



SPOKES

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

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SPOKES NEWSLETTER

Wes Brooks, *Editor*
Rotary Club of Hattiesburg
629 N. Main St.
Hattiesburg, Ms. 39401
(601) 582-3330

Night in Italy 2014



Our Guests:



Speaking today from Groundworx will be Julie Cooke, Director of Communications, along with Elizabeth Strickland, Chief Financial Officer. Also here is Ronnie Blackwell of Clearpoint, Consulting Civil Engineer Expert with the project.

Ronnie Blackwell, P.A. – President/Project Engineer at Clearpoint Consulting Engineers

With over 30 years in the civil engineering profession, Mr. Blackwell and Clearpoint serve central and south Mississippi and Alabama in the private, utility and industrial sectors. He has extensive experience in the design of wastewater collection and biological treatment as well as water distribution. Mr. Blackwell grew up in the Collins area and now resides in Hattiesburg with his wife and three daughters. Spending time with his family and fishing are his favorite past times.

Elizabeth (Liz) Strickland, CPA

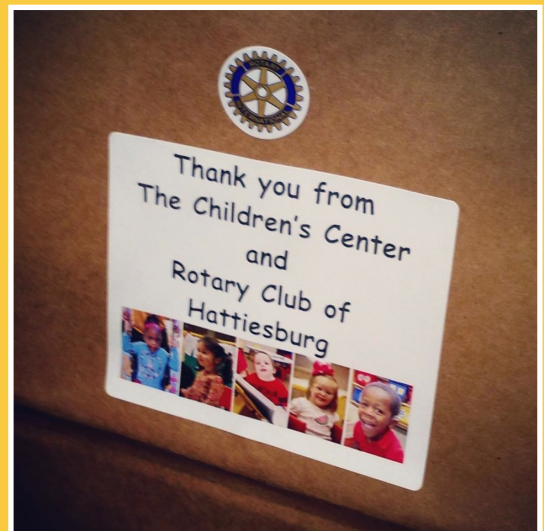
Mrs. Strickland has served as Chief Financial Officer of York Developments for 19 years. She has been the key financial planner and advisor for numerous business entities including overseeing the financial aspects and regulatory annual financial reporting for the water and wastewater utility services of the company. Mrs. Strickland also previously served in public accounting specializing in audits of governmental entities including municipalities and a regional solid waste authority. Mrs. Strickland graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi with Highest Honors. Mrs. Strickland grew up in Hattiesburg and has continued to call it home with her husband and three sons. She enjoys spending time outside gardening and watching her son play baseball.

Julie Pittman Cooke, MS

Ms. Cooke is the Director of Communications for Groundworx bringing over 25 years experience working within the community, private sector, healthcare and higher education settings. She has extensive experience working with "at risk" families and individuals with physical and mental disabilities as an advocate, therapist, and educational coordinator through Federal Grant Projects. Ms. Cooke worked in public relations and community outreach for over 10 years as project coordinator and marketing administrator.

Ms. Cooke grew up here in Hattiesburg and graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi. She has a passion for the environment and spending time outdoors with her son hiking, fishing, and gardening.

A Night in Italy 2014



Minutes: April 15, 2014

Scott Hummel presided over the meeting. Thanks to Kristie Gould who gave the invocation and Mike Ratliff who led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance. Thanks to Lynn Watson for serving as our greeter today.

Gene Owens introduced today's visiting Rotarians and guests. Jaclyn Adams is visiting from the Petal Club. Chad Hill is a guest of Erik Graham. Corey Loft is a guest of Chris Price. Melanie Keene Hall is a guest of Kristy Gould and Don King and Shea Hubre are guests of Ember Ahua. Also attending today is Teacher of the Month Penny Barnes and her principal from Rowan School, Luleatha Miller.

Bill McLeod reminded members that the District Conference that is coming up on May 9-10. Everyone is invited to attend the Friday night Food Fest. Sponsorships are still being sought. If you or your company is interested, please see Bill within the next week or 10 days.

Amanda Lee encouraged members to sign up to assist with next Tuesday's Night in Italy event. Volunteers should check in when they first arrive to find out where they have been assigned to work. There will be no lunch meeting next Tuesday.

Scott read a note from Larry LaBlanc's wife. Larry has made remarkable recovery strides in the last four or five days. He walked 25 feet on Friday and continues a long recovery. If you are interested in visiting Larry, please text (601) 270-0888 and let them know. Please don't arrive before 4:30 p.m. and try not to say longer than 10 or 15 minutes.

Members are reminded to buy shoes and socks as a part of the Shoes for Orphan Souls. Shoes and socks need to be purchased and turned in no later than the April 29 meeting.

Scott reported that the Group Student Exchange team will be in our area May 14 – 17. Host volunteers are needed to assist with the group during their visit. Both social and vocational volunteers are needed. If you are interested, please contact Scott.

Bret Phillips then introduced Teacher of the Month Penny Barnes and her principal Luleatha Miller. Ms. Barnes was recognized as the Rotary Teacher of the Month and presented a \$100 check.

Wes Brooks then introduced today's guest speaker, Lhay Browning Thriffiley. Lhay is the Director at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI).

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(Minutes cont.)

Lhay reports that OLLI is a membership organization for people 50 years of age and older who seek learning experiences and friendships. Classes, seminars and day-trips are offered throughout the year for members in five five-week terms. The summer term begins on June 2nd. More than 250 educational offerings are made available to members each year. OLLI is a "member run" organization.

Sue Pace founded the Institute of Learning and Retirement in 1991. In 2008 a one-million dollar endowment was received from the Bernard Osher Foundation and the name was changed to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. OLLI is housed on the campus of the University of Southern Mississippi.

Annual membership dues are \$65. Additional fees may be charged throughout the year depending on what programs the member takes advantage of. Lhay reports that the average cost to a member is about \$6 per month, including the annual membership dues.

Rotarians interested in presenting or teaching a class or becoming a member are encouraged to contact Lhay by calling 601.264.2780 or through their website located at www.usm.edu/olli.

Minutes recorded by:
Lamar Evans, Executive Secretary
Rotary Club of Hattiesburg



André Heath
May 6



Chad Newell
May 13

District 6840 Conference
MAY 9-10

Biloxi Civic Center

Sponsorships are needed for our Rotary Club.

Please contact Bill McLeod for more information.

