



# SPOKES



Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg



L-R: Paige Kennedy, Mike Ratliff, Rebecca Brown, and Wes Brooks

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Rotary Club of Hattiesburg  
629 North Main Street  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401

[www.rotaryofhattiesburg.com](http://www.rotaryofhattiesburg.com)

**MINUTES: December 2, 2014**

President Wes Brooks presided over the meeting. Thanks to Rusty Edwards who gave the invocation and to Lynn Walton who led the Pledge of Allegiance. Thanks to Amanda Lee for serving as our greeters today.

Aaron Ladner welcomed our visiting Rotarians and guests today. David Hayhurst is a guest of Faye Gilbert. Dean Cromartie is a guest of Mary Cromartie. Leigh Liao and Martha Duball are guests of Chase Munro. Jaclyn Adams is a guest of Brian Moore. Brian noted that Jaclyn is now working for BankcorpSouth and will be moving her Rotary membership back to our club.

Wes asked that Rotarians keep Steve and Ellen Ramp in their prayers. Ellen's father passed away recently.

Wes then asked Bill McLeod and Steven Moser to come forward. Bill is sponsoring Dr. Moser as our club's newest member. Wes inducted him and presented him with his new member packet. Dr. Moser says his motivation for becoming a Rotarian rests with his father who was a Rotarian. Steve's family relocated due to his father's work every three or four years. As a Rotarian, his dad had an immediate family when they relocated.

The club will be ringing the bell for the Salvation Army on Saturday, December 20. Two hour shifts are available from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. Anyone interested is asked to contact Richard Topp to get on the schedule.

Mike Ratliff then introduced today's guest speakers, Paige Kennedy and Rebecca Brown. Paige is the office manager for the Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District. Rebecca manages the Workforce Services division of the District.

According to Paige, the District was created in the early 1960's legislatively. It was originally designed to offer services to small governmental entities giving them the opportunity and ability to apply for and manage grants. Today the districts offer a wide variety of services to local government and business partners. The Southern Mississippi District employs approximately 130 individuals and serves 15 states. Its primary office is on the Gulf Coast. It also operates satellite offices throughout the district.

Economic Development services include planning and strategic development guidance, development and packaging of projects and grant applications. The District has helped with museums, infrastructure, nursing home development, sewer system applications and a variety of other projects. It offers both funding and management assistance to its partners.

Mapping and Planning services are also available through the District. The mapping service is helpful to government and business partners who are considering projects within the area. They have the ability to map population and economic statistics along with a variety of other data. This service is also used heavily when governments have to redistrict.

There is also a revolving loan program available. EDA and MDA money is used to fund a variety of projects including business start-ups and capital improvement projects. Loans are available from as small as \$2,000 up to \$250,000. Interest rates vary from 2.5% to 5%.

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***Greetings Rotarians!***

I hope you're as excited about this holiday season as I am. It is a time that we can take time with family and grab a much needed breath before we barge into 2015. Time has this amazing way of marching on, doesn't it?

I want to make sure you're aware of some events coming up in our district. First, we have our Paul Harris Society Gala. Rotary Regional Foundation Coordinator Floyd Lancia will be our guest that evening. We're going to have a great evening of fun, food, and Foundation. It is being held at the Great Southern Club in Gulfport on December 4. Check the district calendar on our website ([www.rotary6840.org](http://www.rotary6840.org)) for details and registration.

Second, we have our Mid-Year Checkup coming up on January 10. Each club should prepare a 2 minute presentation on what they've done so far this year. This event is always encouraging and you'll come away with some great ideas for your club. It is being held at the Bay Waveland Yacht Club in Bay St. Louis. Again, check the district website for details.

Lastly, don't forget our District Conference April 10- 12 at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi. It's going to be a fantastic weekend. We've got great speakers, awesome breakouts, business networking, food, and fun. We've spent two years planning this event, and it is going to show. Don't miss it. Register today at [www.rotaryrivage2015.com](http://www.rotaryrivage2015.com)!

Please don't forget the Rotary Foundation in your year-end giving. As you can see later in the newsletter we're making great progress towards our goal. Help us reach that \$300,000 mark this year and leave a legacy that we all get to reap in just three years. As always, let me know how I can help you. I appreciate all you're doing for your communities through Rotary.

Brian Hall, Governor  
District 6840



# Clay Williams

**Executive Director  
Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport**

Clay Williams serves as the Executive Director of the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport. As Executive Director, his principal areas of focus are expansion of air service, new business development and continued funding of essential capital improvement projects.

