

2012 Photo Contest winners

The Rotarian -- June 2012



First place. Shot outside Kisumu, Kenya. Says Benson, "This photograph, of a little child trying to get fresh water for the family, is unpretentious and poignant and tells an important story. You know exactly the situation and are moved by the look of expectation in her eyes, as if she's asking for help. It is an image you stop and look at, and that is the main criterion for good photography." *Darryl Brown, Rotary Club of Boulder, Colo., USA*

Read this entire story at www.rotary.org



Spokes

June 5, 2012
www.hattiesburgrotary.com

District 6840

Club Number 04003

Organized 1918

ROTARY YEAR
 2012-2013

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President

MAURA MCLAUGHLIN
President-Elect

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Vice-President

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Secretary – Treasurer

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Sergeant-at-arms

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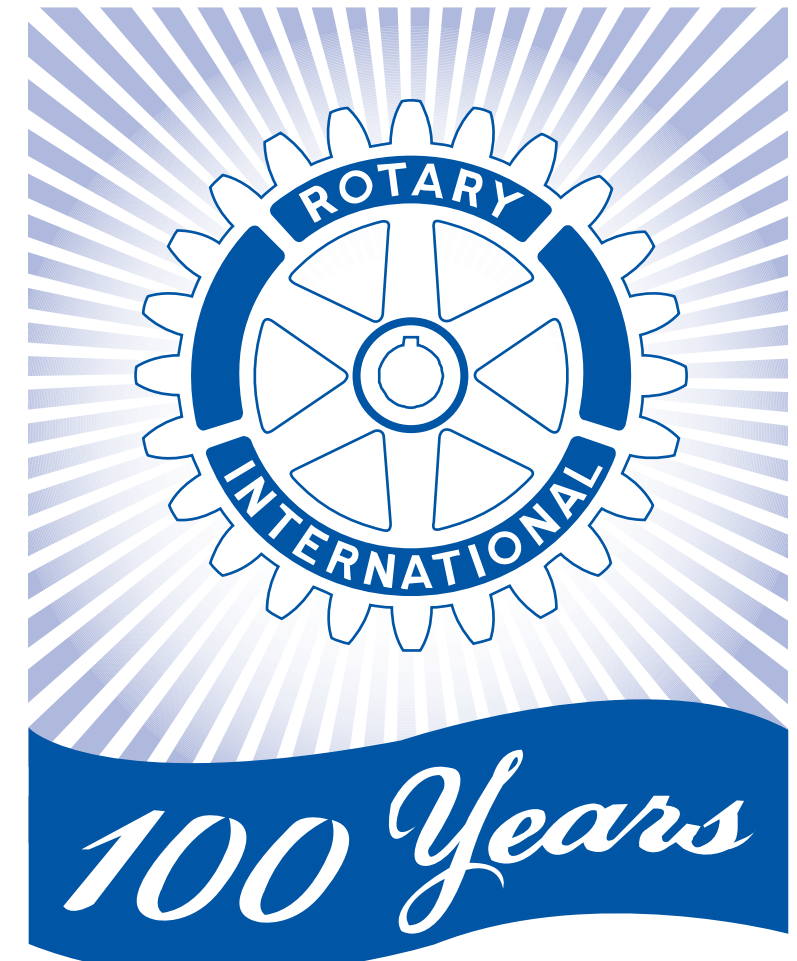
Past President:
 Bill McLeod

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Official Newsletter of the

ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

A CENTURY OF SERVICE



“SERVICE ABOVE SELF”

MINUTES FROM 05/29/12

President Robert Cummings, Jr. presided over the meeting.

Thanks to Mike Ratliff, who gave the invocation, and to Chris Price, who led the Pledge of Allegiance. Thanks also to Bill McLeod for serving as today's greeter.

Robert gave members a brief overview on Memorial Day's history noting that the holiday began as "Decoration Day" where those who died in defense of our country were honored when their graves were decorated. It is believed that back in the late 1800's the day was officially called Memorial Day.

Sean Priebe noted that we have no guests and no visiting Rotarians today.

Robert stressed the importance of club members participating in our Polio Plus campaign before the end of the Rotary fiscal year on June 30. Your contributions will be greatly appreciated and the money raised will go to the Rotary International Polio Plus campaign where vaccines, including polio, are administered in places where they would not otherwise be available.

