

**History of Rotary-The Beginning**

The world's first service club, the Rotary Club of Chicago, was formed on February 23, 1905 by Paul P. Harris, an attorney who wished to capture in a professional club the same friendly spirit he had felt in the small towns of his youth. The Rotary name derived from the early practice of rotating meetings among members' offices.

Rotary's popularity spread, and within a decade, clubs were chartered from San Francisco to New York to Winnipeg, Canada. By 1921, Rotary clubs had been formed on six continents. The organization adopted the Rotary International name a year later.

As Rotary grew, its mission expanded beyond serving club members' professional and social interests. Rotarians began pooling their resources and contributing their talents to help serve communities in need. The organization's dedication to this ideal is best expressed in its motto: Service Above Self.

By 1925, Rotary had grown to 200 clubs with more than 20,000 members. The organization's distinguished reputation attracted presidents, prime ministers and a host of other luminaries to its ranks.

**Four Way Test**

In 1932, Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor created the Four Way Test, a code of ethics adopted by Rotary 11 years later. The test, which has been translated into more than 100 languages, asks the following questions: Of the things we think, say or do:  
Is it the truth?  
Is it fair to all concerned?  
Will it build goodwill and better friendships?  
Will it be beneficial to all concerned?



**Rotary and World War II**

During WWII, many clubs were forced to disband, while others stepped up their service efforts to provide emergency relief to victims of the war. In 1942, looking ahead to the postwar era, Rotarians called for a conference to promote international educational and cultural exchanges. This event inspired the founding of UNESCO.

In 1945, 49 Rotary club members served in 29 delegations to the UN Charter Conference. Rotary still actively participates in UN Conferences by sending observers to major meetings and covering the UN in its publications.

"Few there are who do not recognize the good work which is done by Rotary clubs throughout the free world," former Prime Minister Winston Churchill of Great Britain once declared.

**Dawn of a new century**

As it approached the 21st century, Rotary worked to meet society's changing needs, expanding its service efforts to address such pressing issues as environmental degradation, illiteracy, world hunger and children at risk. In 1989 the organization voted to admit women into clubs worldwide and now claims more than 145,000 female members in its ranks.

After the collapse of the Berlin Wall and the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Rotary clubs were formed or re-established throughout Central and Eastern Europe. The first Russian Rotary club was chartered in 1990, and the organization underwent a growth spurt for the next several years.

More than a century after Paul Harris and his colleagues chartered the club that eventually led to Rotary International, Rotarians continue to take pride in their history. In honor of that first club, Rotarians have preserved its original meeting place, Room 711 in Chicago's Unity Building, by recreating the office as it existed in 1905. For several years, the Paul Harris 711 Club maintained the room as a shrine for visiting Rotarians. In 1989, when the building was scheduled to be demolished, the club carefully dismantled the office and savaged the interior, including doors and radiators. In 1993, the RI Board of Directors set aside a permanent home for the restored Room 711 on the 16th floor of RI World Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois. Today 1.2 million Rotarians belong to over 32,000 Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas.

# Spokes

February 24, 2009  
www.hattiesburgrotary.com

District 6840

Club Number 04003

Organized 1918

**ROTARY YEAR  
2008-2009**

**OFFICERS**

RICHARD TOPP  
*President*

MARY CROMARTIE  
*President-Elect*

A.D. HUNT  
*Vice-President*

KRIS KING  
*Secretary - Treasurer*

LAMAR EVANS  
*Executive Secretary*

HEATH HILLMAN  
*Sergeant-At-Arms*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Term Expiring - June 30, 2009**  
Todd Bradley  
Kristy Gould  
Perrin Lowrey  
Bill McLeod

*Past President:*  
Freddy Walter

**Term Expiring - June 30, 2010**  
Robert Cummings  
Maura McLaughlin  
Steve Ramp  
Erik Graham

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*Official Newsletter of the*

## ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

P.O. Box 15185  
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39404



**“SERVICE ABOVE SELF”**

## MINUTES FROM 2/17/2009

President Richard Topp presided over the meeting. Freddy Walter gave the invocation. Richard Topp then led members in the Pledge of Allegiance and in the 4 Way Test.

Richard recognized our visiting Rotarians including: Bill Felder from Long Beach, Gray Montgomery from Petal, and Jack Gray from Petal.

Our visitors were also recognized including Wes Brooks, Charles Greer V and Kyle Napien

Richard reported that the February board meeting will be held at the original time and date at his office. He noted that board members must decide on a Grover Anderson Scholarship recommendation at that meeting. He encouraged anyone who has a family member enrolled in the University of Southern Mississippi that meets the requirements to submit an application.

