

# SPOKES

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

## Awards Day & Officer Induction Ceremony



# 2014-2015

### 2013-2014 Officers & Board Members

Scott Hummel, President  
Wes Brooks, President-Elect  
Jennifer Payne, Vice President  
Sean Priebe, Secretary-Treasurer  
Maura McLaughlin, Past President  
Brian Moore, Sergeant-At-Arms

Allen Anderson  
James Duncan  
Chase Munro  
David Owens  
Lucy Parkman  
Valencia Williamson

*Thank you for your service!*

**MINUTES: JUNE 17, 2014**

President Scott Hummel presided over the meeting. Thanks to Brian Moore who gave the invocation and to Wes Brooks who led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance. Thanks to Mike Ratliff and Audra Cummings for serving as our greeters today.

Brian Moore and introduced today's guests. Maurice Evans is a guest of Jerome Brown. Dean Cromartie is a guest of Mary Cromartie and Marisa Merallis is a guest of Jennifer Payne.

Scott reminded members once again that they will receive matching points from the District if they make a contribution to the Rotary Foundation before June 30.

Scott reported that he has received a thank you note from the District Governor for our club's contribution to the District's Serbian Flood Relief campaign. He noted that while the Serbian GSE students were visiting our club a few weeks back their country was stricken badly by flooding.

Scott also reminded members that the June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting will be the installation of officers for the coming year and the awards program. He encouraged all members to attend.

Scott then introduced Jasmine Murray who is currently the reigning Miss Riverland. Jasmine will be competing in the Miss Mississippi Pageant on July 12<sup>th</sup> and hopefully will move on to represent Mississippi in the Miss American competition later this summer. Jasmine's personal platform for her competition is "Thirteen going on

Thirty". She chose this campaign in hopes that she can help young girls embrace their age and not grow too fast. Jasmine also talked about the Miss America organization and its mission. The organization is the largest scholarship provider in the world for girls between the ages of 18 to 24. Their scholarships promote science, technology and math and they focus on the Children's Miracle Network.

Sean Priebe then introduced today's guest speaker, Aaron Beam. Mr. Beam was a founder and the first CFO of HealthSouth. He retired from the company in 1997 and in 2003 admitted his part in the fraud that resulted in a massive accounting fraud within the organization.

Two years after the organization was founded by Richard Scrushy it went public. They issued 2 million stocks valued at \$6.50 each. Aaron, who has purchased \$5,000 worth of the initial stock became a millionaire overnight. HealthSouth was the first company in America to open outpatient rehab facilities. By 1995 the company bought out six other smaller companies that began offering the same services becoming the largest company in Alabama. At its peak, HealthSouth operated in all 50 states and had 60,000 employees. It was 350<sup>th</sup> in the top 500 companies in America.

Beam maintains that it became increasingly difficult to meet the demands placed on the company by Wall Street. He maintains that Richard Scrushy order him and his associate to do whatever it took to create a favorable financial report for Wall Street. Beam says, they began cooking the books to

generate these favorable reports and once begun it was not possible to stop. Greed was the motivator according to Beam.

After pleading guilty to his part in the fraud he became the lead witness in the trial against Richard Scrushy. The trial lasted 6 months and the jury had the case for 6 weeks. In the end Scrushy was found innocent of all charges. He later did serve prison time but not for the HealthSouth problem. He was convicted of illegally giving the Alabama governor \$500,000. He served 70 months in prison for that crime.

Beam says he is now and will forevermore be a felon for the part he played in this crime. He maintains that we need to train our young people through the educational systems in ethics. He says they should be so well trained in ethics that their instincts will take over when confronted with an ethical dilemma and they will make the right decision.

Beam encourages employers to hire employees with integrity, intelligence and drive and if they aren't able to hire one with integrity they should hope the employee is stupid and lazy. Beam has written a book about his experience and travels the county on a lecture tour. Richard Scrushy is living in Houston, TX and is a preacher and a singer. He too has a book and a lecture series.

To learn more about Beam's work visit his website at [www.aaronbeam.net](http://www.aaronbeam.net).

**Minutes Courtesy of:  
Lamar Evans, Executive Secretary  
Rotary Club of Hattiesburg**

**OFFICERS**  
2014 - 2015



**Wes Brooks**  
President



**Sean Priebe**  
President-Elect



**Erik Graham**  
Vice President



**Amanda Lee**  
Secretary-Treasurer



**Scott Hummel**  
Past President

# Awards

## The Bill Gwyn "Non-Rotarian" Service Award

Presented to a member of the community who exemplifies the Rotary motto "Service Above Self." This award is named in memory of Bill Gwyn who served the club with distinction as club secretary for many years. This award carries with it a Paul Harris Fellow Designation in that the club contributes \$1,000 in the recipient's honor to the Rotary Foundation to continue to be of service to others.

*2013-2014 Recipient: Christopher Wilkes, Hope House.*



## The T. C. Hannah "Rotarian of the Year" Award

Given in recognition of ongoing service and dedication to the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg. T. C. Hannah, charter member and first president of the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg. Our club was founded on January 19, 1918 with twenty-six businessmen and professionals. Rotary International issued our club's charter on March 1, 1918 Club No. 366. Rotary International was in its 14th year.

*2013-2014 Recipient: Wes Brooks.*



## The Milam S. Cotten "New Rotarian" Award

Awarded to a dedicated Rotarian who has been a member of the club for less than three years. This award is named for Dr. Milam "Sonny 34" Cotton, a dedicated Rotarian who lived to serve. Dr. Cotton was the last member of this club to rise to the level of District Governor.

*2012-2013 Recipient: Chase Munro.*

## Special Visitor Last Week

Miss MSU, Jasmine Murray, stopped by the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg on Tuesday to give a brief presentation on the history of the Miss Mississippi Pageant, the opportunities it offers its contestants, and the services it provides us all. She will be competing in the Miss Mississippi Pageant July 9-12.



### Coming in July

July 1, Elizabeth Broome Gillentine

July 8, Hal Purvis - Veteran Pilot and Secret Service Agent

July 15, Lamar Co. Sheriff, Danny Rigel

July 22, Sgt. Mark Gillentine, Chief Instructor of Armor (Camp Shelby)

July 29, Sen. Billy Hudson, District 45 (R-MS)

## Would you be interested in owning one of these?

