

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR BOARD MEETING OF 3/23/2009:

1. Voted to approve a 6-month leave of absence for Bob Riley beginning in April.
2. We need to recruit additional workers for the Hub Fest water project to work 2-hour shifts.
3. We also need three volunteers from the Board and next year's Board to work at registration desk at Club Assembly Saturday April, 4 at Pearl River Community College.
4. Accounts Receivable needs to be collected especially various large delinquent accounts.
5. The success of Night in Italy depends on club-wide participation in working, selling tickets and buying placemat adds.
6. Bear, a Book, and a Bag Literacy Project is progressing so we will soon need readers to participate in delivering books and reading to children.
7. We need one more RYLA participant (preferably a male student) that we will sponsor to this wonderful leadership conference to be held July 19-23 at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center in Loranger, Louisiana. Student must be an upcoming senior in high school.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE...

Wes Brooks and Lance Nail and Janice Touchstone have submitted applications for Rotary Membership Please welcome our newest members, David Owens and Adam Pittman.

R3SM UPDATE FROM PATRICK WARD....

Work Day this Saturday March 28,2008 (8-12.) We will be working in the yard. Freddy Walters is providing the flowers. Bring your garden gloves. The R3SM House located at 701 Katie, Hattiesburg. Directions: Located behind the Hattiesburg Police Station. Edwards Street ends at Police Station and Katie begins.

NIGHT IN ITALY

We need everyone to sign up to help with The Night in Italy. Tickets have been mailed out to everyone. Southern Oaks will cook but we need everyone to help set up, serve and clean up.

PLACEMAT ADS FOR NIGHT IN ITALY

Tom Potter and Terry Miller are creating placemats with advertisements for sponsoring businesses. Cost for a business card size ad is \$50. Deadline for ads is April 1th. Contact Tom Potter tpotter@trustmark.com 601-583-5309 or Terry Miller terrygmiller@yahoo.co 601-606-0967 to get your ad now.

WATER BOOTH AT HUBFEST

Rotary will have a booth at HubFest on March 28th. Helpers are still needed to sell bottled water to support our Water Project. Members please help out by signing up with Katheryn Smith to work a 2 hour shift. It is going to be a fun event.

Spokes

March 24, 2009
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

HEATH HILLMAN
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

SPOKES Editor
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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 3/17/2009

President Richard Topp presided over the meeting. David Thoms gave the invocation. Perrin Lowrey led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance. Richard Topp then led members in the Rotary Four Way Test.

Gene Owens sat in for Heath Hillman and introduced today's guests.

Matt Pace was a guest of Patrick Ward. Janice Touchstone was a guest of Jaclyn Adams. Mary B Riley was a guest of Bob Riley. Wade Wicht was a guest of Todd Bradley.

Gene then introduced the club's newest members, David Owens and Adam Pittman. They will be inducted next Tuesday.

Patrick Ward reported that March 28th is the next workday for the R3SM project. He is looking for volunteers to assist with the final clean-up and landscaping. Work hours will be from 8 a.m. until Noon.

Richard also reminded members that March 28th is also Hub Fest and the day the Club will be staffing a water station during the event. Proceeds generated from this event will assist RI in their international clean drinking water project. Volunteers are needed.

Richard also asked for a minimum of three current or future board members to volunteer to attend the April 4 District Assembly that will be held at Pearl River Community College. A minimum of three are needed to work a registration table.

Richard reminded members to participate in the Pennies for Polio project by depositing their change in the jugs provided at each meeting through the end of the year.

Tom Potter reminded members of the advertising opportunities associated with the Night in Italy event. Sign-up forms are available. Bill McLaughlin reminded members that the Night in Italy event is scheduled for April 21st. Sign-up sheets are available and volunteers are needed in two hour shifts.

Travis Sissons urged Club members to nominate a candidate for the Strong Women program sponsored by Wesley Medical Center. Information about the program was distributed. If you are interested, see Travis.