Richard reminded members that the R3SM construction house workday has been rescheduled. Check with Patrick Ward if you're interested.

It was reported that the District Conference is coming up in May and members are urged to sign up to participate, especially in the Friday night festival and talent contest.

## LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Today's speaker was Les Hatcher, Lt. Col. He was an Air Force pilot for 20 years. He was the first pilot to fly 100 combat missions in the B-52. He conducted 208 Combat missions in Vietnam.

Lt. Col. Hatcher is a native of Lucedale and he and his wife Mary of 51 years still reside there. He is a graduate of Ole Miss and William Carey University with degrees in Biology and Psychology. He currently is serving as the Director of Counseling at Temple Baptist Church.

Les was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross award by one of his generals for saving his life during a low-level daylight mission over North Vietnam. It was reported that during this mission they were to drop crates of grenades on the target when their plane lost radar. However, thanks to his expertise and skill, Les continued the course as he projected and completed the mission. He humbly said that he was "just doing his job."

Lt. Col Les Hatcher also told of a testing mission he

was involved in. He had to determine how long it would take and at what altitude that a pilot could survive without air conditioning in a pressurized suit. Again, he was successful in this mission.

Les told stories of determination and spoke with great confidence on the importance of being steadfast and moving forward with wherever you are in your life. He also recognized the impact that your "roots" have on how one can develop in life. He gave the example of his father who was a farmer and was approached by a college basketball coach. The coach wanted him to play but his father would not because he needed to provide for his family. Les Hatcher's father was provided a house, an education, and a way of living to support his family playing college basketball. All of Les' brothers and sisters went on to earn college degrees.

## THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

Our guest today is Colonel Earnest G. Shows, Jr.

Colonel Earnest G. Shows, Jr. is currently the Commander of Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center (CJFTC). He has held this position since July 2005.

He is a native of Forrest County Mississippi, a graduate of USM where he relieved his BS in Athletic Administration and Coaching. Also, he received his military commission as an Infantry officer upon graduation through the USM ROTC program. He has spent the past 30 years as an officer with Mississippi's Army National Guard.

Since his commission, he has earned many military awards to include the Meritorious Service Medal and The Special Forces Tab, and Canadian Parachutist Badge. His military education covers a wide range of schools to include Basic Airborne course, Special Forces Officers Course, and Command & General Staff College.

Colonel Shows has a MS in Education from William Carey University. He served in many leadership roles before becoming the commander of CSJFTC to include Range Control Officer, Special Forces Company Commander, and Deputy Commander of CSJFTC.

## NOTES FROM THE BOARD MEETING OF 2/23/09

1. Night in Italy plans are progressing. We are excited that the event will be at the Southern Oaks this year. We expect to have an increase in attendance for the dinner so it will require greater participation from our members. This should be an outstanding night of fellowship for all.

2. We are at risk of jeopardizing full funding of our approved projects due to some late dues payments. Please bring your accounts up to date so that the literacy project, water project and other worthy programs that we fund do not suffer. SERVICE ABOVE SELF!!

2. We will have sign-up sheets available each week for the District Conference to be held May 7-9 in Bay St. Louis. Make you plans in advance.

## R3SM UPDATE FROM PATRICK WARD....

Our next work day should take place in about 2 weeks and will include working with flower beds. Workers have made considerable progress with interior work.

R3SM House located at 701 Katie, Hattiesburg. Directions: Located behind the Hattiesburg Police Station. Edwards Street ends at Police Station and Katie begins.

## DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Register now to attend May 7th through 9th at The Hollywood Hotel and Casino in Bay St. Louis.

Our theme for our skit is "Court TV". Sign up now to be part of the food, fun, and entertainment. We need help with creating the skit and with people to help participate in the presentation. Help represent our club at the District Conference.

## IMPORTANT DATES

Tues	2/24	Earnest G. Shows, Jr. U.S. Army National Guard
Tues	4/24	Night In Italy - 4:30-7:30 @ Southern Oaks
May	7-9	District Conference - Bay St. Louis
June	21-24	International Convention Birmingham, England

## 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 I55 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	
MS Museum of Art		Pearl River C.C. Cafeteria	<i>Friday</i>
Lucedale - 12:00		Richton - 12:00	Rankin County - 12:00
MS Gulf Coast Community		Magnolia Restaurant	Rankin Co. Med. Ctr. Annex
College Cafeteria		Waynesboro - 12:00	Slidell, LA - 12:00
Petal - 12:00		Western Sizzlin	Pinewood Country Club
Civic Center		Prentiss - 12:00	
South Hinds County - 12:00		Country Fisherman	
BoDons Catfish & Seafood			