

SPOKES

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

District Governor, Randall Feldman



District Governor, 2016-2017 Randall Feldman currently serves District 6840 as District Governor. In the past he chaired the district's Strategic Planning Initiative as well as its fund drive for The Rotary Foundation's Annual Fund. He also chaired the sponsorship committee for Ole Man River Multi-District PETS. He has been a member of the Rotary International Communications Committee, was Vice Chair of the Host Organization Committee of the 2011 Rotary International Convention in New Orleans, and was president of the Rotary Club of New Orleans. However, even in retirement, he somehow found himself once again working for He retired as President & General Manager of WYES in New Orleans in 2012. public broadcasting, as Executive Director for Development for READY JET GO!, a national public media STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) initiative intended to be a four-eight year-old's first introduction to space, earth science and technology. You can see the series and its digital game site on PBS and PBSKids.org in 2016. Mr. Feldman has served on the boards of a variety of organizations including Red Cross, the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities and a local bank and was selected as a Young Leadership Council Role Model. He is the recipient of numerous PBS development awards and was the winner of the first 21st Century Award from the Association of Public Television Stations on whose board he also served. He was co-founder of the (public television) Small Station Association. And he has numerous national production credits, including Executive Producer of several PBS specials. Mr. Feldman is the proud stepfather of four incredible children and is now starting to lose count of all the grandchildren and great grandchildren. He is married to Dr. Madelaine and lives with her without the stepchildren et al in New Orleans

Minutes of August 23, 2016 meeting of the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg

Past President Wes Brooks presided over the meeting in Jaclyn's absence. Thanks to Erin Granberry who gave the invocation and to Jim Prout who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Johnny Stevens and Nathan Wallace served as our greeters today. Tracie Fowler introduced our guests. Samantha McCain is a guest of Wes Brooks and will be inducted as a new member next week. Wes also has as his guest Jill Deakle. Scott Hummel has Darryl Harris as his guest.

Today's Three Minutes of Awesome was a raffle conducted by Tom Osborn on behalf of USM. Ben Donald was the winner of a Yeti tumbler.

Wes reminded members that our District Governor will attend next week's meeting and discuss some of the projects that are currently underway. He will also meet with the board just prior to next week's meeting.

There is information available on our website (www.rotaryofhattiesburg.com) about making a contribution to aid those in our Rotary district who were impacted by the recent floods.

Tracie Fowler then introduced today's guest speakers. Angie Sides and Nancy Hullum are program specialists with the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Mississippi. Tracie noted that they are a United Way partner and are supported through the United Way's education target because they help keep children in school until they graduate from high school.

Angie works in the Forrest County and Hattiesburg Public School districts. She has been in her position for the past three years. She reports that there are currently 80 matches under her program with at least another 50 children on the waiting list waiting for a Big to volunteer.

Big Brothers Big Sisters matches school age children with adults and/or families throughout the area. Nancy notes that in some cases the Big match may be the only male role model that a child may have. The Littles are children from divorced families, orphanages or just children in the area that are in need of a good role model.

To qualify as a Big you must make an application, be interviewed and have a background check run on you. The purpose of the interview is to try and get enough information to make a good match with a Little for you. Littles are also interviewed. Parents or guardians are those who make the final decision about a match.

Nancy works the Big Brothers Big Sisters program in the Petal area. She has approximately 100 current matches with more than 50 on a waiting list. Both Program Specialist also work in Lamar and Perry counties.

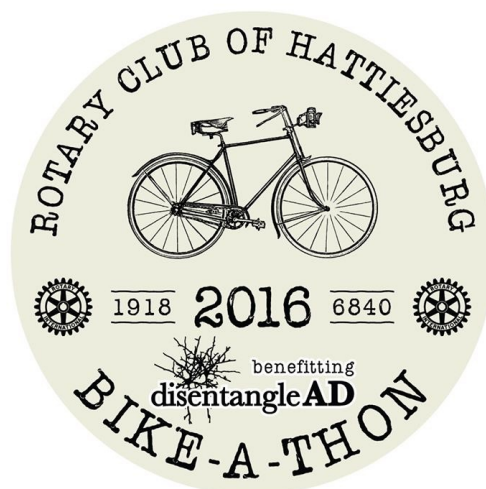
Some of the matches that are made are matches that will last a life-time. There is currently a Big in the program who was matched with a child in kindergarten. They remained a match until the child graduated from high school.

