

## MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEE CHAIR

June 2009

Message from the chair -- New opportunities for the Foundation



Dear family of Rotary,

Although The Rotary Foundation has faced considerable challenges in 2008-09, I am encouraged by the many positive events of recent months.

In January, we started the application process for the Future Vision Plan pilot. The Trustees are reviewing the applications and will announce the pilot districts this month. We are pleased to see that a large number of districts are eager to help us test this simplified and focused approach to grant-making.

Also in January, Bill Gates appeared at our International Assembly and announced that the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation had awarded Rotary another grant for polio eradication – this one for US\$255 million – in addition to the \$100 million grant awarded in 2007. On the same day, we learned that the governments of Germany and the United Kingdom have committed \$130 million and \$150 million, respectively, to eradicating polio.

Rotarians are, of course, doing their part to respond to what is now Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge. To date, we are more than one-third of the way toward meeting the challenge, and I have no doubt that we will surpass our goal by the deadline of 30 June 2012. We can and will End Polio Now.

In March, we announced an exciting alliance with USAID. Through our International H2O Collaboration, we will be developing large-scale water and sanitation projects in countries with active Rotary clubs and a strong USAID presence. This partnership and its projects should serve as a model for the Rotary Foundation Global Grant projects that will be developed under the Future Vision Plan.

Despite the current economic challenges, The Rotary Foundation remains strong. With the support of Rotarians and the organizations that have chosen to work with us, our Foundation will continue to be a vital force for good in our troubled world.

Jonathan Majiyagbe  
Foundation Trustee Chair

reprinted from [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) June 1, 2009

# Spokes

June 2, 2009  
[www.hattiesburgrotary.com](http://www.hattiesburgrotary.com)

District 6840

Club Number 04003

Organized 1918

### ROTARY YEAR 2008-2009

#### OFFICERS

RICHARD TOPP  
*President*

MARY CROMARTIE  
*President-Elect*

A.D. HUNT  
*Vice-President*

KRIS KING  
*Secretary – Treasurer*

LAMAR EVANS  
*Executive Secretary*

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*Sergeant-At-Arms*

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

##### Term Expiring – June 30, 2009

Todd Bradley  
Kristy Gould  
Perrin Lowrey  
Bill McLeod

*Past President:*  
Freddy Walter

##### Term Expiring – June 30, 2010

Robert Cummings  
Maura McLaughlin  
Steve Ramp  
Erik Graham

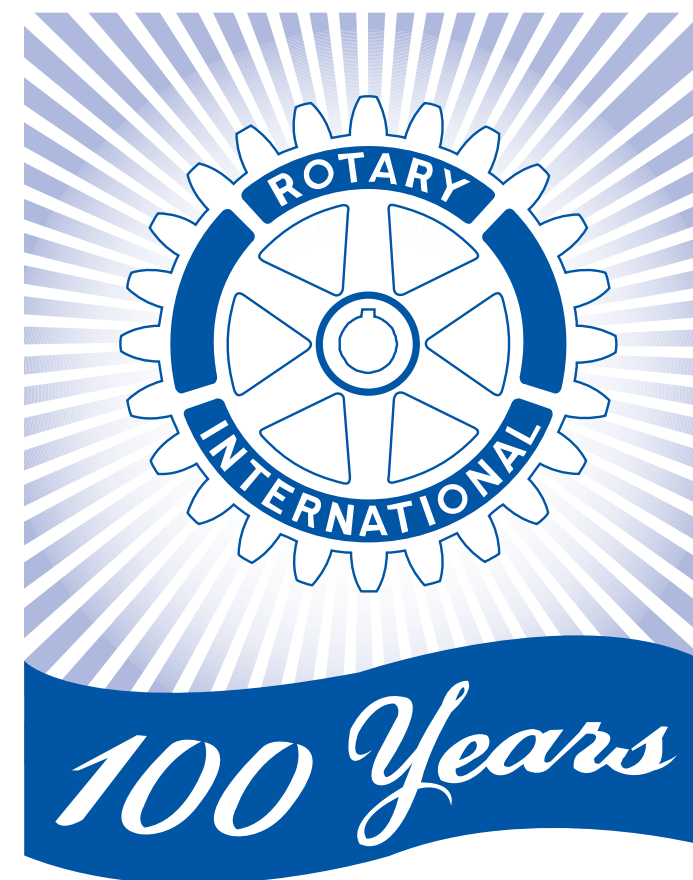
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*Official Newsletter of the*

## 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 05/26/2009

President Richard Topp presided over the meeting.

