

SPOKES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
OF THE
ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG
DISTRICT 6840, CLUB 04003



2012-2013

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ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB:
WWW.HATTIESBURGROTARY.COM

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

MINUTES: DECEMBER 11, 2012

Maura McLaughlin presided over the meeting. Thanks to Dan Kibodeaux, who gave the invocation and to Wes Brooks, who led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Maura then led the Club in the 4-Way Test and then asked Chris Price to introduce today's visiting Rotarians and guests. Thanks to Tracy Fowler and Lucy Parkman who served as greeters today.

Santa Clause was a guest of the Club. Chrissy Cullinane is a guest of Brian Moore. Melissa Phelps is a guest of Maura McLaughlin. Tony Gier is a guest of Christina Ghents. Milton Wheeler is a visitor from the Petal club and David McPhail is a visitor from the Sunrise Club.

Scott Hummel reminded members that a scholarship was established at William Carey University one year ago to honor Richard Jones and all that he did for the community. He encouraged anyone interested in making a contribution to the scholarship to see him after today's meeting.

Maura then invited Bill and Cookie Prout to come forward and presented them with a \$1,000 donation to Christian Services. They were recognized for their many contributions to the needed in our community. Chris Wilkes from Hope House Ministries was presented with a \$1,000 check to assist the Ministries work with the homeless. Rotary District Governor Don Bryan was then presented with a \$500 check to the Rotary Foundation in his name for the Polio Plus campaign.

Maura then introduced District Governor Don Bryan as today's guest speaker. Don emphasized that the spirit of Rotary is a spirit of giving and a dedication to service. He thanked current and past Hattiesburg Rotary members for their many years of giving and service to the Greater Hattiesburg area. He noted that perhaps only God knows all that the club has done for this area since it was chartered in 1918. Regardless, Don bets that the world is better and is a better place to live for the many Rotarian

Don talked about the Rotary campaign to eradicate the second disease from the earth, Polio. In 1985 300,000 cases of Polio were reported worldwide. Since that time more than 2 billion children have been vaccinated against the disease. Because of those Rotarians efforts only 181 cases were reported worldwide last year. What a gift Rotary will leave the world when this campaign is completed. Polio will fall the way Smallpox fell and will no longer have a detrimental change on the world of those it affects.

Don challenged club members to not focus so much on the "form" but on the "why" of Rotary. He encouraged us to keep our focus on the purpose of our membership in Rotary and the Rotary organization and its mission. He says Rotary is much more to the world than a lunch and leave club.

This year's International Rotary theme is "Peace Through Service". Don says the word peace means putting that which is broken back together. He believes that Rotary's work worldwide certainly makes a large impact on bringing the world closer to peace through all of our service efforts. Don's District theme for the year is "Bee a Rotarian". He encouraged those in attendance to be much more than just a member of a club but rather add their contribution to those of other members and truly make a difference in the world in which we live.

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



Dear Friends,

Superlatives escape me for what happened yesterday at Sweet Donna's room at Bedford. About mid-afternoon three elves, who looked so much like my house manager Gayle Galey, her husband Glenn, and her neighbor Virginia Stevens, rushed in bearing greenery for the making of a Christmas tree and singing Christmas carols to boot. Seeing all of those greeneries prompted me to think, "Flee, Macbeth! It's curtains on thee. Your jig is up! Truly, the great Birnam Wood has arrived at Dunsinene!"

Yes, there was such a swell of motion. In just a little while these three elves had organized Donna's Alabama sister Judy, her husband Mike, and me into a primitive assembly line. We were in a semi-circle around the foot of Donna's bed. The tree, once established, was decorated with ribbons, lights, ornaments, peppermint sticks and Christmas cards. My assignment was to read the cards to Sweet Donna before passing them on to the decorators. Once again, the joy in doing this could not be measured. The highlight of this ecstasy was her absolutely beautiful eyes watching with amazement every activity. It reminded me of how beautiful they were when she opened them for the first time after twelve days of unconsciousness back in April. I shall cherish those two memories of her beautiful eyes as long as I live.