Maura McLaughlin and Mike Ratliff were asked to come forward along with Valencia Williamson. Maura thanked Mike for his membership recruitment efforts throughout the year and installed Valencia as our club's newest member. She will be greeted and welcomed by club members as they leave today's meeting.

Maura announced plans for the Kollege of Knowledge to take place at 10:30 on the morning of June 5th. All red badge members are encouraged to be in attendance for this very important orientation meeting.

All past presidents were encouraged to attend and participate in the passing of the gavel ceremony when the new board members and officers will be inducted on June 26th.

Jennifer Payne then introduced today's guest speaker, Dr. Erik Clark, Executive Director of the Mississippi Community College Board.

Dr. Clark began his presentation by thanking the club for our generous contribution to the Children's Center for Communication and Development. He had a child who attended the school early in her life. Erik noted that the school is a treasurer for the state of Mississippi and more especially for Hattiesburg and the University of Southern Mississippi.

Dr. Clark's presentation stressed the importance of education in the Twenty-First Century. He noted that when he graduated from high school some 43 years ago it was possible to support your family with a decent middle class income with only a high school diploma. In fact, he reported that high school drops earn an average of \$24,000 each year. Individuals with an Associate's degree earn about \$42,000 annually and those who graduate with a Bachelor's degree earn about \$55,700 annually.

In 2008 twenty-six percent of those who dropped out of high school lived in poverty. That compares to only twelve percent who graduated from high school. Only seven percent of those who graduated with an Associate's degree lived in poverty.

Only 30% of those who dropped out of high school exercise on a regular basis. That number jumps to 61% of those who graduated with an Associate's degree.

In the realm of obesity Dr. Clark reports that forty-one percent of middle-age Americans who dropped out of high school are obese. That number drops to 26% if the person graduated with a Bachelor's degree.

Community Colleges educate approximately 250,000 Mississippians annually. About 115,000 are enrolled in academic or career track courses. Another 100,000 are in workforce training programs and the remainder are enrolled in adult basic education or GED prep work. Clark says there are 400,000 Mississippians today who are high school dropouts and that Community Colleges can play a critical role in improving their economic situation.

Hinds Community and the Gulf Coast Community Colleges are the fourth and fifth largest institutions of higher learning in the state following only the University of Mississippi, Mississippi State University and the University of Southern Mississippi.

Clark noted that funding for Community Colleges has been a challenge since the most recent recession began. At the same time state funding dropped from 55% to 39% of their budgets enrollments increased 526%. He suggested that Rotarians should consider encouraging the legislature to fully fund the Mid-Point legislation approved for Community Colleges several years ago. That legislation supports funding Community Colleges at a level mid-way between what the K-12 program and the Institutions of Higher Learning are funding.

MEET TODAY'S SPEAKER

Butch Smith, Country Girls Creamery, Poplarville

A nurse for 17 years, Butch Smith decided about two years ago to go into business with his father, a life-long dairy farmer. He and his father and brother run Cowgirls Creamery, where they control every step of the processing of their milk and milk products from hormone-free jersey cows.

Cowgirls Creamery products are available in selected locations from the Pine Belt to the Coast. Butch will talk about the business and how they take their fresh local products from the farm to the table.

CALLING ALL PAST PRESIDENTS!

The Board of Directors is asking all past Presidents of the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg to please attend June 26, for the installation of our new officers.

New officers will be installed and awards will be presented. All members are asked to attend.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Dan Davis is being proposed for membership by Tracie Fowler. Dan is the Manager of Marketing and PR with Southern Pines Electric Power Association

Also proposed for membership is Kevin Semetis. Kevin is President of The Strategic Results Center and has been proposed by Scott Hummel.

If you have any questions or comments about those proposed, please see our Membership Chair,

READING BETWEEN THE LIONS LITERACY PROGRAM

Volunteers needed each week to read children's books to Pre-Schoolers at The Family Y - Veterans Memorial Blvd. See Bill MacLauchlan to volunteer.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| June 5 | Butch Smith, Owner
Country Girls Creamery |
| June 12 | Polio Plus Focus Day
Speaker - Dr. Bobby Middlebrooks |
| June 19 | 10:30, Kollege of Knowledge-
For all Red Badge Members |
| June 19 | Jack Norris, President
Gulf Coast Business Council |
| June 26 | 2012-13 Rotary Officer Installation |

POLIO PLUS

We will have a 50/50 raffle to be held June 26th. The proceeds will contribute to the Polio Plus program.

