

APRIL 9, 2013



SPOKES

ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

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April

May

June/July

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CINDY BIVINS, M.Ed., CHILDRENS CENTER

18-20
DISTRICT CONFERENCE

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"A NIGHT IN ITALY"

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DELBERT HOSEMAN, SECRETARY OF
STATE

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SHEILA VARNADO, R3SM
DENA PARKER, VOLUNTEER H'BURG

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"SERVICE ABOVE SELF"

SPOKES EDITOR:
Wes Brooks, Vice President
hattiesburgrotary@gmail.com

MINUTES: MARCH 26, 2013

Maura McLaughlin presided over the meeting. Thanks to Mike Ratliff, who gave the invocation and to Christina Ghents, who led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance and Andreas Moffett who served as our greeter today.

Maura led the Club in the 4-Way Test and then asked Sean Priebe to introduce today's guests and visiting Rotarians. There are no visiting Rotarians. Walter Loup is the guest of Maura McLaughlin. Sarah Peterson is the guest of Dan Davis. Elizabeth Gillentine is the guest of Scott Hummel.

McLaughlin announced the following:

- At the District Conference our club will be participating in the Food Fest by providing desserts.
- Food Fest will be held at the Bay St. Louis Community Center, 301 Blaize Avenue, Old Town Bay St. Louis. Call 504-450-1680 if you need directions.
- Night in Italy will be held April 23rd
- Rotary International is moving forward with efforts to find a cure for Alzheimer's disease.
- Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) will be held at the Pearl River Community College, in Poplarville, MS, July 21 – 26. Contact Janice Touchstone for more information.

Andreas Moffett announced that he would be selling raffle tickets for an AR 15 22 rifle. Tickets can be purchased for \$2.50 each. Proceeds will assist the Mississippi Army National Guard. The raffle will be held on May 4, 2013 and you do not have to be present to win. Please contact Andreas at 601-441-6730 for more information.

Bill McLeod made an announcement about the Habitat for Humanity \$10,000 draw down. The cost for tickets is \$20. Please contact Bill for further information.

Corrie Marsh introduced today's speaker, Dr. Joseph S. Paul. Since 1993, Dr. Paul has served as the Vice President for Student Affairs at The University of Southern Mississippi. Beyond his work at USM, Paul has presented seminars and training in time management and leadership for business, industry and education. He is a senior consultant with the Atlanta Consulting Group. He also holds faculty rank in Southern Miss' College of Education and Psychology. Paul holds a Ph.D. in Administration of Higher Education from the University of Alabama.

Among many civic activities, Paul has served two terms as president of the United Way of Southeast Mississippi. He's also been president of the Hattiesburg Area Education Foundation, served on the Board of Directors for the Hattiesburg Boys and Girls Club, and has been a trustee for Hattiesburg Public Schools.

Paul began his presentation noting that USM is moving into its second century of service. Having been founded in 1910, it is now celebrating its 103rd anniversary. He mentioned the newly appointed president, Dr. Rodney Bennett, commenting that he was hopeful Bennett would be serving a long term with USM. Dr. Bennett is the

school's 10th president, replacing interim president, Dr. Aubrey Lucas.

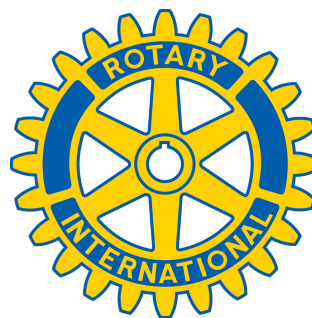
Paul spoke regarding the EF-4 tornado that hit Hattiesburg on February 10th and the damages it caused to the USM campus. Dr. Paul noted that our area was very fortunate because no lives were lost neither on the campus nor in the surrounding area. He gave a brief story regarding a young lady who was traveling home to Alabama, during the storm. She was speaking with her parents on the phone and saw a highway sign warning about the tornado that was in effect. She traveled off the interstate, onto Hardy Street and sought shelter on the USM campus. She parked next to a building on the campus and remained seated in her car with her traveling companions, a pet dog and hedgehog. After the storm, she and her pets were found safe in her vehicle and shelter was provided for them until her family arrived. Her car did receive significant damage. She provided a startling story on what she experienced firsthand.

The tornado caused severe damage to several buildings including the Ogletree House, the Mannoni Performing Arts Center, the Fine Arts Building, Marsh Hall and the Jazz Station. The landscape and grounds also suffered greatly because of the tornado. Paul stated that some of the more than 75 trees destroyed were at least 90 years of age!