Thank you for the more than two hundred cards that came for this celebration virtually overnight. I have enjoyed reading your notes, which cover such varying topics. Those I have read already to Donna I shall reread as we both treasure the happy memories of tours together, Rotary activities, William Carey adventures, and such varied others. I give thanks to the Lord when I think about each of you individually.

Once the tree was decorated, Gayle turned out all the other lights to give the full effect. It was beautiful. Perhaps it was the sheer beauty that propelled Sweet Donna into slumber land. She was so overjoyed but also overwhelmed. How I would like to make inquiry about her dreams that followed. In my mind I was listening to the old German carol, "Silent Night."

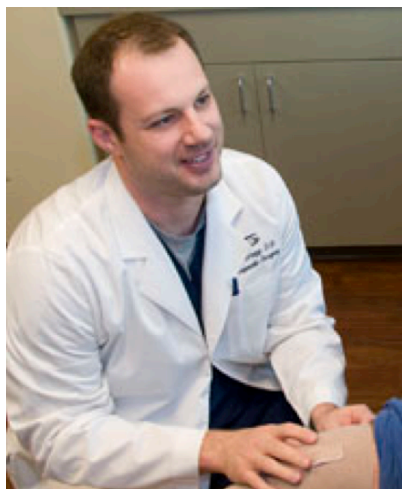
Now one might say that none of this has anything to do with Donna's medical update. Years ago, however, when I was Academic Vice President at William Carey, I assisted the School of Nursing in composing their self-study for reaccreditation. My responsibility was the section on the philosophy of nursing. We projected that William Carey nurses should address all aspects of health: physical, mental, and spiritual. To me, what happened yesterday is medical in as much as it lifted Donna's morale, which is in the spiritual realm. It is almost like the verse, "faith, hope, and love. The greatest of these is love." In our case it would be physical, mental and spiritual. The greatest of these is spiritual.

Thank you for your part in this beautiful expression of love that we experienced on unforgettable December 8.

Merry Christmas!

~Milton





TODAY'S GUEST:

DR. NEAL GREGG, D.O.

SOUTHERN BONE & JOINT SPECIALIST, P.A.

Dr. Gregg, a Hattiesburg native, received his bachelor's degree from William Carey University. He received his doctor of osteopathy degree from Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences. He completed an orthopaedic residency from the Medical College of Georgia. Dr. Gregg is board certified.

Prior to medical school, Dr. Gregg worked at Southern Bone and Joint Specialists, P.A. and Southern Surgery Center as a medical assistant for one and a half years.

Dr. Gregg has had two articles recently published in orthopaedic journals.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

& HAPPY NEW YEAR!

- 18-DEC DR. NEAL GREGG, DO – ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON**
- 25-DEC NO MEETING**
- 2013**
- 1-JAN NO MEETING**
- 8-JAN DONNA RITCHIE, SR. V.P. GODWIN GROUP (JACKSON, MS.)**
- 12-JAN GRANTS MANAGEMENT SEMINAR & PEACE FORUM - PRCC**
- 15-JAN DR. STEVE MOSER, DEAN, COLLEGE OF ARTS & LETTERS, U.S.M.**
- 17-JAN BEER TASTING EVENT – KEG & BARREL**
- 22-JAN SHERIFF BILLY MCGEE, FORREST CO.**
- 29-JAN LT. COL. MIKE HOLMES, MS HIGHWAY PATROL**
- 5-FEB TBD**
- 12-FEB ROBERTA M. HUMBLE – AUTHOR/PROFESSOR FROM RHODE ISLAND**
- 19-FEB VICKIE STUART**
- 26-FEB KATHY YADRICK**
- 18-20 APR DISTRICT CONFERENCE**
- 23-APR "A NIGHT IN ITALY" (NO NOON MEETING)**
- 30-APR THE HONORABLE LYNN FITCH, STATE TREASURER OF MISSISSIPPI**
- 25-JUN AWARDS LUNCHEON - TENTATIVE**

