

# Spokes

February 8, 2011  
www.hattiesburgrotary.com

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Feb 1st The African American Military History Museum
- Feb 8th MESC Joint Meeting at Southern Oaks
- Feb 15th Speaker - Chad Newell - The ADP
- Feb 22nd Speaker TBA
- Feb 26-27th P.E.T.S. Training, Vicksburg



## 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. At our last meeting, Jennifer Payne donated a USM Gift Basket and the winner was Audra Cummings. If you would like to donate an item for the raffle, please contact Scott. 601-318-6497 (work) or 601-466-6156 (cell)

## 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

## February Reading Volunteers Needed

Date	Volunteer	Volunteer
Tuesday, 2/1 9:30am	Lucy Parkman Mary Cromartie	Conrad Welker
Friday, 2/4 9:30am	Jaelyn Adams	
Tuesday, 2/8 9:30am	Janice Touchstone	
Friday, 2/11 9:30am		
Tuesday, 2/15 9:30am		
Friday, 2/18 9:30am		
Tuesday, 2/22 9:30am		
Friday, 2/25 9:30am	Jaelyn Adams	

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

FULL CONVENTION EARLY REGISTRATION IS \$340 FROM DEC 15 - MARCH 30TH; AFTER MARCH 31 THE PRICE INCREASES TO \$380.

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. OR FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE MEETING TODAY

EMAIL SUZY STEEN AT S.L.STEEN@USM.EDU AND LET HER KNOW IF YOU SIGN UP AND/OR IF YOU VOLUNTEER TO HELP AT THE CONVENTION



LOOK FOR THE STEAMBOAT LOGO, THEN CLICK, TO ACCESS THE CONVENTION FORMS, AND EVENTS, NOTIFY SUZY AFTER YOU REGISTER.

## ROTARY LICENSE PLATES IN MISSISSIPPI



Senate Bill No. 2167 has recently been introduced by Senator Dean Kirby. The bill should pass without issue. We are currently working on a design that will be unveiled at PETS in Vicksburg.

We must pre-sell 300 plates in order to get them produced. If we get this done by May 15, we can have the plates by July 1. The additional cost for a tag will be \$31. Of that \$31, \$24 comes back to the District in which it was purchased. This will be positive exposure for us, as well as a revenue stream for many years to come.

Special thanks to AG, Rob Smith who has worked tirelessly at the legislature to get this introduced and to get our design underway. PDG, Kay Steed is actually the person that had this idea some years ago. Thanks to both for their contributions to this program.

We will take a count of how many in our club are committed to pre-ordering a MS Rotary license plate.

Project Coordinator- Roscoe Greene DG - District 6820  
email roscoegreen@bellsouth.net

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

Jaelyn Adams  
Greg Buie  
Scott Hummell  
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](http://www.rotary6840.org) - Rotary International [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

## MINUTES FROM 02/01/11

Club President, Bill McLeod, presided over the meeting.

Thanks to Conrad Welker, who gave the invocation and to Mike Ratliff, who led the Club in the Pledge of Allegiance. Bill then led members in the Four Way Test.

Special thanks to our greeters for today, who were Andrea Hood and Jennifer Payne.

Wes Brooks welcomed today's visitors and guests. Robert Cummings brought guest Sarah Liles, who will be inducted in a few weeks. Bill McLeod brought two guests – Galen Martin and Brad Stinson.

Conrad announced that Toxey Morris' health is doing much better. He had actually planned on being at today's meeting, but couldn't attend due to a conflict. Bill MacLauchlan announced that Larry LeBlanc had quadruple bypass surgery. He had a minor setback with fluid build-up and had to have a 2nd minor operation. He is doing much better now and expects to be released by the end of this week. Bill McLeod mentioned that Holt McMullan was very thankful to all who attended the funeral service of his uncle, Victor McMullan, and to those who showed support.

Congratulations to Chris and Sarah Price, who gave birth on January 31st to a healthy and beautiful 5 lb. baby girl! Her name is Josie Caroline Price. Congratulations also to Mike Ratliff, who was recently appointed to the South Central MS Bar Association.

Andrea Hood and Jaclyn Adams are collecting vases for Valentine's Day. The mission is to deliver flowers to senior citizens at the Home Instead Senior Living Complex. The club will purchase the flowers, but are in need of vase donations. If you have any vases that you can donate, please contact Andrea or Jaclyn, or bring them to the next meeting on February 8th. Volunteers are also needed to help pick up and deliver the flowers. If you can help, please contact one of the ladies to help.

Scott Hummel thanked Jennifer Payne for donating today's Rotary Foundation raffle prize. The winner of a gift basket, including USM goodies and two tickets to a USM basketball game, was Audra Cummings.

Please don't forget to sign up to read to the preschool children in the Reading Between the Lions program. You may contact Dan Kibodeaux to volunteer. February needs volunteers.

The Water Project at Hubfest is scheduled for March 26th. The Night in Italy is planned for April 19th. Members interested in recommending applications for RYLA and the Grover Anderson scholarships must turn in their applications to Scholarship Committee Chair, Mike Bonnette. April 1st is the deadline for both.

The Rotary International Convention is fast approaching. Aime said the registration goal for our area has not been met yet, so please register quickly. Bill mentioned that total worldwide 2011 registrants have reached 16,756 members, which is slightly above last years' total of 16,065 in Montreal. Please remember that even if you do not attend the whole convention, you are still needed to volunteer at the one-day House of Friendship. Volunteers are only asked to work two 2-hours shifts. You will welcome guests, provide assistance, and possibly assist in the retail store.

