

See a gallery of Rotary projects promoting basic education and literacy

Rotary International News -- 7 March 2012



A student looks on as her teacher checks an assignment in a temporary classroom in Sri Lanka, which served 200 students during construction of Randombe Kanishta Vidyalaya, a school in Ambalangoda. The effort was part of the Schools Reawaken project, which helped rebuild 22 coastal schools damaged or destroyed by the 2004 tsunami. *Rotary Images/Alyce Henson*

Read more at www.rotary.org

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Chase Munro and Curtis Smith have been proposed for membership. Curtis is a lawyer and Chase works for the Red Cross. They were both sponsored by Bill McLeod.

Also, we are pleased to announce that Francis Farmer has rejoined the club.



Spokes

March 13 2012
www.hattiesburgrotary.com

District 6840

Club Number 04003

Organized 1918

ROTARY YEAR
 2011-2012

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Official Newsletter of the

ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

A CENTURY OF SERVICE



A NEW CENTURY OF SUCCESS

“SERVICE ABOVE SELF”

MINUTES FROM 03/06/12

President Robert Cummings, Jr. presided over the meeting.

Thanks to Mike Ratliff, who gave today's invocation. Also, thanks to Larry Leblanc who led the Club in the Pledge of Allegiance. Robert then led members in the Four Way Test.

Sean Priebe welcomed today's guests. Bill McLaughlin had Kris King as his guest and Milton Wheeler visited from the Petal Club. Chase Munro was a guest of the club as his membership application is being processed.

Robert recognized Chris Price, chairman of this year's Night in Italy, to give an update on the event scheduled for April 17th. Chris circulated a sign-up sheet for volunteers willing to help. He said they need about 20 more volunteers to help serve on the to-go side, as well as additional greeters on both sides.

Chris noted that last year's Night in Italy was reportedly the biggest ever and they are working to surpass the 2011 event, including seeking sponsorships to help meet the target goal of \$15,000. He said they plan to stay with the same theme and concept as before and he's currently working on the possibility of a stringed instrument ensemble to perform.

Maura then gave the group a reminder about the District Conference scheduled for April 19-21 in Metairie, LA. She recommended that anyone planning to attend should register as soon as possible (and they must come through the Club). Maura also has the hotel information and instructions in case anyone needs it.

Robert then read a "thank you" card from Stephen Spell and his siblings, thanking the Club for honoring their late father Joe Spell with a Double Paul Harris Fellowship Award for his extraordinary Rotary Service.

Tracie Fowler then introduced today's guest speaker, Rayola Dougher, Senior Economic Advisor for the American Petroleum Institute in Washington, DC.

In today's fuel source market, Rayola said oil and natural gas are the backbone of the American economy with over 500 member companies and approximately 9 million employees in the industry. Mississippi alone supports 91,000 jobs representing about \$8.6 billion annually in this segment of the energy industry.

Rayola explained that fuel prices at the national level (specifically gasoline and diesel) mirror changes in the cost of crude oil, noting that about 90% of price movement follows the trends set by the base cost of crude oil. She said the majority of the price at the pump is directly driven by the oil price per barrel, but other costs include taxes and uncertain factors like supply and demand.

"The market drives everything, especially now that we're in a global market," she said. "When Libya went offline last year and stopped their oil production of a million barrels a day, the whole world felt it. Now, Saudi Arabia is trying to step-up production."

She said domestic demand is actually down currently and has remained relatively flat over the past several years, adding that supply inventory is in good shape. However, the U.S. is projected to be using about 10% more in 2035 than we used in 2010.

Gas prices can increase dramatically at the pump, But price hikes do not translate directly to the industry's bottom line. According to the 3rd-Quarter 2011 Earnings By Industry report, the Oil and Natural Gas Industry is among the lowest on the list (6.7), only higher than Motor Vehicles (6.6) and Food (1.9).

This is compared to the other end of the earnings spectrum, with Pharmaceuticals (22.2), Computers (20.8), Manufacturing (9.2), and Aerospace (8.9). She said the Oil and Natural Gas Industry pays a 41.1% tax rate, compared to the 26.5% rate paid by the other S&P Industries.

For the natural gas segment, Rayola said the U.S. is estimated to have a 100-year supply and this valuable fuel source is at near record-low cost right now. "This is a low-cost energy source that equates to lower heating and cooking bills, which really helps in this economy," she said. "We hope to begin exporting by 2020."

Rayola said the U.S. produces about 40% of the oil here, with about 20% from Canada. She said it's important for the U.S. to continue partnering with Canada because for every \$1 that we spend with Canada, they in-return spend \$.90 with us. On the other hand, for every \$1 we spend with the Middle East, they only spend \$.30 with the U.S.

She said there are still a lot of out-of-bounds areas, particularly around the perimeter borders of the U.S., that are believed to contain undiscovered deposits of oil and natural gas. However, exploration is often at the mercy of environmental concerns.

"There's been a significant loss of capital investment in the Gulf of Mexico," Rayola said. "There was 20% less production in 2010 and already 30% less than expected this year." She said there are currently 10 federal agencies that oversee this industry, which is considered to be a huge waste of effort and tax money. However, recommendations have been made to have one agency in charge, but with input from the others.

Anyone interested in additional information on the Oil and Natural Gas Industry can log-onto www.energycitizens.org or www.vote4energy.org.

MEET TODAY'S SPEAKER

Mitchell Williams

Mitchell Williams is the Area Director of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Prior to being hired with FCA, he worked at WDAM for 27 years, serving as sports director for 20 of those years. While at WDAM, the sports department was cited by the Mississippi Association of Broadcasters for excellence on 40 different occasions.

The creator of the award-winning Sports Journal, he is credited with creating an all-area football team which lasted for 25 years. WDAM was the only television station in the state to ever do so.

A cheerleader for young people, Mitchell hosts a retreat for leaders of our area's football teams every spring.

He attended North Forrest and Southern Miss, where he lettered every year in cross country, indoor and outdoor track. He was inshrined in the USM Athletic Hall of Fame in 2001.

Recently celebrating his 24th year of marriage, he and his wife Shelia are the parents of four boys. They are members of Grace Temple Church in Hattiesburg.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- March 13** Mitchell Williams
- March 20** Claire Whittington
- March 27** Chad Newell
- Apr 17** Night In Italy - (All members sign-up to help with this event)
- Apr 19-21** District Conference - Metairie



READING BETWEEN THE LIONS LITERACY PROGRAM

Volunteers needed each week on **Tuesday or Friday** mornings at 9:30 to read children's books to Pre-Schoolers. Read for about 20-30 minutes.



The Family Y -
Veterans Memorial Blvd.
601-268-0808
Call Dan Kibodeaux or
sign up at lunch meetings
or email
dan@Unitedwaysems.org
call **601-545-7141**

March Reading Volunteers Needed!

Date	Volunteer	Volunteer
Friday, 3/2 9:30am		
Tuesday, 3/6 9:30am		
Friday, 3/9 9:30am	Jaclyn Adams	
Tuesday, 3/13 9:30am		
Friday, 3/16 9:30am		
Tuesday, 3/20 9:30am		
Friday, 3/23 9:30am		
Tuesday, 3/27 9:30am		
Friday, 3/30 9:30am		