Williams received his undergraduate degree from Mississippi State University and his Master's degree from Harvard University. Previously, he served as a Government Relations Representative for Capitol Resources, LLC. He worked as a Transportation and Education Legislative Assistant and Economic Development Coordinator under former U.S. Senator Trent Lott. He also served as Legislative Director for former U.S. Representative Chip Pickering.

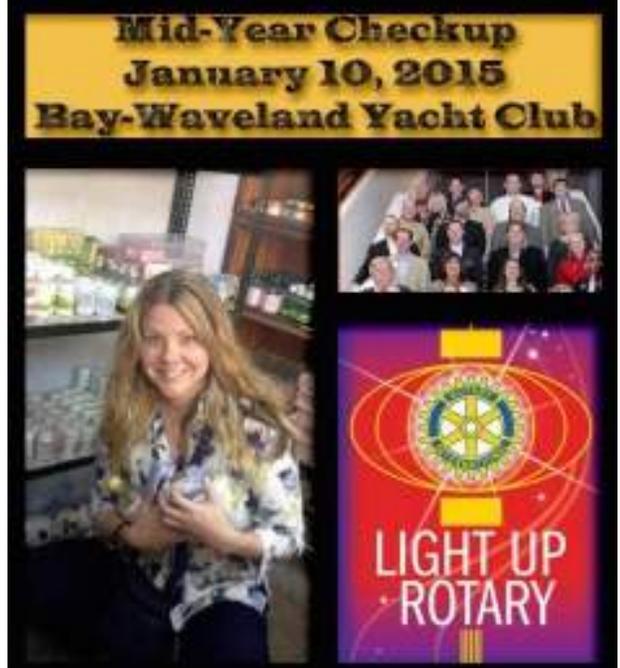


Rotarians of District 6840, you are being called to present a two-minute update on your club at our annual midyear check-up, titled "A Day in the Life .... Rotary 6840."

Each club will have two minutes to present their own club update. The choice of presentation is up to you, whether it is a song, a dance, a commentator. You choose. Please be creative.

Take two minutes to brag on your club to the districts. We know we have lots of talent in our district so, now is the time to let it shine.

Register on our website today for the upcoming midyear check-up to be held at the Bay Waveland Yacht Club in Bay St. Louis, MS.



(Minutes, cont. from pg. 2)

Barbara then discussed some of services through their Workforce Services division. Grants are available for on the job training programs. You hire, you train and we pay is their slogan. They can cover one-half of an employee's wages for up to six months. They also offer scholarship programs for individuals in high demand occupations. The goal of these programs is to get a person into a family sustaining wage with the training and the pathway for improvements. For employers, the District offers workforce consulting and analysis guidance. There is also a Youth Services division targeted to the young idle residents. This program operates in high schools and also has an out-of-school branch.

The District is a designated Area Agency on Aging and therefore the majority of senior citizen funding currently available is administered through the District. They offer case management, home delivered meals, senior center services, legal services, respite care, family caregiver support and personal care services. There is also a foster grandparent program administered through the District as well as a senior employment program.

For more information on any or all of these services, visit their website at [www.smpdd.com](http://www.smpdd.com).

Minutes provided by:  
Lamar Evans, Executive Secretary  
Rotary Club of Hattiesburg

Guest and visitors,

Thank you for coming to visit with us today! Are you interested in finding out more about the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg? Are you interested in how you might become a member? Would you like to be contacted by one of our members to discuss this? If so, please fill in the blanks below, leave the program on the table by the front door and we will be sure to contact you.

Again, thank you! We hope you enjoyed your time with us.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions/Comments \_\_\_\_\_

# UPCOMING

DEC 15	Rotary Board of Directors Meeting (DuBard School)
DEC 23	NO MEETING
DEC 30	NO MEETING
JAN 10	District 6840 Mid-Year Checkup
JAN 31	Rotary Leadership Institute
FEB 7	District 6840 Team Training
MAR 6-7	Ole Man River P.E.T.S. (President-Elect Training Seminar)
APR 10-12	2015 Rotary District Conference - "Rotary Rivage"
JUN 6-9	Rotary International Convention - Sao Paulo, Brazil
JUN 20	District 6840 Awards & Installation Ceremony



## Spokes

Wes Brooks, *Editor*  
Rotary Club of Hattiesburg  
629 North Main Street  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401