

SPOKES

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

Sean Priebe, President
Jaclyn Adams, President-Elect
Brett Phillips, Secretary-Treasurer
Lamar Evans, Executive Secretary
Wes Brooks, Past President

Dan Davis
Tracie Fowler
Faye Gilbert
Ryan Kelly
Bill MacLauchlan
Mike Ratliff



MINUTES: MAY 10, 2016

President Sean Priebe presided over the meeting. Thanks to Allen Anderson who gave the invocation and to Wes Brooks who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Thanks to Angela Herzog and Tracie Fowler who served as our greeters today.

Wes Brooks filled in for Jaclyn Adams today and introduced our guests. Tom Overton is a guest of Dan Davis. Ray Rayburn and Josh Blackledge are guests of Sean Priebe. Trudie Gibbs is a guest of Lynn Walton.

Wes Brooks also provided us with information about today's mystery Rotarian. This Rotarian is was born in Massachusetts. His career took him to Cleveland, Ohio, Mobile Alabama, San Diego, CA and then finally to the Hattiesburg area. He has traveled extensively including a cross country motorcycle tour across Canada. He has visited Mainland China, Southern Italy, East Berlin, India and Russia. He has flown in an F/A18 with the Blue Angels and ridden in a nuclear submarine. Our mystery Rotarian for today is David Hayhurst.

Sean thanked all of the volunteers who made this year's Night in Italy event a success. He singled out Maura McLaughlin and Jennifer Payne who co-chaired this year's event. Because of our efforts the club will be making a donation to the Children's Center for Communication and Development around \$8,000 plus the funds they raised from ticket sales. The Children's Center has invited all Rotarians to attend their graduation scheduled for May 20. If you are planning to attend, please RSVP to Samantha McCain at samantha.mccain@usm.edu.

Sean reminded club members that a new newsletter editor must be found by July 1. Wes is stepping down from the award winning publication and will provide instructions to get the new editor up to speed.

The Bike-a-Thon is scheduled for September. Volunteer sign-up sheets will be circulated in the near future.

RYLA applications are now being sought. Applicants must be a rising senior. The club has reserved one slot for this year's program.

Jennifer Payne then introduced today's guest speaker, Charlie Spillers. Charlie resides in Oxford

and recently published a new book called "Confessions of an Undercover Agent: Adventures, Close Calls, and the Toll of a Double Life". The book is published by University Press of Mississippi and was recently named the number one best seller in Mississippi by the Clarion Ledger.

Charlie had an 18 year law enforcement career with most of that career as an undercover agent. He began his career in the police department in Baton Rouge. He went undercover to infiltrate criminal groups and corruption. From there he joined the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics and continued to work undercover. He ended his career as a federal prosecutor stationed in Oxford.

He also has a wide array of international experience where he volunteered and served three tours in Iraq. His next book, which he is currently working on will be an international thriller according to Spillers.

"Confessions of an Undercover Agent" reveals information about many of the jobs he worked while undercover. He worked a number of "buy and bust" drug sales where his life was in danger on many occasions both from criminals and law enforcement agents who did not know he was undercover. Firearms are tools of the trade for drug dealers. Charlie also says that you cannot predict how a situation or a bust is going to end but you must be prepared for anything. Having survived eleven years as an undercover agent he says he must have been successful because he is still alive.

While working for the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics he lost a team member in a kidnapping situation. The agent dove into the car of the kidnapper to save the victim and was killed by a man with a gun. In recognition of the loss of Hattiesburg Police officers Dean and Tate on May 9, 2015, Charlie reminded members that the men and women who stand on the blue line are "your law enforcement" and therefore are "our law enforcement" representatives. They must serve with courage and dedication every day of their career.

Charlie Spillers new book is available at Main Street Books, 210 Main Street here in Hattiesburg. Visit their website at <http://www.visitmainstreetbooks.com>

MIA HALL



Mia Hall has appeared in numerous productions in university shows such as *Mary Poppins* and *West Side Story*. Hall has sung leading roles such as Annie in *Annie*, Elle in *Legally Blonde*, and Rusty in *Footloose* at Meridian Little Theater. Regionally, she played Babbette in *Beauty and the Beast* and Chava in *Fiddler on the Roof* at Oklahoma City University summer musical theatre intensives. She has been coached in master classes by Jason Robert Brown, Alice Ripley, Sierra Boggess, Sutton Foster, and Lawrence O'Keefe. She is a student of Dr. Jonathan Yarrington at the University of Southern Mississippi where she is pursuing a degree in vocal performance.

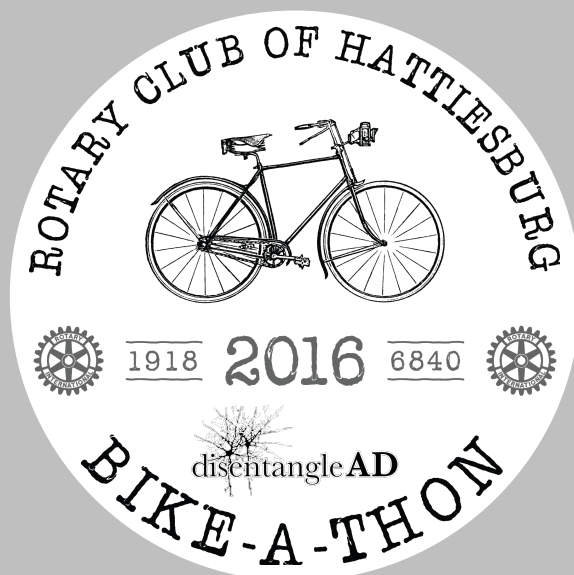
UPCOMING

**MAY 24 ELIZABETH WINTON & STACI COX—VOLUNTEER
HATTIESBURG/UNITED WAY**

JUNE 7 HATTIESBURG HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

**JUN 14 ANDY IMPASTATO—POLITICAL FORECAST & IMPACT TO
HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY**

SEPTEMBER 24, 2016



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION
28 May-1 June 2016

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