

SPOKES



Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg

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David Owens
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Valencia Williamson

Rotary Club of Hattiesburg
629 North Main Street
Hattiesburg, MS 39401

Ms. WCU, Katie Sims and Lynn Walton



MINUTES: APRIL 28, 2015

President Wes Brooks presided over the meeting. Thanks to Rusty Edwards who gave the invocation and to Joe Meador who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Thanks to Sean Priebe and Amanda Lee for serving as our greeters today.

Aaron Ladner thanked those who participated in today's meeting and introduced our visitors. Jaclyn Adams has Clifton Addison as her guest. Dan Davis has Nate Edwards as his guest and Valencia Williamson has Amber Chancellor as her guest. Valencia noted that Amber has expressed an interest in joining our club.

Wes reported sadly that long-time Rotarian Dr. David Owen died suddenly earlier this week while on vacation in Tennessee. Final arrangement information is not yet available but will be distributed to the members when the details are known.

Wes and all those in attendance thanked Kristy Gould and Ryan Kelly for their efforts to make this year's Night in Italy event an "outstanding event." Wes also noted that the club has received a very nice thank you card from Benjamin Morris expressing his gratitude for the opportunity to present the details of his new publication to club members. It was also noted that Ms. Nova Corley made a \$50 contribution to the club immediately after last week's Night in Italy event. Wes thanked Conrad Welker for his support of Ms. Corley.

Lynn Walton then introduced our guest speaker today. Katie Sims. Katie is a junior at William Carey University where she is majoring in Business Administration and minoring in music. She is also the reigning Miss William Carey University. She will

compete in the Miss Mississippi Pageant which will be held later this year.

Katie's platform during the pageant competition will be Freedom from Financial Woes. She is a strong supporter state required economic and personal finance training as early as high school throughout Mississippi.

Katie reports that Mississippi was recently labeled by a national survey as the "least financially capable state" in the nation. She also reports that two-thirds of all Mississippians have no savings and that forty-one percent of Mississippians with credit cards make only the minimum monthly payments each month. She maintains that if our residents had the benefit of personal finance training through their educational programs many if not all of these problems could be solved over time.

Such training is required in states. Katie says research proves in those states that residents are more likely to save money, more likely to make more than the minimum credit card payment and are less likely to even have a credit card.

She gave a couple of examples from two different Mississippians. One still owes \$2,000 in student loan payments even after making payments for 12 years. Another accumulated just over \$120,000 in student loans while in pharmacy school. Paying back this loan with a seven percent interest rate has proven to be a challenge. Both of the people in these examples say they would not have made the decisions they made if they had the benefit of personal financial training while in high school.

*Minutes courtesy of:
Lamar Evans, Executive Secretary
Rotary Club of Hattiesburg*

David T. Hayhurst

Dr. David T. Hayhurst has more than 35 years in higher education, which includes extensive administrative and engineering credentials. His career as dean at Southern Miss began in August 2014.

Hayhurst previously served as dean of the College of Engineering at both San Diego State University (2002-2013) and the University of South Alabama (1992-2002). A Massachusetts native, Hayhurst served as chair of the Department of Chemical Engineering at Cleveland State University (1985-1991).

He earned his undergraduate degree in chemical engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute; his master's degree in chemical engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and his doctorate in chemical engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Beyond his work in universities, Dr. Hayhurst has been involved with purebred dogs, particularly Great Danes, since 1975. He and his wife Mari breed, raise, show and judge AKC registered Great Danes, Boxers and Rottweilers. They judge five other breeds in the working group. Since 1990, the Hayhursts have had a Great Dane ranked in the top 20 in the nation four separate years. Currently, they are actively campaigning both a Great Dane and a Boxer.



UPCOMING

MAY 12	Andrew Gilliam - Salvation Army
MAY 19	Africa University Choir
MAY 26	Dwayne Higgason - Krav Maga
JUN 2	Club Social - McMullan Home (NO NOON MEETING)
JUN 6-9	Rotary International Convention - Sao Paulo, Brazil
JUN 27	Board Meeting - Brooks Home
TBD	Club Awards & Officer Installation



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"Best Newsletter - Large Club"
2014-2015