You must register for the oneday pass to volunteer that Saturday.

Jeri Buti spoke about this month's Rotarian Magazine. This issue is a 100th anniversary keepsake edition with a tribute to all the letters and covers spanning 100 years.

Mississippi Senate Bill 2167, which will introduce Rotary license plates, will soon be voted on. In order to get them produced, 300 of them must be pre-sold by May 15th, and the plates would be ready on or about July 1st. An additional cost over the price of a regular license plate is \$31. Out of that money, \$24 will come right back to the District in which the plate was purchased. This creates a new revenue stream AND is a source of positive exposure for the Rotary Club.

Bill announced the January membership statistics. On January 1st, there were 116 members, but by the 28th of the month, we are now down to 113 members. Attendance was 66%, and 34 members had perfect attendance. Bill reminded members to always notify Lamar about make-up meetings to get credit.

Next Tuesday's luncheon will be our Joint Meeting with the MS Economic Council. It will begin at 11:30am at Southern Oaks and end at 1pm.

## LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM SUMMARY

Jerome Brown introduced today's presenters. His childhood included many wonderful memories of going to the U.S.O. Museum in Hattiesburg. That museum, first opened in 1942, originally served as the place that black soldiers stationed at Camp Shelby would recreation. It has been renovated in recent years and turned into the African-American Military History Museum. Jerome introduced various directors in charge of the museum – Latoya Norman, Iola Williams, LTC Fred Varnado, Colonel Sheila Varnado, and SFC Charles J. Brown. Mr. Brown, who is Jerome's father, has always had a passion for serving his country and his community.

Charles said that African-Americans have proudly served in every American war from the Revolutionary War up through the Afghanistan War. Well known groups included the Buffalo Soldiers and the Tuskegee Airmen. Hattiesburg native Ruth Bailey Earl served in WWII as a nurse. Another Hattiesburg native, Jesse L. Brown, proudly served as the Navy's first African-American aviator in the Korean War. The Museum shows what it meant for them to be able to serve their nation, even during times of discrimination. They were fighting for the right to fight for all Americans.

The Museum, registered with the National Registry of Historic Places, has seen over 9800 visitors since 2009. The exhibits include many artifacts that tell stories and acknowledge service by many brave African-Americans not included in any history books. There are only two buildings like this in the U.S., and the one in Hattiesburg is the only one available for public access. It is located on East 6th Street off of Main Street downtown and is open from 10am-4pm, Tuesday through Saturday. Come and see a special tribute to Jesse L. Brown, on display from Jan. 13th thru Feb. 26th. Call 601.450.1942 for more information.

Bill thanked SFC Brown for his presentation and then adjourned the meeting with our motto Service Above Self.

## TODAY'S PROGRAM - THE MEC BLUEPRINT MISSISSIPPI ROAD SHOW

Join Mississippi Commissioner of Higher Education Dr. Hank Bounds -- our Blueprint Chair -- other Blueprint private sector leaders and our Blueprint Mississippi Team as we bring MEC's Blueprint Mississippi Road Show to Hattiesburg.

MEC - Blueprint Mississippi is a very dynamic private-sector funded initiative aimed at developing a long-range plan focusing on the foundational issues of: economic competitiveness, educational achievement, technology commercialization, and resource management.

The study also has cross-cutting focus on the following issues: health care, community racial reconciliation, and infrastructure.

This meeting, which offers a chance to hear about the process, sign up to be a stakeholder and weigh in through high-tech electronic voting on some of the issues that are important to the future of your region.

This event takes place, thanks to the generous sponsorship of Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi.

Your input as a leader in the community is important. We promise to offer a lively and interactive program -- and to adjourn promptly at 1 p.m. so that you can get back to work.



Order your 2011 Rotary International Convention Commemorative Poster Now

By artist Mark Rosenbohm

Available in

18 x 24 \$30

18 x 24 Signed/Numbered \$50

18 x 24 w/artists remarque \$100

Order by mail or online at [rotarycon2011.com](http://rotarycon2011.com). Forms can be downloaded from the [rotarycon2011.com](http://rotarycon2011.com) website then mailed or faxed, or fill in the form and pay online.

## Community Service

### ROTARY GROVER ANDERSON SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarships are available to incoming Freshman planning to attend the University of Southern Miss. Preference given to children and grandchildren of members of The Hattiesburg Rotary Club. Student must maintain a 2.5 GPA. Contact Mike Bonnette, [mike.bonnette@usm.edu](mailto:mike.bonnette@usm.edu), 601-266-6020 for more information and application forms.

### VALENTINE FLOWERS FOR SENIORS

Seniors to receive flowers from Hattiesburg Rotary. Jaclyn Adams and Greg Buie are coordinating flowers for a group of elderly. If you have small vases that you can donate, please bring to today's meeting.

### SHELTER BOXES FOR AUSTRALIAN FLOOD VICTIMS

Hattiesburg Rotary Club and Petal Rotary Club will be sending 2 Shelter Boxes to relieve the flood victims of the recent disaster in Australia. Our Shelter Box will be sent in Honor of Past DG, Dr. Milam Cotten. Dr. Cotten has dedicated over 40 years to Rotary Service.