

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May 16-27	Rotary International Convention Hospitality Tours and Events
May 17	11:30 RIC Committee Meeting
May 17	Hal Kittrell, Forrest County District Attorney
May 24	Jeff Hammond, USM Sports
May 31	Brian Hall, Rotary Membership
June 4th	Rotary Golf Tournament at Timberton

### WEEKLY FOUNDATION RAFFLE

Our Foundation Chair, Scott Hummel, is coordinating a raffle each week to help raise funds for the Foundation and also Polio Plus. The prize last week was donated by Chris Strebeck. Erik Graham was our winner. To donate items call Scott 601-318-6497 or 601-466-61.56 (cell). Thanks for your participation!

William Carey University invites you to a dinner honoring Dr. Milton Wheeler, for his 47 years of service, and counting. Over the years, Dr. Wheeler has taught, led trips around the world, and contributed to Rotary International and District 6840 through GSE, Rotary Scholars, club leadership, and district leadership.

The dinner will be held on June 2, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. at Southern Oaks House & Gardens. Also, we invite you to make a donation to establish THE DR. MILTON WHEELER SCHOLARSHIP. Tickets are \$25 per person

### READING BETWEEN THE LIONS LITERACY PROGRAM

Volunteers needed each week on Monday or Wednesday 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  
dan@Unitedwaysems.org  
call 601-545-714

### May Reading Volunteers

Date	Volunteer	Volunteer
Tuesday, 5/3 9:30am	Jerry Buti	
Friday, 5/6 9:30am	Bill McLeod	
Tuesday, 5/10 9:30am	Jerry Buti	Chris Price
Friday, 5/13 9:30am	Sarah Liles	Llana Wallace
Tuesday, 5/17 9:30am	Chris Price	
Friday, 5/20 9:30am	Brian Moore	
Monday, 5/23 9:30am	Lucy Parkman	Mary Cromartie
Wednesday, 5/25 9:30am	Aime Spears	
Monday, 5/30 9:30am	NO READING THIS DAY	NO READING THIS DAY

**NOTE  
SUMMER  
SCHEDULE  
STARTING  
ON  
MONDAY,  
MAY 23!**

### ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION NEW ORLEANS, MAY 21-25, 2011

**ONE DAY PASS FOR HOUSE OF FRIENDSHIP ON  
SATURDAY MAY 21 ONLY \$40**

FULL CONVENTION REGISTRATION IS \$380



**Volunteer to Help:** If you go down Saturday, you can sign up to volunteer to help at the House of Friendship with all our other district members, 2-4 Hour shifts.

**Thanks** to those who volunteered to bake brownies for the Death by Chocolate Dessert out District will serve Saturday night at Fun, Food and Fellowship at the Aquarium. Volunteers: Mary Cromartie, Erin Granberry, Lucy Parkman, Margaret Lochhead, Aime Spears, Audra Cummings, Janice Touchstone, Maura McLaughlin, Bill McLeod, Mike Ratliff

Contact Suzy Steen if you have any questions.  
601.266.4344 - s.l.steen@usm.edu

### Volunteers Needed for "Toast from the Coast"

2011 Rotary International Host Hospitality Event  
May 23rd, 5:30 PM, Bay St. Louis Community Hall  
\$25 per volunteer

Guest Speaker Cliff Dochterman  
Special Musical Guest Ronnie Kole

Questions? Email BSLRotarytickets@yahoo.com or call  
Pat Furr at 228-220-0216

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL ~ AGAIN!!!

### GROVER ANDERSON AND RYLA SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

\$1,000 USM Scholarship recipients are:  
Yusef J. Buti, son of Jerry Buti  
Claire Ratliff, daughter of Michael Ratliff  
Austin Clinton, grandson of Stanley Carpenter

The RYLA award winners are:

Grant Mitchell and Shelby Gatewood, both students at PCS. Grant is Hayden Mitchell's son.