Mark Satterlee reminded members of the upcoming Steak to Steak program. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Boys and Girls Club. Tickets are available for purchase through the Salvation Army. See Mark if you're interested in helping.

Francis Farmer conducted the auction of a NCAA basketball. Bob Riley won the bid with a \$100 contribution to the Rotary Foundation.

LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Gene Owens then introduced today's speaker, Betsy Rowell, Executive Director of the Historic Hattiesburg Downtown Association.

Hattiesburg is celebrating its 125th anniversary with a number of events in the coming months. There will be a birthday party at Town Square Park as a part of the upcoming Hub Fest.

Although 2008 wasn't the greatest financial year in the nation's history, the public investment in downtown Hattiesburg still totaled 6 million dollars. The private investment for the year reached 2.7 million dollars. Since 2000 a total of 42 million in public and 34 million dollars in private money have been spent in the downtown re-development process. A total of eight net businesses with three new ones have been added creating 23 net jobs. Seventeen residential units have also been added to the downtown property list.

Betsy noted that a new wave of excitement was recently generated when steel hit the ground at the Old Hattiesburg High School project. Work continues to shore up the internal structure with the front facade work being completed within the next few weeks. There is now a three-year build-out goal for that project which is expected to bring a larger number of USM students into the downtown community.

Recent purchases and development plans include a renovation of two properties creating three new retail and five new residential units. Additionally, a new micro-brewery is under development in the warehouse district and a new Pine Street Grocery is being created just across from the county's tax office. She also mentioned the YMCA will announce their new downtown location shortly.

If you're looking for entertainment events, Betsy recommends attending Hub Fest, visiting the Farmer's and Artisan's market each Thursday afternoon which will feature a free concert on the third Thursday in April and again in October. The Live-After-Five event is back every Friday evening in Town Square Park during the months of April and October. The weekend of April 16 - 19th will feature a number of events throughout the city. Visit www.downtownhattiesburg.com for a calendar.

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

Biography & Background – Jim Richmond

Jim currently serves as Director of Corporate Communications for Cellular South. In his role as Director of Corporate Communications, he is responsible for media relations, public relations, internal branding and communications and sports marketing.

Has served in various roles with Cellular South over an 18 year career. Area Field Manager in southwest MS and then on the MS Gulf Coast and Hattiesburg area as Director of Retail Sales Director of Business and Government Sales Director of Training and Development.

He served on numerous Chamber of Commerce Boards and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Mississippi Council on Economic Education as well as the Advisory Board member of the Madison County Foundation.

He serves as a member of the Cellular South Foundation

Graduated from Mississippi State University with BA degree in Banking and Finance in 1985

Married to Jennifer Wiltshire Richmond – an Ole Miss graduate and has two children – Miller (age 14) and Marion (age 11) and currently resides in Madison, MS

IMPORTANT DATES

| | | |
|------|------|--|
| Sat | 3/28 | Work Day at R3SM House |
| Sat | 3/28 | HubFest - Rotary Water Booth |
| Tues | 3/31 | Wynona Winfield, Southeast Mississippi State Hospital Director |
| Tues | 4/14 | Deadline for Night in Italy placemat ads |
| Tues | 4/21 | Night In Italy - 4:30-7:30 @ Southern Oaks |
| May | 7-9 | District Conference - Bay St. Louis |

Meeting Dates for Area Clubs

| <i>Monday</i> | <i>Tuesday</i> | <i>Wednesday</i> | <i>Thursday</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 I55 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 | <i>Friday</i> |
| Lucedale - 12:00 | | Richton - 12:00 | Rankin County - 12:00 |
| MS Gulf Coast Community | | Magnolia Restaurant | Rankin Co. Med. Ctr. Annex |
| College Cafeteria | | Waynesboro - 12:00 | Slidell, LA - 12:00 |
| Petal - 12:00 | | Western Sizzlin | Pinewood Country Club |
| Civic Center | | Prentiss - 12:00 | |
| South Hinds County - 12:00 | | Country Fisherman | |
| BoDons Catfish & Seafood | | | |