

ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG HAPPENINGS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Dec 7	Forest Thigpen
Dec 11	Salvation Army Bell Ringing
Dec 14	Christmas Social at Southern Oaks No lunch meeting today
Dec 15	Register online for Rotary International Convention
Dec 17	Gandy Center Christmas Party Reading Between the Lions
Dec 20 & 27th	No Meetings due to Holidays
Dec	No Monthly Board Meeting
Jan 8th	District Mid-Year Check-up Bay St. Louis

WEEKLY FOUNDATION RAFFLE

Our Foundation Chair, Scott Hummel, is coordinating a raffle each week to help raise funds for the Foundation and also Polio Plus. Thanks to Audra & Robert Cummings who donated a gift certificate to Lil' Butcher Shoppe. Winner was Larry LeBlanc.

If you would like to donate an item for the raffle, please contact Scott.

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 Gandy Child Development Center is located at:



The Family Y -
Veterans Memorial Blvd.
601-268-0808

Call Dan Kibodeaux or
sign up at lunch meetings
dan@Unitedwaysems.org
call 601-545-7141

Reading Volunteers

Date	Volunteer	Volunteer
Friday, 12/3 9:30am	Jaclyn Adams	Dr. Scott Hummel
Tuesday, 12/7 9:30am	Chris Price Janice Touchstone	Kris King David Johnson
Friday, 12/10 9:30am	Conrad Welker	
Tuesday, 12/14 9:30am	David Johnson	Andrea Hood
Friday, 12/17 9:30am	Mike Ratliff	Susan Steen
Tuesday, 12/21 9:30am	David Johnson Robert Holland	Chris Price
Friday, 12/24 9:30am	NO READING THIS DAY	NO READING THIS DAY
Tuesday, 12/28 9:30am	David Johnson	
Friday, 12/31 9:30am	NO READING THIS DAY	NO READING THIS DAY

DEADLINE FOR RIC EARLY REGISTRATION DISCOUNT IS DECEMBER 15TH

NOW IS THE TIME TO MAKE YOUR PLANS
FOR THE ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
NEW ORLEANS, MAY 21-25, 2011

GO ONLINE TO ROTARY.ORG, SET UP YOUR USER
LOGIN THROUGH MEMBER ACCESS, CHECK OUT THE
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS, REGISTER FOR CONVENTION.

CLICK ON THE STEAMBOAT LOGO TO ACCESS
THE WEB PAGES FOR THE CONVENTION



ONE DAY PASS FOR HOUSE OF FRIENDSHIP ON SATURDAY MAY 21 ONLY \$40

District Registration Contest

DG Dick McCarthy is challenging clubs in our district to have the most members register for the 2011 International Conference. There will be awards for small, medium and large clubs who have the largest percent of their members register. Let's get rollin' today.....we can win the award for the large club with the most registrations! If you have questions about how to register online call, Aime Spears (601) 812-8066 anytime.



Spokes

December 7, 2010
www.hattiesburgrotary.com

District 6840

Club Number 04003

Organized 1918

ROTARY YEAR 2010-2011

OFFICERS

BILL MCLEOD
President

ROBERT CUMMINGS
President-Elect

MAURA MCLAUGHLIN
Vice-President

PATRICK WARD
Secretary - Treasurer

LAMAR EVANS
Executive Secretary

WES BROOKS
Sergeant-at-arms

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Term Expiring - June 30, 2011

Janice Touchstone
Gene Owens
Mike Ratliff
Aime Spears

Past President:
Mary Cromartie

Term Expiring - June 30, 2012

Jaclyn Adams
Greg Buie
Scott Hummel
Dan Kibodeaux

SPOKES Editor
Aime Spears
aspears@whlt.com

Official Newsletter of the

ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

P.O. Box 15185
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39404



“SERVICE ABOVE SELF”



Looking for Rotary International 2011 Convention Information?
District Website www.rotary6840.org - Rotary International www.rotary.org

MINUTES FROM 11/30/2010

Club President, Bill McLeod, presided over the meeting.

Thanks to Jaclyn Adams, who gave the invocation and to Christina Ghents, who led the Club in the Pledge of Allegiance. Bill then led members in the Four Way Test.

Wes Brooks welcomed today's visiting Rotarian Milton Wheeler from the Petal Club.

Special thanks to our greeters for today, who were Allen Anderson and Gene Owens.

Richard Topp reported that the Salvation Army bell ringing volunteers have been secured, however, anyone interesting in participating is welcome to join the other members who will be ringing on December 11th.

Jaclyn Adams sent a Christmas social event sign-up sheet around for members to sign indicating if they will attend the event on December 14. The social will be very informal but the proceeds that would have been spent on food and beverage will be donated to three local charities. Bill announced that the three charities who will receive a \$500 check each from the club are the Angle Tree, Shopping for Seniors and Shop with a Cop. Representatives of each organization will be in attendance at the event to receive their contribution. The social will occur on December 14th beginning at 6 p.m. There will be no luncheon meeting that day.

Dan Kibodeaux noted that only a few slots remain for the reading program in the month of December. A party will be held for the children involved in the Reading Between the Lions project on December 17th at the Family Y. Club members are encouraged to attend where each child will be presented with a bear and a book from the club.

Suzu Steen reported that the pre-registration deadline is quickly approaching for the Rotary International Conference to be held in New Orleans. Everyone is encouraged to attend this once in a life-time opportunity. The next Rotary International conference that will be held in the United States will be in 2018. Club members may register for the entire conference or for only specific days. Since New Orleans is so close, participants could possibly commute. Registrations can be accomplished on line at the Rotary International site. You can also download a registration form, print or fax it back. Aime Spears will have her computer and will offer assistance to anyone interested during the Christmas social. Aime punctuated the conference by providing a recent realization that she is a part of a truly international organization that can accomplish great things, such as possibly bringing peace to the Middle East. She encouraged Rotarians to participate.

