 20-30 minutes.



The Family Y -  
Veterans Memorial Blvd.  
601-268-0808  
Call Dan Kibodeaux or  
sign up at lunch meetings  
or email  
dan@unitedwaysems.org  
call 601-545-7141

## August Reading Volunteers Needed!

Date	Volunteer	Volunteer
Monday, 8/1 9:30am		
Wednesday, 8/3 9:30am	Aime Spears	Mary Cromartie
Tuesday, 8/9 9:30am	Lucy Parkman	
Friday, 8/12 9:30am	Jaclyn Adams Anthony Harris	Wally Weakley Lucy Parkman
Tuesday, 8/16 9:30am	Janice Touchstone	
Friday, 8/19 9:30am	Jaclyn Adams Bill McLeod	Wes Brooks
Tuesday, 8/23 9:30am		
Friday, 8/26 9:30am		Erik Graham

Read Tuesdays & Fridays starting August 8th.

Looking for Rotary District Information or International Information?  
District Website [www.rotary6840.org](http://www.rotary6840.org) - Rotary International [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

## TODAY'S PROGRAM

### Bio of Christina Ghents

Christina was born in Billings, Montana, and spent time in Butte, Montana, and graduated from Mandan High School in Mandan, North Dakota. In 1983, after completing her 12 month internship at Santa Rosa Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, she graduated from University of North Dakota with a BS in Medical Technology. She served as blood bank supervisor and instructor of laboratory technician students at Southeast Baptist Medical Center in San Antonio. After moving back to the frozen north, she served as blood bank supervisor at the West River Health Services in Hettinger, ND, and general staff technologist at the Q&R clinic in Dickinson, ND. In 1991, the Ghents family moved to Rapid City, SD, where Christina started with United Blood Services. Over the next 18 years she served as Training Facilitator, Laboratory Supervisor and Director of Technical Services. She earned certification as a Green Belt in Six Sigma. In 2007 she completed her Master's degree in Healthcare Administration from the University of South Dakota. After assisting UBS of Lafayette, LA in re-establishing the blood supply into New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, she was promoted to Center Director of United Blood Services Hattiesburg in 2009.

Christina is the president of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 24 in Hattiesburg, and is a member of St. Thomas Catholic Church. She and her husband of 29 years Dr. Jim Ghents live in Oak Grove. Their oldest daughter Rhianna is an RN specializing in labor and delivery in St. Paul, Minnesota, and their youngest daughter is entering her senior year at the University of Minnesota. Christina and Jim like running races ranging from 5-K to half marathon, and when they are finished with their miles for the day, they enjoy time on the porch with their border collies, Jack and Mollie.



Register now for the 2012 Rotary International  
Convention in Bangkok, Thailand.  
May 6-9, 2012