



SPOKES

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

DISTRICT 6840 CLUB 04003



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Our guest last week, Chris Wooten, with Club President Sean Priebe and Ashley Reed.

MINUTES: JULY 14, 2015

President Sean Priebe presided over the meeting. Thanks to Scott Hummel who gave the invocation and to Ashley Read who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Thanks to Wes Brooks and Brian Moore for serving as our greeters today.

Jaclyn Adams thanked those who participated in today's meeting and welcomed our guests. Robert Clark is a guest of Sean Priebe. Ashish Uprefy and Thomas Mathews are guests of Scott Hummel.

Jaclyn and Sean decided instead of having a joke of the day, we are going to tell a story about one of our Rotarians and you have to figure out who it is.

This Rotarian's parents sat for 2 hours all dressed up and on their best behavior, being completely nervous about seeing the judge to adopt a little baby girl. They were so worried about the way they looked but when they finally made it into the court room, the judge was blind. That day they brought home Lucy Parkman.

Sean announced there was a District zone event on July 31st in New Orleans. If you are interested in attending let him or Jacquelyn know. He also reminded us that a District training program will take place at Pearl River Community College in Perkinston on August 29. He encouraged anyone interested in learning more about the Rotary Foundation or more about Rotary to plan on attending the one-half day program.

October 10th is the date for the Bike-a-Thon. Registrations are open on our club's website. Sponsors are needed. Any member interested in assisting is encouraged to let Sean know as soon as possible. Smoothie King, Newks Eatery and the Keg and Barrel are sponsoring.

Jacquelyn announced that Dr. Scott Hummel received an award last Friday.

Ashley Read then introduced today's guest speaker, Chris Wooten. Ashley and Chris have been friends for many years.

Chris works as the human resources director for the Lamar county schools. Being in that job he has seen a lot of things. Some of these things he

thought he should write down because they were the craziest thing he'd ever seen or heard. And then the next day something crazier would happen. Then he finally decided to start writing it all down. He grew up in rural Corinth Mississippi and his family was known to make up their own words and phrases. Since one of his passions is in theater, he thought he could use all these stories and turn them into short plays.

Dan Davis announced that Jacquelyn Adams was today's 50/50 raffle winner. Jacquelyn added \$20 and purchased a ticket for the "Keys for A Cause" event, then raffled the ticket off.

Bill McLeod purchased the ticket for \$15.

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

JULY 21

John McFarland
American Red Cross

AUGUST 11

Dr. Randy Henderson &
Justice Duhon
March of Dimes

AUGUST 29

District Foundation, P.r. &
membership seminars

SEPTEMBER 8

John Cornwell
District Governor

OCTOBER 10

3rd Annual
BIKE-A-THON



JOHN MCFARLAND, AMERICAN RED CROSS

John is the Executive Director of the 28-county Southeast Mississippi Chapter of the American Red Cross, after spending four decades as a Red Cross volunteer. He is also vice president of The Real Estate Marketplace, a family-owned real estate brokerage founded by his wife, Margie.

John retired in September 2014 after 42 years with the Sun Herald, where he was the Marketing and Interactive Media Director, publisher of The Journal of South Mississippi Business, and a member of the newspaper's editorial board. He was a director of the Mississippi Press Association through 2014.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, John is a graduate of the University of Dayton and continued graduate studies at the University of Cincinnati, University of Southern Mississippi and Louisiana State University. He is a U.S. Army veteran, attaining the rank of Captain.

John is an active member and former Distinguished President of the Gulfport Kiwanis Club. He chaired the annual Kiwanis Student Leadership Conference for 12 years and is the recipient of the George Hixson Award from Kiwanis International. He was the 2009 Chairman of the Mississippi Coast Chamber of Commerce and helped create and still chairs the annual Salute to the Military. He continues to serve as a Coast Chamber board member, and helped launch the Mississippi Coast Film Office. John is a lifetime director and three-term president of the Gulf Coast Symphony Orchestra, Inc., where he helped launch such programs as the annual "Sounds by the Sea" free outdoor concerts and the Gulf Coast Symphony's Youth Orchestra. He is a past president of the Biloxi Bay District/Scouting USA and twice served as General Campaign Chairman for the United Way of Harrison County.