David Thoms gave the invocation. David Owens led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance. Richard then led members in the Rotary Four Way Test.

Gene Owens introduced today's visiting Rotarians and guests.

Milton Wheeler visited from the Petal Club.

Lance William was a guest of Freddy Walter.

Richard reported that Jerry Gilder is being nominated for membership reinstatement.

Members were encouraged to pay for their Night in Italy tickets and their \$33 Pennies for Polio pledge within the next two weeks.

Richard also reminded members that the International Convention is coming up in June and that incoming president Mary Cromartie will be representing us at the event.

## LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Mike Ratliff then introduced today's guest speaker, Jerra Boatner Runnels, President of the Board of Directors for the Domestic Abuse Family Shelter (DAFS). According to Jerra there are 1.5 million females abused each year in the United States along with 800,000 males. She also reports that 30 to 60% of the children in these families also suffer abuse. DAFS serves eleven counties in the southeastern portion of Mississippi in an effort to provide safe and secure shelter to the abused victims within its service area.

DAFS is a United Way of Southeast Mississippi Agency operating a shelter in Hattiesburg and another in Laurel. The organization was founded in 1984, purchased its first shelter in 1993 and located to its current Hattiesburg location in 1997. The budget totals \$568,000 and comes from United Way contributions, individual contributions, federal and state grants.

The economy has a proven negative impact on domestic violence. Jerra reported that in February of this year the shelters logged 43

client nights yet by April that number had increased to 409 nights. There were 95 calls for assistance in February and 149 calls in April. In February there were 56 referrals from other entities. That number had grown to 103 by April.

DAFS has the goal of raising money for a new shelter. The current Hattiesburg location is not in a favorable location and only has the capacity for twenty beds. Male children fifteen years of age and older must be separated from their mother and the design of the current structure provides little or no privacy for victims. DAFS is also unable to offer transitional housing for victims. They have plans for the new shelter and are seeking land. A gala fundraising event is scheduled for December 5th.

In addition to offering a temporary safe shelter for abuse victims, DAFS offers whole-family counseling and battery programs in an effort to break the cycle.

### IMPORTANT DATES

<b>June 09</b>	<b>Denise Von Herrmann, Dean of the College of Arts and Letters</b>
<b>June 16</b>	<b>Frank Montague</b>
<b>June 21-24</b>	<b>International Convention, Birmingham, England</b>
<b>June 23</b>	<b>COL J Chesney, Commander of the 177th Armored Brigade</b>
<b>June 30</b>	<b>Installation of New Officers</b>

### PENNIES FOR POLIO

**Your contribution will help Rotary raise \$200 million to match \$355 million in challenge grants received from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The resulting \$555 million will directly support immunization campaigns in developing countries, where polio continues to infect and paralyze children, robbing them of their futures and compounding the hardships faced by their families.**

**Donate Now**

## THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

**Shawn Mercer  
Public Affairs Specialist  
Social Security Administration**

Shawn Mercer is the voice and face of Social Security in south Mississippi. Shawn has over 17 years of experience with Social Security, serving first as a claims representative in Jackson and Hattiesburg and most recently as a full time Public Affairs Specialist for the agency in Mississippi. Shawn has an extensive background in the Social Security and SSI disability process and the retirement and survivors programs of Social Security.

Shawn is responsible for public affairs activities full time which includes radio, TV, and news print materials as well as public speaking engagements, conferences, and employee benefit fairs. Shawn regularly addresses groups on Social Security programs and is frequently asked to speak to various professional organizations on specific areas of interest as they relate to Social Security programs and benefits.

Shawn is an active member of the Public Relations Association of Mississippi-Pine Belt Chapter and he also serves on the chapters Board of Directors. He is a graduate of the Hattiesburg Area Development Partnership's 2004 Leaders for a New Century Class and is currently serving on the alumni steering committee.

Shawn has a BS in Journalism with an emphasis in Public Relations from the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) with a minor in Speech Communications.

Shawn and his wife Katie live in Richton with their two children Anna Claire (12) and Matt (7).

### From the Membership Committee.....

Dr. Jerry Gilder is being nominatted for membership reinstatement.

### Meeting Dates for Area Clubs

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</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		
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				