

SPOKES

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG



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Rotary Club of Hattiesburg
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Our Guest Today

Christopher Napier

Christopher Napier is a graduate of William Carey University, where he received his Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance. Sponsored by the Petal Rotary Club, Christopher spent his year abroad as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar in Graz, Austria at the University of Music and Performing Arts (KUG), where he completed a course of post-graduate study. He stayed in Graz a second year, and has begun his Masters in Voice at the KUG, and in the meantime he is on sabbatical while his wife and he live in Hattiesburg, performing music there and in the surrounding areas.

While in Austria, Christopher and Hannah taught English with various institutions, at camps, and for tutoring agencies. His wife studies viola and piano, and they often perform together. Christopher has been accepted to the International Vocal Arts Institute (IVAI) program this summer in Blacksburg, VA, where he will be working with teachers involved with the Metropolitan Opera, Opera Paris, Manhattan School of Music, and New England Conservatory, among other places. He plans to return to Graz this fall in order to finish his Master's work.



TEACHER OF THE MONTH

On Tuesday, March 18, Kimberli Smith from Hawkins Elementary School was named Teacher of the Month by the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg and presented with a \$100 gift. At Hawkins Elementary, Kimberli teaches music for grades K-6 and feels as though she really is making a difference in the lives of her students by introducing them to the arts. Her students perform at various functions throughout the community.

Accompanying Kimberli was Hawkins Elementary School Principal, Donna Scott.



L-R: Brett Phillips, Donna Scott, Kimberli Smith, Scott Hummell

GRANT RECIPIENT

Carrie Hornsby, M.Ed., Principal at Thames Elementary in Hattiesburg, received a grant award in the amount of \$500 for the purchase books meant to enhance that school's efforts in meeting the Common Core standards put in place by the Hattiesburg City School District.



Carry Hornsby and Jennifer Payne

Minutes - March 18, 2014

Scott Hummel presided over the meeting. Thanks to Brian Moore who gave the invocation and Amanda Lee who led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance. Thanks to Wes Brooks and Sean Priebe for serving as our greeters today.

Scott opened the meeting with the news that Milton Wheeler passed away yesterday afternoon. According to Conrad Welker Milton was the first ever Rotary Group Study Exchange participant. Milton participated in the GSE program and traveled to Australia. Scott noted that it would be hard to imagine a life better lived than that of Milton Wheeler.

Brian Moore introduced today's visiting Rotarians and guests. Colleen Holloway is a visiting Rotarian from the Rankin County Club. She has as her guest Steven Smith. Carrie Hornsby is a guest of Jennifer Payne. Jeanne Gillespie and Helen Rassier are guests of Bill McLeod.

(Minutes continued on pg. 4)

(Minutes cont.)

Bill McLeod reminded members of the District Conference on May 8-9. It will be held in Biloxi. Bill is soliciting sponsorships to help offset the expenses associated with the conference. If you or your company is interested, please contact him. David Owens will cook red beans and rice on behalf of the club for the Friday night food festival. Anyone interested in attending any or all of the District Conference events should get with Scott for registration information.

Wes Brooks reminded members that the District Assembly is coming up on April 12. Incoming officers should plan on attending for their orientation. This is also the meeting where our club's grant eligibility is confirmed. Wes also reported that the club will hold a second Bike-a-Thon event on November 1. It is confirmed that we will team up with the Extra Table for a share of the proceeds for the event.

Chase Munro reminded members to purchase their two Blue Dog tickets before the District Conference. One-half of the proceeds stay within the District and can be used by clubs for special projects. The other half is used internationally by the Rotary Foundation.

Scott reminded members that until June 30 any contribution made to the Rotary Foundation will have recognition points matched by the District, making it easier to achieve a Paul Harris Fellowship.

Aaron Ladner presented a brief introduction about the April Shoe Drive that is being planned. Members will be asked to volunteer to assist, make a financial contribution or purchase one or more pair of shoes and socks during the campaign. The shoes and socks will be delivered to the District at the District Conference. Lucy Parkman announced that Night in Italy tickets are being distributed beginning today. Make sure you pick yours up before leaving today. Amanda Lee has volunteered to be the volunteer coordinator for the April 22 event. She will begin signing up volunteers and making work assignments next week.

Jennifer Payne then introduced Carrie Hornsby, the Thames Elementary School principal and presented Ms. Hornsby with a \$500 check from Rotary. This check is the result of a District Grant. Ms. Hornsby thanked Rotary for the contribution and reported that the money will be used to help offset some of the costs

associated with the incorporation of Common Core Standards at Thames. The school has been incorporating the Standards over the past three years.

Bill McLeod then introduced today's guest speaker, Steven Moser, Ph.D., Dean, College of Arts & Letters at the University of Southern Mississippi. The College of Arts & Letters is one of six at the University. It offers 130 programs in the area of arts, humanities, social sciences and journalism. The college currently has 3,000 students. However, every student enrolled in any program at USM must take some of the courses offered through the College of Arts & Letters in order to graduate.

Dr. Moser says it is the goal of the College to prepare students for their first career – not just their first job. The instruction program is based on the theory that a broad, general education leads to creativity and makes their graduates more productive employees.

Partners for the Arts, an independent non-profit organization, was formed to offer ways for the community to both enjoy and participate in the provision of arts programs. The organization hosts 250 events annually and, according to Dr. Moser, is a magnet for attracting a better workforce to the Hattiesburg area. Corporations are encouraged to participate as a partner for the Arts.

The non-profit art networks across the national produce approximately \$6 billion annually to the American economic system. It is estimated that each person participating in an art event will spend \$24 above the cost of admission for the event. This \$24 turns over many times in the local community and produces a substantial revenue stream for local governments. Dr. Moser says the Partners for the Arts have raised approximately \$1 million which produced an estimated \$10 million economic impact in the local economy.

Rotarians were invited by Dr. Moser to attend an evening celebrating Partners for the Arts to be held at the USM President's Home on April 10th. If you plan to attend, please R.S.V.P. no later than April 4 by calling 601.266.5922 or by email to Helen.Rassier@usm.edu.

Minutes courtesy of:

Lamar Evans, Executive Secretary

UPCOMING



Rotary
ROTARY DISTRICT ASSEMBLY
SATURDAY, APRIL 12
PEARL RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

DISTRICT 6840 CONFERENCE
MAY 9-10
BILOXI CONVENTION CENTER

SPONSORSHIPS ARE NEEDED FOR OUR
ROTARY CLUB
PLEASE CONTACT BILL MCLEOD FOR MORE
INFORMATION.



Traci Rouse - April 8



Lhay Thriffiley - April 15



Service Above Self