

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS FOR ROTARIANS

- Invite a friend, colleague, or community leader to a Rotary Lunch.
- Share with someone you know about the 200 million challenge to eradicate Polio or other great programs Rotary is involved in.
- Register for the District Conference online at [www.rotary6840.org](http://www.rotary6840.org)
- Register online to assist with the RI Convention in New Orleans in 2011 [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)
- Sign-up to become a Paul Harris Fellow. Automatic withdrawals, of any amount, can be set-up by filling out a form on the District web site [www.rotary6840.org](http://www.rotary6840.org)
- Wear your Rotary Pin every Tuesday
- Attend meetings regularly or makeup online at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) (be sure to make a note to Lamar on the sign in sheet when you makeup meetings so they will be counted).
- Be more actively involved in projects.
- Contribute your ideas to the board for future projects and speakers.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE.....

Jared Eastlack has been proposed for membership by Janice Touchstone. Jared is an attorney with Bryan, Nelson.

Please let a board member know if you have any questions regarding Jared's application for membership.

It's time once again to show off the many talented members we have in District 6840 in our annual district talent show. The theme of this year's show is *Music Is In The Air*. Clubs are asked to perform a song from their favorite singer or musical group. All types of music will be accepted (Rap, Jazz, Classical, Pop, Western, Country, etc.). The talent show will take place during the Food Fest on Friday night of the Conference. All acts must adhere to a five minute time limit. Participants must be members of your club, spouse of a member, child, or parent of a member.

Each act will be given two minutes to set up the 24 x 24 stage with props. No two clubs will be allowed to perform to the same song.

However, clubs can perform different songs from the same artist. Please do not start rehearsals until you register your song and receive approval. Songs will be approved on a first come first serve basis.

A new rule has been added to the talent show this year. The winning club cannot compete the following year. So, let's take our hats off to last year's winner The Rotary Club of North Bay Biloxi / D'Iberville as they kick their feet up this year.

**Remember, all acts must pre-register to participate.** Registration forms will be given out at the mid-year checkup. However, you can register now by sending me an email: [vickyg@cablone.net](mailto:vickyg@cablone.net).

# Spokes

January 5, 2010  
[www.hattiesburgrotary.com](http://www.hattiesburgrotary.com)

District 6840

Club Number 04003

Organized 1918

**ROTARY YEAR**  
**2009-2010**

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*President*

BILL MCLEOD  
*President-Elect*

ROBERT CUMMINGS  
*Vice-President*

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*Secretary – Treasurer*

LAMAR EVANS  
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GENE OWENS  
*Sergeant-At-Arms*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Steve Ramp  
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*Past President:*  
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**Term Expiring – June 30, 2011**  
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**SPOKES Editor**  
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*Official Newsletter of the*

## ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

P.O. Box 15185  
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39404



**“SERVICE ABOVE SELF”**

## MINUTES FROM 12/08/2009

President Mary Cromartie presided over the meeting.

Steve Ramp gave the invocation and David Toms led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mary then led the club in and the Four Way Test.

Gene Owens introduced a number of visiting Rotarians and guests of Rotary members. They were all welcomed.

Thanks to Conrad Welker and Annie Wimbish who served as our greeters.

Members were reminded to check the SPOKES for the Salvation Army Bell Ringing schedule. They were also reminded about the details of the December 15th Christmas Party. Mary also let members know that there would be no lunch meetings for the remainder of the month.

## LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Mary then introduced today's guest speaker, Blake Wilson, President of the Mississippi Economic Council. Blake opened the meeting by thanking the Hattiesburg Rotary Club for sharing the meeting with the MEC and for going to the trouble of moving the meeting location in order to accommodate the meeting.

Mr. Wilson's presentation is one of the last three Transformation Tour entitled; "Turning Challenges into Opportunities." By video those in attendance heard from Lt. Governor Phil Bryant, Representative Percy Watson, Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, Delbert Hoseman, Secretary of State, and Hank Bounds with the Institutions of Higher Learning. Additionally former Secretary of State Erik Clark attended and addressed the audience.

Mr. Wilson noted that the mission of the Mississippi Economic Council is to find solutions to current and anticipated problems facing Mississippians and the business community.

Lt. Governor Bryant spoke to the challenges the legislature will face in the coming months as they try to hammer out a working budget in the aftermath of a bad recession. He suggested changes be made in the antiquated budget system currently being used by state government. He will push for a strategic planning process throughout the state that will allow future budgets to be tied to performance. He also will promote targeted tax cuts in the coming legislation session to help generate jobs and

increased business opportunities.

