

DISTRICT OPPORTUNITIES

Rotary Seeking Area Professionals for Goodwill Exchange to Argentina

Rotary club members of Southeast Louisiana and South and Central Mississippi are seeking outstanding professionals to visit the Argentina (Rotary District 4825) in April-May 2010 as part of the Group Study Exchange program of The Rotary Foundation.

Through the program, teams of young professionals from two different countries exchange visits. For four to six weeks, team members experience the way of life, customs and vocational practices of another country, while sharing information about their home country.

The purpose of the Group Study Exchange program is to promote international understanding and goodwill through personal connection. While abroad, team members stay in Rotarians' homes and have the opportunity to meet their professional counterparts. They also give presentations to Rotary clubs and other groups about their home country.

Rotary pays for round-trip airfare, and Rotary club members in the host country provide meals, lodging and group travel in their district. Team members pay for personal and incidental expenses.

Young adults between the ages of 25 and 40 who are interested in applying should be employed full-time in a business or profession. Applicants must live or be employed within the boundaries of Rotary District 6840 (southeast Louisiana and south and central Mississippi).

If you or someone you know might be interested they can get more general information and a copy of the application, visit the GSE page at www.rotary6840.org or visit www.rotary.org. Also contact Sharron Newton at snewton0959@earthlink.net for more information. Applications are due by August 22, 2009 and should be mailed to 35140 Garden Dr., Slidell, LA 70460 or faxed c/o Ace Necaise at 228.497.4800.

Foundation, Membership and Public Relations Seminar

August 08, 2009

This seminar is a must for club presidents, club presidents-elect, current and future club committee chairman for The Foundation, membership and public relations and interested Rotarians.

Tuition: None

Location: Pearl River Community College/Crosby Hall

Address: 101 Highway 11 North, Poplarville, MS

Registration Deadline: August 1, 2009

Register online at www.rotary6840.org

Spokes

July 28, 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
aspears@whlt.com

Official Newsletter of the

ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

P.O. Box 15185
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39404



“SERVICE ABOVE SELF”

MINUTES FROM 7/21/2009

President Mary Cromartie presided over the meeting.

Mike Collins gave the invocation. Richard Jones led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mary then led members in the Rotary Four Way Test.

Gene Owens recognized visiting Rotarians and visitors. Pierce Stevens and Milton Wheeler visited from the Petal Club. Chad Hill was a guest of Erik Graham and Brian Moore was a guest of Adam Pittman.

Thanks also for today’s Greeters, Quentin Benedict and Jalil Buti.

Mary reminded board members of the July 27th board meeting which will begin at 5:30 p.m. She also reminded members of the District and Foundation Seminar scheduled on August 8th at Pearl River Community College. All members are encouraged to participate.

LAST WEEK’S PROGRAM

Two members gave us their certification talks today. Jen Miles graduated from Purvis High in 1991 and graduated from USM in 1995 with a degree in banking and finance. She’s employed by Hancock Bank. She and her husband of 12 years, Chris, live in Sumrall and are expecting their first child later this year.

Adam Pittman graduated from PCS. He attended Vanderbilt University and crammed a four year degree into 6 years. He returned to Hattiesburg to work in the family business, Columbia Block and Brick. The company was started in 1946. Adam represents the fourth generation that provides products and services to the greater Hattiesburg community.

Heath Hillman conducted today’s auction. Travis Sissons’ bid of \$50 on four Blue Bayou water park tickets was the winner. Proceeds of the auction will go to benefit the Rotary Foundation.

Gene Owens then introduced today’s guest speaker, Benson St. Louis, Finance and Human Resources Manager for BAE Systems here in Hattiesburg.

According to Benson, BAE Systems’ mission is to “protect those who protect us.” The company has more than 100,000 thousand employees worldwide. Sixty-seven of those employees are located right here in Hattiesburg. BAE is the third largest global defense company in the world producing more than 100 new inventions each year and generating sales of more than \$30 billion annually.

BAE Systems in Hattiesburg manufactures the 155 mm Howitzer, M77A1 System. The company began putting its supply chain together in 2000 and began the Hattiesburg operation in 2003. In 2004 two of the guns had been produced and today’s production total is more than 500.

The M77A1 System is lighter and more maneuverable than its predecessor. It can be put into service by air, ground and sea. Because it is easy to move and set-up, it provides greater security for our armed forces because they can attack and then relocate rapidly. Fully charged, the gun has a range of 40 kms. Benson noted that the gun could be fired from Hattiesburg and hit within 10 meters of a target as far away as Collins or Lumberton. The enemies in the current conflict call the M77A1 the Desert Dragon because it rains down fire from the heavens.

For the future, BAE Systems here in Hattiesburg plans to reset the guns they’ve already placed into service. They currently have 38 back in the shop for resetting. The company owns a variety of other entities worldwide, including the company that builds the Bradley Combat Vehicles. The United States Government has strict controls over defense contractors. BAE Systems is required to build more than 70 percent of their defense systems within the United States.

THIS WEEK’S PROGRAM

Charles Gruby (rhymes with Ruby) is a retired systems engineer who worked for NASA from 1965 until 1995. He was working at mission control 40 years ago when we sent the Apollo astronauts to the moon. Mr. Gruby is also a pilot, a plane builder, and enjoys riding his Harely Davidson. Mr. Gruby has a wealth of behind the scenes and little known facts associated with the historic Apollo moon landing that he will be sharing with our club. He currently lives in Petal with his wife, Lucille, who also worked for NASA.

Mr. Gruby is a self professed Army Bratt, but he mostly grew up in Clearmont, FL. He dropped out of school in the 10th grade to join the Air Force, but later earned his GED and went on to study engineering. While stationed at Keisler AFB he met his future wife, Lucille. Mr. and Mrs. Gruby both have relatives in Mississippi and that played into their decision to move from Houston.

TIME TO UPDATE OUR ROSTER

IF YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION HAS CHANGED RECENTLY, PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF YOUR UPDATED INFORMATION AND GIVE IT TO LAMAR EVANS.

IF YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS HAS CHANGED PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF YOUR NEW INFORMATION AND LET LAMAR KNOW OF THE CHANGES.

WE WILL ALSO START TAKING PICTURES OF ALL MEMBER FOR A PHOTO DIRECTORY. WHEN YOU HAVE TIME, AT THE BEGINING OR END OR OUR MEETING, HAVE YOUR PICTURE TAKEN FOR OUR PHOTO DIRECTORY.

IMPORTANT DATES

July 28	Chuck Gruby - Retired NASA Engineer
Aug 08	District Seminar - PRCC 8:00 am-2:00 pm Register at www.rotary6840.org
Aug 14	Strategic Planning meeting at Mary’s house 9:00 am- all interested members welcome

Meeting Dates for Area Clubs

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
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 I55 N
Bolton - 7:30	Flowood - 12:00	Gluckstadt - 12:00	Jackson
Methodist Church	River Oaks Hospital	Parker House Restaurant	Taylorsville - 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	Friday
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			