Bigs are required to invest 4 to 6 hours each month with their match. Often they visit at the child's home. They also may go to a movie, watch a ballgame, go bowling or any other activity the parent or guardian approves of.

Contributions from the community are needed to help support the program. All of the money that is donated from our area comes back to our area to support the program.

Volunteers are needed for Bigs. The entire process takes less than 2 weeks. Angie noted that the children in their program just need to know they have a future and that there is a way out of the circle that many of them have been caught up in.

To get an application, make a donation or just get more information, please contact Angie Sides at asides@bbbsms.org or call her at 601-596-3499.





CATASTROPIC FLOODING IMPACTS LOUISIANA

ROTARY DISTRICT 6840 FOUNDATION PROVIDES CHANNEL FOR ASSISTANCE

The weather events of the past week are stark reminders that Mother Nature can present challenges which test not only our stamina, but also our humanity. The need, both now and in the future, is great. Rotarians have been mobilizing through various activities to assist those impacted by the recent flood waters in Louisiana.

District Governor Randy Feldman announced that check donations for disaster relief for the recent flooding can be made to the Rotary District 6840 Foundation.

Rotary District 6840 Foundation
c/o Alford & Alford
384 Voters Road
Suite 103
Slidell, LA 70461

The Foundation was established to assist the District in carrying out its mission to serve the clubs. **The Foundation can accept donations as charitable contribution, tax deductible to the full extent of the law. The District cannot.** So, this is an appropriate role for the Foundation to carry out.

To distribute funds, the Foundation will be accepting proposals from Rotary clubs. Forms have already been developed based on a similar process that neighboring District 6200 uses. In fact, District 6200 includes the possibility that funds raised in that District may be used in our District. The Foundation has noted that and has included the possibility of funding 6200 disaster relief proposals as well.

Our District has also received requests from clubs to provide some sort of service to the clubs that want to volunteer time as well as money to the recovery efforts. Our Disaster Relief Committee is working to determine just what role the District should play on the service side.

Our goal is to put together a process that the District can use in all future disaster relief situations that occur. I expect that whatever policy and procedures we develop now will be refined as we go forward. However, as a result of this process, we should be in a much better position to respond in the future.

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

Sept 6 - Scarlett Moore, March of Dimes

Sept 13 - Ronald L. Schwartz, MD -DisentangleAD

Sept 20 - Billy Redd, MS Foundation of Wildlife and Fisheries

Sept 27 -Kathryn Rehner, USM Social Work

Big Brothers Big Sisters is the oldest, largest and most effective youth mentoring organization in the United States. We have been the leader in one-to-one youth service for more than a century, developing positive relationships that have a direct and lasting impact on the lives of young people. Big Brothers Big Sisters serves children, ages 5 through 15, in communities across the country - including yours.

The Big Brothers Big Sisters Mission is to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever.

Our Mentoring Works

National research has shown that positive relationships between youth and their Big Brothers and Big Sisters have a direct and measurable impact on children's lives. Little Brothers and Sisters are:

- More confident in their schoolwork performance
- Able to get along better with their families
- 46% less likely to begin using illegal drugs
- 27% less likely to begin using alcohol
- 52% less likely to skip school.¹



*Saturday
September 24
7:00 a.m.
4th Annual
Rotary Club
Of
Hattiesburg
Bike-a-thon*



RI President John F. Germ chose *Rotary Serving Humanity* as his theme for 2016-17. Noting Rotary's unique ability to bring together committed professionals to achieve remarkable goals, Germ believes that "now is the time to capitalize on our success: as we complete the eradication of polio, and catapult Rotary forward to be an even greater force for good in the world."



Angie Sides and Nancy Hullum, Program Specialists with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mississippi, spoke to our club last week and explained the need for Big Brother and Big Sisters in this area. They explained the qualification and gave examples of the program successes. Their job is to recruit adult volunteers to spend time as a mentor with children in need of a positive role model. Volunteers can invest as little as 4 to 6 hours a month with their match.