University officials have been working with the federal and state emergency officials and insurance adjusters to assess the damage. Officials estimate it will take tens of millions of dollars to repair the tornado damage. State lawmakers approved \$1.65 million for renovation and repairs and another \$1.1 million to buy musical instruments and equipment damaged by the tornado.

Dr. Paul provided information regarding various projects which are being planned to renovate the areas and for the re-beautification of the campus and its grounds. Focus is being generated to keep and maintain the best standard of services for the Southern Miss, its students, and the Hattiesburg community. In conclusion, Dr. Paul remarked that, despite recent tragic events the future for USM looks very bright.

Minutes provided by:
Jerome Siegel on behalf of
Lamar Evans, Executive Secretary
Rotary Club of Hattiesburg





Cindy Bivins, M.Ed., special educator and interim director, The Children's Center for Communication and Development at The University of Southern Mississippi

Cindy Bivins began teaching preschoolers with developmental disabilities in 1973 during her internship in Montgomery, Ala., pursuing a career interest that originated in 1957 with the birth of her younger brother, Steve, and reinforced in 1980 by the birth of her second son, Henry, both of whom have Down syndrome. Since joining the staff at The Children's Center in 1981, she has provided early educational instruction to infants, toddlers and preschoolers with a wide range of disabilities, concurrently working with families and other caregivers in their search for the best life for their children and themselves. Her greatest professional joys come from her association with the families and colleagues that she serves. As Interim director since July 2011, she directs all phases of The Children's Center, which serves approximately 90 children, with a staff of 13 full-time and 8 part-time employees. Cindy also serves as a special educator on the Forrest General Hospital NICU follow-up team and in various capacities facilitating local, regional and state collaborative efforts to improve and expand services for young children with disabilities.

Since 1974, The Children's Center for Communication and Development has led Mississippi in early intervention services for infants, toddlers and preschoolers with significant disabilities.

A clinical division of the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences in the College of Health at The University of Southern Mississippi, The Children's Center is built on the knowledge and understanding that language, cognitive development, physical development and emotional growth are intertwined, and that early intervention is most successful when a comprehensive approach is taken towards a child's development.

The Children's Center had humble beginnings, a couple of tiny therapy rooms in the Speech and Hearing Science Department. Still, the staff was breaking ground, building models, and replicating successful programs from around the country.

Today, The Children's Center is a full service, intensive, transdisciplinary program that occupies more than 3,000 square feet and directly serves over 90 children and their families from as many as 22 South Mississippi counties. The children served represent a range of disabilities that include various communication and developmental disorders, such as Down syndrome, hearing impairment, cerebral palsy, autism, Rett syndrome, traumatic brain injuries, aphasia, apraxia, and conditions related to premature birth.

The Children's Center customizes comprehensive educational and therapy plans to support each child in achieving his or her maximum potential.

In addition to providing innovative and exemplary direct services, The Children's Center provides preprofessional training to Southern Miss students and to students from other universities as well as community and junior colleges. Disciplines that are supported at The Children's Center include: speech-language pathology, audiology, special education, physical therapy, occupational therapy, behavior therapy, nursing, recreational therapy, and music therapy.

The Children's Center staff also provide on and offsite training to practicing clinical and educational professionals from around Mississippi.

Through The Children's Center's direct services, preprofessional and professional training, ad hoc consultations, and interagency collaboration and partnerships, thousands of children with disabilities are better served each year throughout Mississippi and our region.

A Night in Italy – Shifts

2:30 – 4:30

Lucy Parkman
Seth Hammet
Mike Ratliff
Janet Williams
Brian Moore
Steve Ramp
Tracie Fowler
Mary Cromartie
Dan Davis
Dan Kibodeaux

4:30 – 6:30

Janice Touchstone
Allen Anderson
Wally Weakley
Andreas Moffett
Bill McLeod
Chris Strebeck
Robert Cummings
Erik Graham
Bill MacLauchlan
Wes Brooks
Sean Priebe
Aaron Ladner
Curtis Smith
Gene Owens
Johnny Stevens
Jennifer Payne
Audra Cummings
Mickey Allen
Lynn Walton
Corrie Marsh

6:30 – 8:00

Francis Farmer
Chrissy Cullinane
Angela Herzog
Janice Touchstone
Bill MacLauchlan
Hayden Mitchell
Freddy Walter

Clean Up

Corrie Marsh

CONTACT

Rotary Club of Hattiesburg
c/o Association Management Systems
629 North Main Street
Hattiesburg, MS 39401
(601)582-3330
www.hattiesburgrotary.com