December 4, 2012

SPOKES

The Official Newsletter
of the
Rotary Club of Hattiesburg
District 6840, Club 04003

2012-2013

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Service Above Self

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MINUTES: November 27, 2012

President 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 Bill McLeod and Curtis Smith who served as greeters today.

Chrissy Cullinane is a guest of Brian Moore. Chrissy's membership application was approved by the board of directors and will be submitted to the membership for the required two-week notice. Janet Williams is a guest of Scott Hummel. Dean Cromartie is a guest of Mary Cromartie.

Scott Hummel thanked everyone who agreed to ring the Salvation Army's bells on Saturday December 8. Volunteers are now needed for December 15. If you can help, please see Scott.

Maura announced that the District Governor would attend the December 11th meeting. The club will also make seasonal contributions to area charities at that meeting.

All Rotarians are encouraged to send Christmas cards to Milton and Donna Wheeler. The cards are to be sent to Gayle Galey. She will deliver them and after they are read place them on a Christmas tree in Donna's room.

Elections for board positions and the Secretary/Treasurer's position will be held in December. If you are approached by the nominating committee and asked to serve, please consider the request.

Lynn Walton and her sponsor Sean Priebe were called forward and Lynn was inducted into the club. Lynn is a native of the Hattiesburg area but has been in Meridian for the past 20 years. She has returned to Citizens National Bank as Vice President of Mortgage Lending. We are very happy to have her as a new Rotarian.

Erik Graham then came forward and introduced today's guest speaker Dr. Brian Pitfield a local Periodontist. Dr. Pitfield is a native of New Orleans. He attended USM and LSU and graduated from Baylor College in 1993. He, his wife and four children now live in Purvis.

Periodontics is the treatment of gum disease. Dr. Pitfield introduced members to a new laser that is used in his practice. The laser is a soft tissue laser and will take the pigment off the letters on a business card without damaging the card. The laser is used to separate the gum from the tooth and the plaque on the tooth that is causing the gum disease. The laser then produces a clot that allows the healing process to begin.

Patients who have undergone the treatment are not allowed to brush the treated area for ten days. It is 4 months to a year before it can be determined if the procedure was a complete success. As Dr. Pitfield noted, the new treatment protocol is less painful for patients. Previously gum surgery was often required to treat the inflammation.

Maureen K. Martin, Ph.D., Director

DuBard School for Language Disorders
The University of Southern Mississippi

Pascagoula native, Dr. Maureen Martin, earned her bachelor's and master's degrees at USM in speech-language pathology and education of the deaf while studying under her mentor, Dr. Etoile DuBard, throughout her degree programs. Dr. Martin earned her Ph.D. at The National University of Ireland.

Dr. Martin is a nationally certified speech-language pathologist and educator of the deaf and hard-of-hearing students and is licensed by the Mississippi Department of Education in nine areas including elementary education, remedial reading and school administration. She also is a certified academic language therapist (CALT) and qualified instructor (QI).

Dr. Martin became Director of the DuBard School for Language Disorders at Southern Miss in 1989 and has remained very active in her field. She is a member of the Mississippi Autism Advisory Council (MAAC) and is President-Elect of the Mississippi Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

She joins us today to share information and statistics on the current levels of literacy in Mississippi and throughout the United States and associated communication disorders. More importantly, she will share the successes being made to combat these issues at the DuBard School and throughout our education system.

December

Erik Graham
Program Chair
4, 11, 18, 25

4th – Dr. Maureen Martin
11th – District Governor, Don Bryan
18th – Dr. Neal Gregg
25th – No Meeting - Merry Christmas!

January

Bill McLeod
Program Chair
1, 8, 15, 22, 29

1st – No Meeting - Happy New Year!
2th – Grants Mgt. Seminar (PRCC)
17th – Beer Tasting @ Keg & Barrel

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Rotary News From Around the World

Rotary clubs around the globe have many things in common, including a commitment to service. All year long, clubs are taking action to make a difference in their communities. Here's a roundup of recent club activities worldwide:

CANADA

The Stampede Roundup is an outdoor music festival in Calgary, Alta., that features artists from around the world. It's also the Rotary Club of Calgary's largest fundraiser. The 17th annual festival was held on 11 July and attracted a record 17,500 people. The event, which netted more than C$250,000 this year, benefits terminally ill children at Alberta's first pediatric hospice. Performers at this year's Stampede Roundup included the Tragically Hip, Matthew Good, and 54-40.

ENGLAND

In the depths of last winter, Terry Williams, of the Rotary Club of Swindon North, decided to pitch a ShelterBox tent in the town square and live in it for a week. Williams endured seven nights of below-freezing temperatures to raise funds for and publicize ShelterBox, a nonprofit started by British Rotarian Tom Henderson. Williams received visitors from local schools and his Rotary club, and nearby businesses provided warm meals. By the end of the week, Williams, who had aimed to raise £3,000 for ShelterBox, had brought in over £8,000. He donated a portion of that amount to the End Polio Now campaign.

USA

Run-down and plagued by gang violence, Closter Park in Salinas, Calif., will soon get a makeover with the help of local Rotary clubs, as well as clubs in India and Mexico. The Rotary Club of Salinas is leading the project, which aims to make the park a safe haven for families. Rotarians installed benches, picnic areas, and a gazebo and are organizing youth activities and cultural events. The clubs have raised about $450,000 in cash and in-kind donations.

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