Representative Watson also spoke to the serious budget challenges that lawmakers will face. He suggested that the legislature look for ways to get people back to work which will create economic growth which will increase government revenues.

Secretary of State Hoseman addressed the legislation that his office will sponsor in the coming sessions to help make Mississippi more competitive. He plans a total revision of the Limited Liability acts. He also plans to introduce a uniform commercial code and a new "Workout Tool" that will help businesses avoid bankruptcy in bad economic times.

Blake introduced the plans to prospectively eliminate the inventory tax, which he says is a stumbling block for new businesses in our state. Rather than eliminate the tax and cause a county budget deficit, the tax would be eliminated when revenue increases enough to cover the lost income.

The MEC will also push for a 30 retirement program for teachers. He maintains that we are losing good, quality teachers after only 25 years of service who go on to teach in private schools or to teach in other states. The 30 retirement system would help keep these teachers in the public school system.

Dr. Clark addressed the needs of the state's Community College System. He maintains that community colleges are Mississippi's hidden treasure. More than 225,000 Mississippians will receive education and training through that system this year. Enrollment is up 40% in the last two years. For every tax dollar spent on education in the state the Community College System on receives \$.07.

Other areas the MEC will be working on in the coming months include improvements in the state's early education system. A three-year pilot program related to this challenge is currently underway. Early childhood education is a building block to a engaged and more productive, future workforce. Finally, MEC will address the serious needs of our state's highways and bridges. It was noted that 42% of the state's bridges are in acceptable condition. The national goal is 75%. More than 4,200 Mississippi bridges currently need to be repaired or replaced. Attention to this issue is important economically to our state. The transportation industry in Mississippi accounts for 42,000 jobs and is a one-billion dollar industry. Mary thanked Blake for today's program and adjourned the meeting with our motto; "service above self."

## TODAY'S PROGRAM

### Bio of Mark A. Taylor

Mark A. Taylor, a native of Laurel, Mississippi, is in his twenty-second year at Jones County Junior College. This marks his eighteenth year as Director of Choral Activities. He holds the Doctor of Arts in Music Education and a Master of Music in Applied Vocal Performance from the University of Mississippi. He received his Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Southern Mississippi. Dr. Taylor has been privileged to conduct the Jones Concert Choir in Carnegie Hall on two occasions. His choirs have sung with the New England Symphonic Ensemble, the Annapolis Chamber Orchestra, the Atlanta Ballet, the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, the Kent (Michigan) Philharmonia Orchestra, the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, the Meridian Symphony Orchestra, and the Gulf Coast (MS) Symphony Orchestra. In addition to conducting the Concert Choir, Dr. Taylor is the dean of the Charles Pickering Honors Institute at Jones. He is active as an adjudicator, clinician, and church musician. He is the Worship Pastor at the East Campus of Temple Baptist Church in Hattiesburg. Dr. Taylor and his wife Leshia reside in Ellisville and have two sons.

## District 6840 Mid-Year Checkup

**One half of our 2009-2010 rotary year has been completed. Our District 6840 Midyear Checkup is this Saturday, January 9, 2010 at the Bay Waveland Yacht Club. 8:00 am - 12:30 pm**  
**Meet other leaders around our District, enjoy a light breakfast and lunch (free of charge). Please see Mary if you would like to attend.**  
**All board members and officers are encouraged to attend.**

## IMPORTANT DATES

Jan 5  
Jan 9

Speaker Mark Taylor, Jones County Junior College  
District 6840 Midyear Checkup - Waveland 8am-12:30 pm



## Meeting Dates for Area Clubs

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Bay Springs - 12:00	Columbia - 12:00	Clinton - 12:00	Madison-Ridgeland - 12:00	Rankin County - 12:00
City Hall	The Backdoor Restaurant	Baptist Health Plex	Steam Room Grill 155 N	Rankin Co. Med. Ctr. Annex
Bolton - 7:30	Flowood - 12:00	Gluckstadt - 12:00	Jackson	Slidell, LA - 12:00
Methodist Church	River Oaks Hospital	Parker House Restaurant	Taylorsville - 12:00	Pinewood Country Club
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		
Lucedale - 12:00		Richton - 12:00		
MS Gulf Coast Community		Magnolia Restaurant		
College Cafeteria		Waynesboro - 12:00		
Petal - 12:00		Western Sizzlin		
Civic Center		Prentiss - 12:00		
South Hinds County - 12:00		Country Fisherman		
BoDons Catfish & Seafood				