

5/14/12

Rotary.org: News - Speakers urge Rotarians to fight global poverty

“My dream is to one day take poverty out of our society and put it in a museum that our grandchildren can visit to see what it was like,” Yunus said.

Antipoverty crusader Hugh Evans, cofounder and CEO of the [Global Poverty Project](#), said Rotary can use its considerable influence to fight poverty.

“Like Rotary, we believe that mass mobilization of individuals can effect real change in the world,” Evans said. “When we focus on the needs of others, our own burdens become lighter. Our perspective sharpens.”

“This idea, the same one that drives you as Rotarians, guides our work at the Global Poverty Project,” he said.

UN connection

Gillian Sorensen, senior adviser and national advocate at the United Nations Foundation, encouraged Rotarians to work with governments to solve global problems including poverty, hunger, illiteracy, and lack of access to clean drinking water and sanitation.

“What is clear is that problems like this are too great for governments alone to resolve,” said Sorensen, who has served in many positions at the UN including assistant secretary-general for external relations. “They need partners of every kind, from private sector to civil organizations like yours, who have the means to contribute and lead.”

Sorensen said Rotary, which has a 66-year relationship with the UN, continues to be an active and influential presence at the organization’s headquarters in New York. “You play a similar role with UNICEF, UNESCO, and WHO,” she adds.

Read this entire story at www.rotary.org



Spokes

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www.hattiesburgrotary.com

District 6840

Club Number 04003

Organized 1918

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2012-2013

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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 05/15/12

President Robert Cummings, Jr. presided over the meeting.

Thanks to Conrad Welker, who gave the invocation, and to Wes Brooks, who led the Pledge of Allegiance. Thanks also to Chris Price and Mike Ratliff for serving as today's greeters.

Sean Priebe welcomed today's visiting Rotarians and guests. Danny Moore is visiting from the Lucedale Rotary Club. Brian Page is a guest of David Owens. Kelli Phillips is a guest of Dan Henley. Valencia Williamson and Andreas Moffett were visitors of the club. Both have membership applications pending.

Robert reported that the final tally work is being conducted on the Night in Italy event and it is hoped that a check can be presented to the Children's Center for Communication and Development at next week's meeting.

The Gover Anderson Scholarship application deadline is nearing. That committee is expected to announce scholarship recommendations within the next week.

The May board meeting will take place on Monday, May 21, 2012 and will be held at Dubard School. The June 25th meeting will be hosted at the home of Robert and Audra Cummings. The new officers and directors will be installed the following day, June 26. Newly elected board members are encouraged to attend the May 21 meeting if at all possible.

Maura McLaughlin just is returning from Bangkok, Thailand where she represented the Hattiesburg Rotary Club at the International Rotary Convention. She reported that more than thirty-eight thousand attended the meeting. Although the twenty-five hour flight was stressful she had an excellent convention. The people from Thailand were welcoming and nice and provided the delegates with a very enjoyable stay. Upon returning home Maura exclaimed,

"God Bless America." She noted how wonderful it is to live in a land where you have the opportunity for free speech. Maura noted that after her experience she is convinced that, worldwide, we are more alike than different and that Rotarians throughout the globe are all working toward the same goals.

Robert thanked Maura for the update and noted that more information and pictures will be forthcoming.

Robert asked members to keep Milton and Donna Wheeler and Brian Moore and his family in thoughts and prayers in the coming days as they are all facing medical issues.

MEET TODAY'S SPEAKER

Bob Beisner, Vice President of Human Resources, Stion Corporation

Bob brings over 15 years of experience in solar and 30 years in finance, accounting and human resources to Stion. He was head of human resources, facilities and health, safety and environment at Siemens Solar. As they evolved into SolarWorld, Bob became one of three managing directors in the USA. From 2006 to early 2011, Bob was the American point person for SolarWorld in the United States.

He was an advance operator in acquiring the 97-acre in Hillsboro, helping to refurbish the plant into a site with 500 MW of annual production capacity and hiring the leadership of that operation. Bob oversaw the integration of the former Shell assets into SolarWorld, establishing the U.S. headquarters in Hillsboro, and populating that site with over 1,000 employees.

As a CPA, Bob previously worked for Price Waterhouse and with Coopers & Lybrand. He received an MBA from the University of Kansas and an accounting degree from Jacksonville University.

FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our gifts to the Children's Center at USM will total \$15,000 this year.

Our Night in Italy fundraiser was a great success and we will present a check for \$11,320 at tomorrow's meeting.

Our club has previously donated \$3680 in tickets.

The board designated \$3000 in scholarships this year and acted to donate \$2000 to USM Foundation's Grover Anderson Memorial Fund.

The board designated \$1000 to the Milton Wheeler Scholarship Fund at William Carey University.

Board action authorized purchasing a \$5000 CD to increase our rainy day fund to just under \$25,000.

The Young Rotarian of the Year Award has a new name. We will award our first Sonny "34" Cotton New Rotarian of the Year Award on June 26.

We are calling all past presidents to be part of our passing of the gavel ceremony June 26. Any past presidents please attend.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May 22	Bob Beisner - Stion Corporation
May 29	Dr. Eric Clark - Executive Director Mississippi Community College Board
June 5	Butch Smith, Owner Country Girls Creamery
June 12	Polio Plus Focus Day Speaker - Dr. Bobby Middlebrooks
June 19	Jack Norris, President Gulf Coast Business Council
June 26	2012-13 Rotary Officer Instillation

POLIO PLUS

We will start our auctions again to contribute to the Polio Plus program. Please see Janice Touchstone if you have gift cards or items to raffle. Also, come prepared to win a prize!



FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Valencia Williamson is being proposed for membership by Mike Ratliff. She was a Rotarian in the DeFiniak Springs Club.

Also nominated for membership is Andreas Moffett, who is a civil engineer with Neel-Schaffer in Hattiesburg. Andreas was the recipient of a Rotary scholarship from the Downtown Rotary Club of Jackson.

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

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 MacLaughlan to volunteer.