



SPOKES



Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg

The 2014-2015 Mid-Year Checkup

This Saturday representatives from clubs throughout District 6840 converged on the Bay-Waveland Yacht Club in Bay St. Louis for the annual mid-year checkup. During the conference attendees heard reports from District Governor Brian Hall and District Governor-Elect Randy Feldman about the current state of the District, as well as Club Presidents who reported on the progress of their respective clubs.



Minutes: December 16, 2014

President Wes Brooks presided over the meeting. Thanks to Scott Hummel who gave the invocation and to Chris Price who led the Pledge of Allegiance. Thanks to Aaron Ladner for serving as our greeter today.

Aaron Ladner welcomed our visiting Rotarians and guests today. Scott Hummel has Dr. Gregg Silberg as his guest. Dr. Silberg will be inducted as the club's newest member sometime this month.

Wes motioned to approve the new Board of Directors coming into office for 2015-2016. As long as they were in good standing each member would move up in to the next position and Brett Philips would be the incoming Secretary Treasurer. The motion was approved. Wes congratulated all the new Board members.

A ballot was handed out and collected from each member with the 2015-2016 Board nominees listed.

Johnny Stevens, announced that Cecil Burke a Senior Discretionary Member has lung cancer, please keep him in our prayers.

Sean Priebe discussed that the number of members has been declining in the past years. On a district level, we currently have 2,165 members compared to 2,419 members in 2010. As of December 15th our club had 90 members. We have 12 senior active members, and 78 active members. The numbers are slowly decreasing, due to a variety of reasons. Look around to your friends, church members, golf buddies and try to bring in new members. Invite them to come to lunch and check us out.

We are going to have another College of Knowledge sometime between now and mid-February. You will learn the history of this club,

the history of Rotary and how it was founded. If you have a red badge, this is how to get your blue badge. If you can't make the College of Knowledge, there are other ways to earn your blue badge. You can come to a couple of board meeting or come to some of our service projects.

Wes suggested that if you earned your blue badge by attending the board meetings or service projects, you think about attending the College of Knowledge. It is very insightful.

Bill McLeod handed out a couple of brochures for the Rotary Foundation. You can use the brochure to choose the area in which you would like your Foundation donation to be applied. Bill reported that our district governor has asked that each member contribute \$130 dollars each year. That amount is not a lot in the grand scheme of things, but it would help the Foundation achieve its financial goals.

Wes presented a power point presentation on the District 6840 Fundraising profile, showing the annual fund, PolioPlus fund, endowment fund and the total giving numbers each year since 2010.

Wes then showed a video of Brian Hall, our district governor. He spoke about how our clubs are doing a fantastic job on service and our goal is to increase and extend that service and increase our ability to do more service. Let's leave a legacy and make it a little bit easier for the ones coming behind us. Membership and Foundation giving has started out strong this year. Service is a major part of what we are doing. He added that we are doing a good job and to keep up the good work.

*Minutes courtesy of:
Toni Lee on behalf of
Lamar Evans, Executive Secretary
Rotary Club of Hattiesburg*

Is Your Elevator Speech Ready? Clearly, Mine Was Not.

By Wes Brooks

Last week during our meeting I was asked a very simple, yet very important, question: what is my elevator speech for when I'm approached about Rotary? I think my answer was far from sufficient. While I'm always eager to talk about our wonderful club and its members, I've never devised a 30 to 60-second, ready-to-go answer for what it is we do and what the benefits of membership are.

For me personally, it's taught me the intricacies of project management, humanitarianism, budgeting, long range planning, group management and, of course, what it means to serve. I should also mention it has greatly enhanced two qualities of which I struggle with daily - *empathy and patience*. All of these things culminate into networking experiences that I am certain would have never been possible for me otherwise. Rotary has afforded me opportunities to interact with literally thousands of professionals on local, regional and global levels. The experiences and skills I've been

afforded as a Rotarian are without question, priceless.

Now, each of your answers to this will vary slightly but I'd bet good money that all will have the same recurring theme - service. However, the person inquiring is going to want to know a little more. Now, when asked again, I might say...

Thank you for asking! At 1.2 million members strong we are the largest, most prestigious non-political, non-sectarian service organization in the world. We are dedicated to upholding the highest moral and ethical standards. Our purpose as Rotarians is to improve the lives of those less fortunate through a wide array of humanitarian and educational programs. Some of those efforts include: the total eradication of polio, potable water, illiteracy, hunger, and poverty. In short, we exist to serve and uplift those less fortunate. We begin right here in our own neighborhood and don't stop until we've encompassed the globe."

Barbara Lofton

Resident Benefits Specialist
Bedford Care Centers

Barbara Lofton is the Resident Benefits Specialist for the seven Bedford Care Centers. She has a Bachelor's of Science degree from Mississippi State University. Ms. Lofton was a supervisor with the Forrest County Department of Human Services for six years prior to working with the Mississippi Division of Medicaid. She worked in the division for a total of 21 years as a Medicaid specialist and regional office director. Her expertise provides Bedford Care residents and their families with the answers they need and is dedicated to the mission of the Bedford Care Centers.

(Taken from
www.bedfordcarecenters.com)



UPCOMING	
JAN 20	Herb Stonebrook, Ret., Energy Administrator, State of Tennessee
JAN 27	Patricia Burchell, Forrest Co. D.A.
JAN 31	Rotary Leadership Institute
FEB 3	Grant Callen; President, Empower Mississippi
FEB 7	District 6840 Team Training
FEB 10	Benjamin Morris, Author
FEB 17	Ben Burnett, Dean, WCU School of Education
FEB 24	Jermaine Brown, Principal, Hattiesburg High School
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

Officers

Wes Brooks, President
Sean Priebe, President-Elect
Erik Graham, Vice President
Amanda Lee, Secretary-Treasurer
Lamar Evans, Executive Secretary
Scott Hummel, Past President

Directors

Allen Anderson
Dan Davis
Tracie Fowler
Chase Munro
David Owens
Lucy Parkman
Valencia Williamson

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