# Spokes

May 17, 2011  
www.hattiesburgrotary.com

District 6840

Club Number 04003

Organized 1918

**ROTARY YEAR  
2010-2011**

### OFFICERS

BILL MCLEOD

*President*

ROBERT CUMMINGS

*President-Elect*

MAURA MCLAUGHLIN

*Vice-President*

PATRICK WARD

*Secretary - Treasurer*

LAMAR EVANS

*Executive Secretary*

WES BROOKS

*Sergeant-at-arms*

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Term Expiring - June 30, 2011**

Janice Touchstone

Gene Owens

Mike Ratliff

Aime Spears

*Past President:*

Mary Cromartie

**Term Expiring - June 30, 2012**

Jaclyn Adams

Greg Buie

Scott Hummell

Dan Kibodeaux

**SPOKES Editor**

Aime Spears

aspears@whlt.com

*Official Newsletter of the*

## ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

A CENTURY OF SERVICE



A NEW CENTURY OF SUCCESS

**"SERVICE ABOVE SELF"**



Looking for Rotary International 2011 Convention Information?

District Website [www.rotary6840.org](http://www.rotary6840.org) - Rotary International [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

## MINUTES FROM 05/10/11

President Bill McLeod presided over today's meeting.

Dan Kibodeaux provided the invocation and Chris Price led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance. Bill then led members in the Four Way Test.

Special thanks to our greeters today who were Jared Eastlack and Allen Anderson.

Wes Brooks then introduced today's visiting Rotarians and guests. David McPhail is visiting from the Sunrise Club. Amanda Lee is a guest of David Owens and Amanda Winters is a guest of Gene Winters.

Bill asked that members continue to keep Paul McMullan and his family in their thoughts and prayers. He continues to remain in critical condition after a recent surgery.

Thanks to Chris Strebeck for providing today's Rotary Foundation raffle item. Congratulations to Erik Graham who won the gift certificate.

Mike Bonnette announced the recipients of two RYLA scholarships the club is providing this year and three-one-thousand Grover Anderson Scholarship recipients. RYLA winners are Shelby Gatewood and Grant Mitchell. Claire Ratliff, Austin Clinton and Yusef Buti are the Grover Anderson Scholarship recipients.

Erik Graham encouraged members to get more involved in the annual golf tournament project. The tournament raises a great deal of money that goes to assist local community programs, such as the ARC. He noted that other clubs seem to have better member participation in their club projects. He needs sponsorships, teams, volunteers and hole sponsors. Anyone interested should see Erik. The tournament is set for June 4th.

## LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM SUMMARY

Janice Touchstone came forward and introduced today's speaker, Dr. Ben Burnett, Superintendent of the Lamar County School District.

Dr. Burnett, having spoken to the Club shortly after his election to this position in 2007 provided members with an update on the school system. He reported that the system now has more than 9,000 students which is up about 1,200 over the last three years. He also released a study of the projected attendance rates over the next ten years. It is anticipated that the Lamar County School System will serve between 12,500 and 17,500 students by 2020. Based on recent student enrollment numbers, Ben reports that the system is about in the middle of that projection currently.

Based on the anticipated growth in the county and the school population, Dr. Burnett's office is putting together a site selection plan to determine where the new campuses will be located in the coming years. Rather than having to face a major expenditure for new campus development in 2020, Dr. Burnett anticipates that they will be able to gradually incorporate a 40 to 50 million dollar capital campaign during this time frame.

The school system faced a \$4 million budget cut last year. Employees were reduced from 1,240 down to 1,271 without reducing the number of classroom teachers and without any

layoffs. School district employees had to take a cut in pay. In addition, the district has had to take another \$3 million in budget cuts throughout this school year.

Even during the hard economic times, Dr. Burnett reports that the dropout rate has declined from 14.5% down to 13%. The district has also seen a substantial increase in the number of students enrolled in the vocational education program. That population increased from 110 in 2008 to 230 this year.

Going forward, Dr. Burnett does not see a need to increase the school district's millage in the coming budget year. He is projecting an increase of 21 new teachers to be added to the classrooms in the coming school year.

He did ask club members to consider participating in the Educational Foundation. The Foundation raises money to supplement the money that teachers spend on their classrooms each year. Each teacher currently receives \$160 per year while it is anticipated that they each spend more than \$500 a year on supplies. Dr. Burnett also asked club members to consider participating in a mentoring program. You will spend 45 minutes a month having lunch and visiting with a first or second grade student that is in need of a mentor.