Scott Hummel came forward to present today's Rotary

Foundation raffle winner. Thanks to Robert and Audra Cummings for providing the gift certificate to the Lil Butcher Shop. Larry LeBlanc was today's winner

LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Jaclyn Adams then introduced today's guest speaker and our own Dan Kibodeaux. Dan is the Executive Director of the United Way of Southeast Mississippi, a position he has held for the past six years.

Dan noted that the United Way is an umbrella organization that provides funding and local oversight for twenty one agency members throughout the three county service areas. He noted that his challenge is attempting to answer the question of "What do you do?" In an effort to answer that question, he noted that the United Way is about more than just fundraising. More than 100 local volunteers are involved in the local United Way and provides great oversight for the agencies that receive United Way funding. That oversight he defined as "stewardship".

Most of the money raised in the three county service area stays in the area. Dan notes that many of the 21 agencies would have a difficult time continuing their mission without the support of the United Way.

Dan maintains that the United Way is much more than just a fundraiser. As he stated, "we're about the people". Rather than just contributing to a good cause, the United Way makes an effort to involve the community in finding and funding solutions to our social problems. The United Way's efforts are targeted to the "hands up" opportunities rather than the "hand out" programs of the past.

The United way has a focus on three primary impact areas. They are education, income and health with the focus being on breaking the cycle that presents society with the problems we're faced with today. Teaching adults how to manage their money and be responsible for paying their bills is one such program. Another is the focus on education with the belief that education should be considered a "continuum of care" project. Tomorrow's drop-out rate is determined by the reading level of third graders. We as individuals, as organizations and as contributions to society should take a personal responsibility to make sure that our kids, our grandkids and our neighbor's children can read and know what shapes are and what a pen is.

Dan encouraged club members to be selfish. By offering time, talent and money we can make a difference in our future and the future of our economy. High school drops outs are going to be opening bank accounts, buying houses, cars and aren't likely to become productive citizens. If we can offer time, talent and money to the right programs, there is a way to break the cycle.

Dan ended his presentations by asking this question. "What are we doing to do?"

TODAY'S PROGRAM

Bio of Forest Thigpen

Forest is President of the Mississippi Center for Public Policy, an independent public policy organization based in Jackson. Forest and his wife, Debbie, have two sons: Jason, who is 28, and Clayton, who is 20. They live in Madison and are members of Broadmoor Baptist Church. Debbie has an interior-design consulting business, which is based in their home. Jason graduated from Madison public schools and Mississippi College, and he works in the Jackson area. Clayton also graduated from Madison public schools and is a sophomore at Mississippi State University.

Forest served on the Washington staff of Senator Thad Cochran for 10 years. He worked in various legislative and administrative capacities for Senator Cochran, including service as the Republican Staff Director for a subcommittee of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee. He was responsible at various times in his Washington career for policy analysis in the areas of taxes, government regulation, health care reform, banking, insurance, energy, Social Security, welfare, the justice system, communications, housing and environmental issues.

As a part of his work at the Mississippi Center for Public Policy, Forest produces a one-minute radio commentary, titled Vital Signs, that airs several times weekly on SuperTalk Mississippi, American Family Radio in Mississippi, and other stations around the state. He has been appointed to a variety of commissions to study and make recommendations on critical issues facing Mississippi. He was appointed by Governor Barbour to the governor's tax study commission and a commission on reforming our state's charter school law, and he was named by Lt. Gov. Phil Bryant to the Commission for a New Mississippi, which is working to find ways to operate government more efficiently. The governor also appointed Forest to a committee of the Governor's Commission on Recovery, Rebuilding, and Renewal following Hurricane Katrina. Since 2007, Forest has served on the Mississippi Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. In the late 1990s, Forest served as chairman of the Mississippi Task Force on Reducing Out-of-Wedlock Pregnancies, which was established as a part of welfare reform legislation.

Forest has been involved as a volunteer in a variety of ministries. He has developed and directed a church-wide ministry to meet the special needs of the poor and elderly, and he has served on the Inner City Ministry Committee at his church.

Forest, a native of Cleveland, Mississippi, earned an accounting degree from Delta State University, where he served as President of the Student Government Association and of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity. He is an alumnus of the Leadership Mississippi program of the Mississippi Economic Council.

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING

We will be at the Sam's, located on Hwy. 98. If you are unable to make your shift please contact Maura or Richard Topp, who are in charge of organizing volunteers.

TIME	Dec 11 th	
10-12	Wally Weakley	
	Perrin Lowrey	601-297-5114
12-2	Bill McLeod/Jacklyn Adams	601-942-9456
	Maura McLaughlin	601-310-3065
2-4	Scott Hummel	601-466-6156
	Amie Spears	601-812-8066
4-6	Steve Ramp	601-466-8446
	Robert Holland	601-329-3790
6-8	Joe Meador	601-264-3848
	Sted McCollough	251-752-1150

**Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year**

*Please join us for
The Rotary Holiday Social
Southern Oaks
Tuesday night, Dec. 14th
6 pm - 7 pm
Light Refreshments with a
Cash Bar*

*In lieu of our regular sit down
dinner we voted to donate
\$500.00 each to Shop for Seniors,
The Angel Tree Program, and
Shop with a Cop*

*We plan to present these groups
with their gift
at the party.*

No lunch meeting 12/14

