

LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

(Continued from inside)

Mary and Bill McLeod, Rotarian of the Year for 2008-2009, then spoke to the Club's service projects for the coming year. Todd Bradley, Erik Graham and Robert Cummings have agreed to work on this year's golf tournament. There are plans to add a fish-fry at the end of the tournament at which members can raise money to support the Club's community projects.

A Chair is needed for the Salvation Army's bell ringing campaign. Rotary provides members to raise the bell for at least one weekend each year. A chair is also needed to organize this year's water project, literacy project, the Young Author's Conference project, the Polio Plus project and the Night in Italy event. If you have an interest in working on any of these projects, please see Bill McLeod in the very near future.

Aime Spears and Kristy Gould have agreed to continue their work on the public relations committee. Mary also challenged members to sponsor two members to participate in the District's Leadership Development training.

Workers are needed on the Social Committee. Plans are to have a Christmas and a Valentine's event this year. One of those events may focus on a wine-tasting and a possible art auction.

And finally, Mary reported that she expects every board member to participate in the development of a strategic plan that will provide direction to the club's leadership for the next five years. She asked that members also participate in this process as the opportunities present themselves.

Mary reminded members of this year's Rotary theme; "The Future of Rotary is in Your Hands" and asked that every member take an active role in furthering the Rotary future.

The club was then adjourned with our motto, "Service above self."

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

Robin Walker, daughter of David and Kim Walker of Hattiesburg, returned in August 2008 from her year abroad as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar in Cape Town, South Africa. During her year abroad, Robin attended the University of Cape Town and worked toward earning her masters in International Relations. She recently completed her thesis on the securitization of post-9/11 US Africa policy and is now collaborating with her supervisor to publish in her field.

Robin's interest in international affairs began as an undergraduate at the University of Southern Mississippi where she received a full ride as an Honors College Presidential Scholar and earned her BA in International Studies. Upon graduation, however, Robin used her minor in communications to land the position of spokesperson for the City of Hattiesburg Police Department. She served in this capacity for two years before deciding to return to school to prepare herself for a career in US foreign policy.

While pursuing her masters as an Ambassadorial Scholar in Cape Town, Robin also worked with her host Rotary Club of Pinelands and with a university student organization to serve local economically depressed communities around the Cape Town area. In April 2008 when xenophobic violence broke out in many of these communities, she participated in a spontaneous student volunteer group that cooked and served refugees in makeshift shelters around the city. Robin considers her time as a scholar one of the best experiences of her life and plans to return to South Africa to reconnect with her host club in the future.

Currently Robin is in the process of looking for work in the Jackson or Hattiesburg. Her original plan of working in US foreign policy has been replaced with the desire to further her experience in public relations closer to home. Despite the change in career plans, however, Robin says that the value of her experience as an Ambassadorial Scholar will bring immeasurable impact to her work in whatever professional capacity she serves.

Spokes

July 14, 2009
www.hattiesburgrotary.com

District 6840

Club Number 04003

Organized 1918

ROTARY YEAR 2009-2010

OFFICERS

MARY CROMARTIE

President

TOM POTTER

President-Elect

BILL MCLEOD

Vice-President

ROBERT CUMMINGS

Secretary - Treasurer

LAMAR EVANS

Executive Secretary

GENE OWENS

Sergeant-At-Arms

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Term Expiring - June 30, 2010

Maura McLaughlin

Steve Ramp

Erik Graham

Wally Weakley

Past President:

Richard Topp

Term Expiring - June 30, 2011

Heath Hillman

Gene Owens

Mike Ratliff

Aime Spears

SPOKES Editor

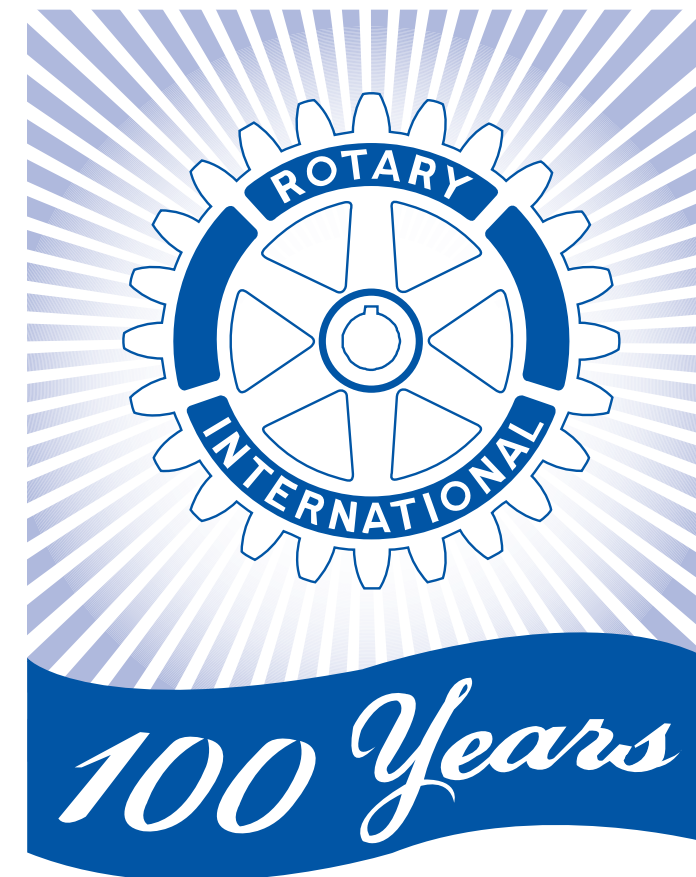
Aime Spears
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Official Newsletter of the

ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

P.O. Box 15185
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39404

A CENTURY OF SERVICE



A NEW CENTURY OF SUCCESS

"SERVICE ABOVE SELF"

MINUTES FROM 7/07/2009

President Mary Cromartie presided over the meeting.

Allen Anderson gave the invocation. Lamar Evans led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mary then led members in the Rotary Four Way Test.

Gene Owens then introduced a visiting Rotarian and today's guests. Kenneth West visited from the Petal Club.

Jerome Brown was a guest of Mike Ratliff. Delaney Gore and Raven Saavedra were guests of Maura McLaughlin. Chad Hill was a guest of Erik Graham.

Gene also thanked our greeters today, Todd Bradley and Debbie Adamson.

Patrick Ward was presented his Best New Member award and thanked for his efforts on the R3SM home construction project. In his acceptance, Patrick thanked Aime Spears for her efforts at publicizing the project.

Delaney Gore, one of the Club's RYLA scholarship participants came forward and encouraged members to participate in the RYLA Wheelchair Philanthropy event to raise money to purchase wheelchairs for persons who need one but can't afford one. It is estimated that 100 million people worldwide are in need of a chair. One chair can be provided for each \$100 donation.

Kenneth West of the Petal Club invited members to participate in their efforts to generate support for the Petal Children's Task Force. The organization provides clothing, food and school supplies for under-privileged children in the area. A motorcycle ride is scheduled for July 25th. The \$20 entry fee will provide support to the Task Force.

Robert Cummings presented the Club's newest member, Jerry Gilder. Jerry was a member of the club for more than twenty years but dropped his membership several years

ago. He was welcomed back to the club and thanked for his continued support of Rotary.

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Mary then called the Club's first Assembly for the year with her challenge to the membership; "Are you willing to do your part?"

She has established a goal for a net gain of five members for the year, representing approximately ten inductions throughout the year. She encouraged members to be willing to do their part by inviting qualified community leaders who will be willing to give of their time and resources to further Rotary. August is Rotary Membership Month. She asked members to focus on recruitment efforts throughout the year, but especially during the month of August. Additionally, Mary challenged members to improve their meeting attendance. Our club currently has a 50 to 60 percent attendance rate which falls below the District Club attendance average of between 70 and 80 percent.

Mary and Maura McLaughlin also challenged members to increase their support of the Rotary Foundation. Mary noted that the Petal Club has a program whereby every member contributes \$100 to the Rotary Foundation each year. She challenged our club members to do the same. Maura noted that she plans to get member permission to have their billing to include their Sustaining Member contribution of \$100 each year to the Foundation. She noted that there are 1.8 million lives lost each year world-wide because of polluted water. Additionally it is estimated that 1 billion of the world's population does not have access to good drinking water. Rotary has an ongoing water project and our Club will plan an event to raise money for the project this year. Additionally, Maura reported that our club contributed more than \$4,000 to the Foundation's Polio Plus campaign this past year. However, Rotary International must raise \$200 million dollars to match a \$355 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to free the world of Polio.

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FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF NEW MEMBER APPLICATION. Jerome Brown has been proposed for membership. His application has been accepted and approved by the Board of Directors. He is nominated by Mike Ratliff.

Reminder to all members - If any member believes that a proposed new member does not meet our criteria for membership, please state your reasons in writing and provide a copy to Lamar Evans and our Club President (Mary Cromartie) within 72 hours of this notice.

The Board will promptly consider and rule on any objections. If no objections are received, the applicant will become a member of the Club upon initiation.

RYLA CHALLENGE LAST CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE IS TODAY

The RYLA group for this year has been asked to challenge the club for the American Wheelchair Association which provides wheelchairs for people who can not afford them.

Maura McLaughlin's daughter, Delaney Gore, will be leaving this weekend for RYLA. Please turn in your contribution to Mary Cromartie TODAY if you would like to help with the wheelchairs for those who can not afford them. THANKS!

IMPORTANT DATES

July 14	Robin Walker, Ambassadorial Scholar to South Africa
July 21	Benson St. Louis, Finance and Human Resources Manager BAE Systems

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