Prior to his appointment as Executive Director, John spent 40 years as a volunteer with the American Red Cross South Mississippi chapter and has served seven terms on the Mississippi Coast chapter's board of directors, and twice served three-year terms as board chairman. From 1992 to 1995 he was a member of the Red Cross State Service Council and from 1995-1998 served as Mississippi Red Cross Service Council chairman. He has served as promotion and media liaison director for three Miss USA telecasts, the Nike Golf tour and the International Science and Engineering Fair, and currently serves as a starter-announcer for the Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic, a PGA Champions Tour event. He served on the Tourism and Small Business committees of the Governor's Commission on Recovery, Rebuilding and Renewal after Hurricane Katrina and co-chaired the Tourism Initiative for the Gulf Coast Business Council. He is past chair of the Harrison County Beautification Commission and currently a director of the INFINITY® Science and Education Center at NASA's John C. Stennis Space Center, a director of the Gulf Coast Business Council, and a director of the Knight Nonprofit Center. He was also chairman of the Gulf Coast Regional Tourism Partnership, a non-profit, regional tourism development and marketing corporation administering millions of dollars in tourism marketing grants from BP following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

An alumnus of Leadership Mississippi, class of 1982, John was the 1999 recipient of the James K. Batton Excellence Award for Community Leadership, the 2002 Silver Medal from the Mississippi Coast Advertising Federation, the 2006 Laurel Wreath Award for community service presented by Regions Bank, the 2008 "4EverYoung" Award presented by Coast Young Professionals, the 2012 Pat Santucci "Spirit of the Coast" Award presented by the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, and the 2013 Humanitarian of the Year honors awarded by the American Red Cross.

DISTRICT GOVERNOR NOMINATIONS OPEN

District Governor nominations for the 2018-2019 Rotary year are now open. All supporting documentation must be received no later than August 7, 2015. Email submissions will not be accepted.

The documents should be mailed to:
PDG Karen Babin, Dist. Exec. Asst.
900 South Peters, Loft 13
New Orleans, LA 70130

All applicants must participate in an interview. The interviews are being conducted at Pearl River Community College on Saturday, August 29, following the Foundation, PR and Membership seminar.

The documents to be completed:
DG Nominee Form
DG Nominee Club Resolution
DG Applicant Certification

It is, without doubt, the ride of your life. If you've ever wanted to make a difference and lead Rotarians there's no better time than today!

ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG
BIKE-A-THON
 OCT. 10, 2015 - LONGLEAF TRACE
 REGISTER: WWW.ROTARYOFHATTIESBURG.COM



POST-RACE EVENT AT:



MEET YOUR 2015-2016 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT,

K.R. RAVINDRAN

By Diana Schoberg
Rotary News

This excerpt from the July issue of The Rotarian magazine profiles the 2015-16 RI president.

Before he gives a speech, K.R. Ravindran doesn't like flowery, adulatory introductions. They make him uncomfortable. The 2015-16 Rotary president would rather keep a low profile and share the credit. If it were up to him, you probably wouldn't even be reading this article.

Negotiating Days of Tranquility during the Sri Lankan civil war so that health workers could administer drops of polio vaccine? Although it was on his desk that the agreement landed, he says, a lot of people worked to make that happen. Rebuilding 23 tsunami-damaged schools for 14,000 children? He merely led the committee. Taking a label-printing business from a small outfit operating in a space the size of a garage to a global powerhouse in the packaging business that has helped change the value-added tea industry in his country? Well, he simply happened to be in the right place at the right time.

"I'm sometimes introduced as a self-made man," says Ravindran, a member of the Rotary Club of Colombo. "You've got to be utterly egocentric to believe you are self-made. Each one of us is made because so many people helped us become who we are."

One of the reasons I work so much for Rotary is that I have been helped by so many people, and often you never have a chance to reciprocate," he explains. "The only way you can is by helping others. When the people I help ask me, 'What can I do?' I say, 'Go and help someone else in return.'"

For Ravindran, paying it forward isn't a fad, it's a way of life. His theme for this Rotary year, Be a Gift to the World, also summarizes his personal philosophy.



Be a gift to the world