



SPOKES

Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg



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

www.rotaryofhattiesburg.com



Pictured L-R: Sean Priebe, Dr. Ben Burnett, and Jerome Brown

Minutes: February 17, 2015

President-Elect Sean Priebe presided over the meeting. Thanks to Allen Anderson who gave the invocation and to Bill MacLauchlan who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Thanks to Dan Davis for serving as our greeter today.

Gene Owens sat in for Aaron Ladner and introduced our visiting Rotarian today. Charles Dillion is visiting from the Petal Club.

Sean thanked Steven Moser for providing two tickets to Mary Poppins which will be performed later this month. The tickets were auctioned off. Maura McLaughlin was the high bidder. Proceeds will go to the Rotary Foundation.

Bill McLeod provided free tax advice for those in attendance. He reminded them that contributions to the District Conference could possibly be written off as advertising or sponsorship. He encouraged sponsorship commitments from our members for the April District Conference. So far district clubs have secured \$7,600 in commitments. The goal is \$10,000. Anyone interested is encouraged to see Bill. Additionally, he reminded members of the district governor's goal of a \$130 contribution for each district member to the Rotary Foundation. As of now our club is averaging about \$12 per member. Contributions need to be made before June 30, 2015.

Ryan Kelly reminded members of the Night in Italy event planned for April 25th. Everyone is encouraged to sign up for a volunteer slot. Tickets for the event will be available in the near future.

Jerome Brown then introduced our guest speaker, Dr. Ben Burkett, Dean of Education at William Carey University.

Dr. Burkett maintains that much of William Carey's success over the years can be attributed to the University's emphasis on community service. Ben is or has been a volunteer for many organizations throughout the Pine Belt. He encouraged Rotarians who may be looking for a service opportunity to consider working with the Field House for the Homeless. He reports that there are 9 or 10 homeless camps in our area. The Field House's goal is to get the homeless into a home and into a job.

William Carey University was founded in 1892. The average freshman has an ACT score of 24. The national average is 21 and the Mississippi average is 18. As of 2014 the University's enrollment totaled 4,145. The student body represents 38 Mississippi counties and has a 13:1 student to faculty ratio. Although strong academically, Dr. Burkett also reports that the University has seven sports program with fourteen teams. Ninety-eight percent of the University's athletes graduate.

Ben reports that William Carey has experienced a sixty percent growth rate during the last seven years. A new business building has been added and a fourth new dorm has just opened since 2007. The School of Education which represents about twenty-five percent of the total number of students has demonstrated a three percent growth rate in each of the 2014/2015 terms.

William Carey's roots date back to 1892 when it was the Pearl River Board School. In 1911 WSF Tatum donated the property that the University now sits on and the Mississippi Baptist Convention accepted it as a woman's teaching college. In 1953 it became a co-ed college and within the past ten years achieved university status.

Ben listed five ways that Rotarians can assist William Carey University.

1. Encourage people to become teachers.
2. Support the ACT Camp.
3. Support the Young Author's Celebration.
4. Help with the STEM Alternate route program.
5. Make a contribution to the university's building program.

If you are interested in one or more of these service areas or if you want to discuss ways you can become involved, contact Dr. Burkett by calling 601-318-6144 or email him at bburnett@wmcarey.edu.

Aaron Ladner introduced our guests today. Toxey Morris has as his guest today John Jackson. Bill McLeod introduced Chase Munro's guest, Joyce Bradley. Charles Brown is a guest of Jerome Brown. Scott Hummel introduced Den

*Minutes courtesy of:
Lamar Evans, Executive Secretary
Rotary Club of Hattiesburg*

Our Guest

Capt. James "Jimmy" Herzog Mississippi Highway Patrol - Amber Alert

James is currently the Resident Agent in Charge with the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation in Jackson, MS. He is responsible for supervising criminal investigations for MBI and task force agents assigned to federal agencies within the State of Mississippi. He is currently the Director of Special Operations and the Major Crime Unit for MBI. He is also the Amber Alert and Missing Persons Coordinator for the State of Mississippi.

James has been with the Department of Public Safety for twenty-one years. He began his career as a state trooper, SWAT team member, field training officer, and training officer for the Mississippi State Trooper Academy. He became a MBI Agent in 1998. James has conducted over two hundred death investigations throughout his career, including several high profile cases such as a serial rapist case and several public corruption cases.

James was a resident of Mobile, AL and came to Mississippi to pursue his college education as the recipient of a football scholarship. He is a 1992 graduate of Mississippi College with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with concentration in Management. James was a member of the 1989 Division II National Championship Team. During his football career, he was an All-Conference, Academic All-Conference, and All-American performer. He is currently listed as one of the top ten punt return specialist in Mississippi College history.



Special Agent Joseph "Blair" Lobrano Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives

Blair Lobrano is currently a Special Agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) in Jackson, Mississippi. He is responsible for conducting criminal investigations for ATF in the Jackson, Mississippi Field Office, with his primary area of responsibility being in southern-central Mississippi.

Blair has been a Special Agent with ATF since July 2007, being assigned to St. Louis, Missouri for five (5) years before transferring to the Jackson, Mississippi Field Office in 2012. Prior to that, he was an attorney in Jackson, Mississippi. He graduated from the Mississippi College School of Law in Jackson, Mississippi in 2002, and was thereafter admitted to the Mississippi Bar. Blair graduated from Louisiana State University in 1998 with a Bachelors Degree in Sociology and a concentration in Criminology. After graduation, Blair studied Criminology in the masters program at Louisiana State University.



Next Week

Susan Yarrow



UPCOMING

MAR 3	Susan Yarrow - Hattiesburg Clinic, Rise & Shine Half Marathon
MAR 6-7	Ole Man River P.E.T.S. (President-Elect Training Seminar)
MAR 10	Elizabeth Van Zant - Rotary Youth Exchange
MAR 24	Jermaine Brown, Principal, Hattiesburg High School
MAR 31	Dr. Cynthia Scott, Chair, Mississippi Board of Physical Therapy
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



On March 6 & 7 Ole Man River Multi-District President-Elect Training Seminar (PETS) will be held at the Jackson Convention Complex, Jackson, Mississippi. Registration and other information will be announced later.



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