

December 3, 2013

# SPOKES

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG



## Minutes: November 19, 2013

Scott Hummel presided over the meeting. Thanks to Lucy Parkman who gave the invocation and Kevin Zemetis who led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance. Thanks also to Lynn Walton and Amanda Lee who served as our greeters today. There were no guests and no visiting Rotarians today.

Scott thanked the Rotarians who brought a large amount of food today that will be donated to the Edward's Street Fellowship's food pantry. Thanks also to Lucy Parkman who organized the food drive.

Scott also reminded members that the club will not meet for the regular meeting next week on November 26. He also reported that the board of directors will meet on Monday evening November 25. That meeting will occur at William Carey University and will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Mike Ratliff then introduced today's speaker and her guest. Laura Hunt is a new employee of the Extra Table and is accompanying today's speaker, Raven Tynes. Raven is the Executive Director of the Extra Table. She has served in that position for the past 18 months. Laura is the organization's second employee.

The Extra Table was formed in 2009 when Robert St. John received a call from the Edward's Street Fellowship's food pantry requesting assistance. The pantry was completely out of food and needed food to meet the demand. St. John teamed up with Sysco, the nation's largest food distributor and established a

## Leadership 2013-2014

Scott Hummel, *President*

Wes Brooks, *President-Elect*

Jennifer Payne, *Vice President*

Sean Priebe, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Brian Moore, *Sergeant-At-Arms*

Maura McLaughlin, *Past-President*

Allen Anderson

James Duncan

Chase Munro

David Owens

Lucy Parkman

Valencia Williams



*"Service Above Self"*

## Minutes (cont.)



program known as the Extra Table and developed a food delivery system to help feed the hungry across Mississippi. His concept initially was that every restaurant set at least one "extra table" each week for the hungry and contribute that money to the Extra Table organization. The organization would then purchase high quality, nutritious food products at the lowest possible price from Sysco and then distribute that much needed food to soup kitchens and food pantries across the state.

So who's hungry in Mississippi? Raven decided she would do the investigative work initially to see just exactly what kind of problems we are facing in our state. What she found was staggering. According to Feeding America there are 638,000 Mississippians who will go to bed tonight hungry. Just in Forrest County alone the number is 22,000. Many of these are our

children. In many families both parents are holding down multiple jobs and still can't make ends meet. Their children eat breakfast and lunch at school but all too often go to bed without eating. Many of our hungry are seniors who have a very limited, fixed income and have to decide whether to keep the heat on and pay the water bill or eat. The need is great.

The Extra Table is providing food to 17 soup kitchens and food pantries across the state. The two agencies they work with in Hattiesburg are the Edward's Street Fellowship Center and Christian Services. The organization is providing approximately 27 tons of food across the state each year with three to four tons of it coming to the Hattiesburg area. The Extra Table provides food to an area when donations from that area can pay for a food bundle. Bundles come in \$250, \$500 and \$750 values. These bundles are feeding approximately 86,000 meals this year. Raven was very excited to receive the \$700 Rotary check today. Southern Oaks agreed to forgo charging Rotary for today's meeting and the Club agreed that members would bring their own lunch and a little something extra for Edward's Street. Raven noted that our contribution would feed 1,000 people in our area.

Many thanks went to Raven for today's program and also to the Rotarians helping in this fight. If you'd like to make a tax-free contribution to the Extra Table you can send your check to P.O. Box 17318, Hattiesburg, MS 39404. If you'd like to send a little extra to Edward's Street, you can send that check to 1919 Edwards Street, Hattiesburg, MS 39401.

Richard Topp announced that our Club would be ringing the Salvation Army bell on Saturday, December 21 at Walmart on Highway 98. Members are encouraged to sign up for two-hour shifts that day. Contact Richard if you'd like to help.

Scott then adjourned today's meeting with our motto, "Service Above Self."

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

**Paul D. Cotten, Ph.D.****Professor of Music & Psychology****William Carey University****Former Director, Ellisville State School**

For the past 55 years Dr. Paul Cotten has worked with people with intellectual disabilities while being involved as an administrator, professor, recreation worker, special education teacher, music therapist, direct care worker, and an advocate. He is a registered music therapist, psychologist, and certified gerontologist. After 33 years in state government, Dr. Cotton is celebrating his 25<sup>th</sup> year as a professor at William Carey University. His areas of expertise include, but are not limited to: areas of music therapy, psychology, and gerontology.

However, his "claim to fame" (as it relates to Rotary) is that he is the brother of Past District Governor, Dr. Milam S. "Sonny 34" Cotten.

**Perfect Attendance - November**

Allen Anderson

Wes Brooks

Mary Cromartie

Dan Davis

Lamar Evans

Tracie Fowler

Erik Graham

Erin Granberry

Scott Hummel

Dan Kibodeaux

Amanda Lee

Maura McLaughlin

Chase Munro

Lucy Parkman

Sean Priebe

Steve Ramp

Mike Ratliff

Jonathan Shemper

Curtis Smith

Johnny Stevens

Lynn Walton

Wally Weakley

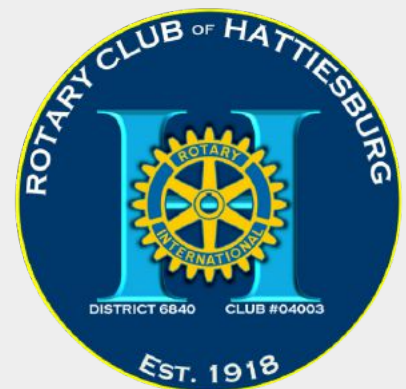
Conrad Welker

Valencia Williamson

James Winstead

**Upcoming****December 10***Frank Baugh, WCU**School of Psychiatry**"Breaking the Holiday Blues"***December 17***Don Odom, WCU**School of Music***December 24***No meeting***January 31***No Meeting***Service Above Self**





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