## TODAY'S PROGRAM

Bio of Hal Kittrell

Hal Kittrell is the District Attorney of the 15th Circuit Court District, which comprises Jefferson Davis, Lamar, Lawrence, Marion, and Pearl River counties. He was appointed District Attorney by Governor Haley Barbour in January, 2007, and was subsequently elected to a four year term in November of that same year. He served as an Assistant District Attorney for the 15th District for seven years prior to assuming the position of District Attorney.

Mr. Kittrell received his Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Mississippi in 1980. He received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Mississippi School of Law and was admitted to practice law in the State of Mississippi in 1984. He was engaged in the private practice of law for 16 years before joining the District Attorney's Office. During that time he served as the Informal Adjustment Officer for the Marion County Youth Court and also served as a part-time Marion County Public Defender.

Mr. Kittrell is a member of the Character and Fitness Committee for the Mississippi Board of Bar Admissions, a member and past president of the Marion County Bar Association. He is also a former Commissioner of the Mississippi Bar Association and former member of the Board of Directors for the Mississippi Prosecutors Association.

Mr. Kittrell is an active member of First United Methodist Church of Columbia. He serves as Chairman of Administrative Council. He has formerly served as Chairman of Finance and Staff-Parish Relations.

Mr. Kittrell is married with two step-daughters and five grandchildren.

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT.....

Robert and I went down to Perkinston for our District Assembly on Saturday.

PDG Subhash Kulkarni, Chair of the Host Organization Committee, updated everyone on the 2011 RI Convention and said that the Convention would be in the black this year and encouraged everyone to make an effort to come down at least for Saturday, May 21st, which you can purchase a \$40 pass to the House of Friendship. A lot of effort has gone into planning this year's Convention and I hope you will make an effort to attend. Barbara Mauldin is to email me an update regarding where to take the brownies for the Food, Fellowship, Fun and Fins event. Also, Sharron Newton said they are still lacking about 2,100 volunteers for the Convention and it is my understanding that you do not have to register nor be a Rotarian to be a volunteer to work at the Convention.

Also, you will be proud to know that our Club received the following awards:

**2009-10 Certificate of Appreciation from the Rotary Foundation for our financial support of Rotary's US \$200 Million Challenge; 2010-11 Presidential Citation; and**

**Banner and plaque for the 2010-11 Rotary Club of the Year for District 6840 presented by DG Dick McCarthy**

All of our Board members and Club members should be proud of receiving the above-referenced awards which speaks well of all the work done by our Board Members, Committee Chairs, and Club Members on behalf of Rotary. Truly service above self.

## ANNUAL ROTARY GOLF SCRAMBLE




**2011 ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG SCRAMBLE**

SPONSORED BY



**ForrestGeneral**  
HOSPITAL



**We C.A.R.E.**  
Every Employee, Every Patient, Every Time

**Saturday, June, 4<sup>th</sup> ~ Timberton Golf Course**

*"All Proceeds Benefit ARC of Forrest County"*  
*(Association for Rights of Citizens with Disabilities)*



**Team Registration:**

**4 Man Scramble \$100/Player**  
(Includes 18 holes w/cart, range balls, beverages and meal after tournament)

**Single player registrations are also welcomed – Single players will be placed on a team at the discretion of the golf committee**

**Shotgun Start @ 1pm ~ Sign-In Begins @ 12pm ~ Deadline to Register: Friday, May 27th**

Company/Group Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Foursome Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Golfers on Team	Average Score or Handicap	Amount Due	Check Number
1.		\$	#
2.		\$	#
3.		\$	#
4.		\$	#

Total Registration \$ Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsorship Opportunities Available**  
**See Reverse Side for More Information**

**Please make checks payable to: Rotary Club of Hattiesburg and send form with payments to:  
Rotary Club of Hattiesburg, PO Box 15185, Hattiesburg, MS 39404**

*If you have any questions, contact Erik Graham at 601.329.3161 or  
[dgraham@bakerandgraham.com](mailto:dgraham@bakerandgraham.com)*