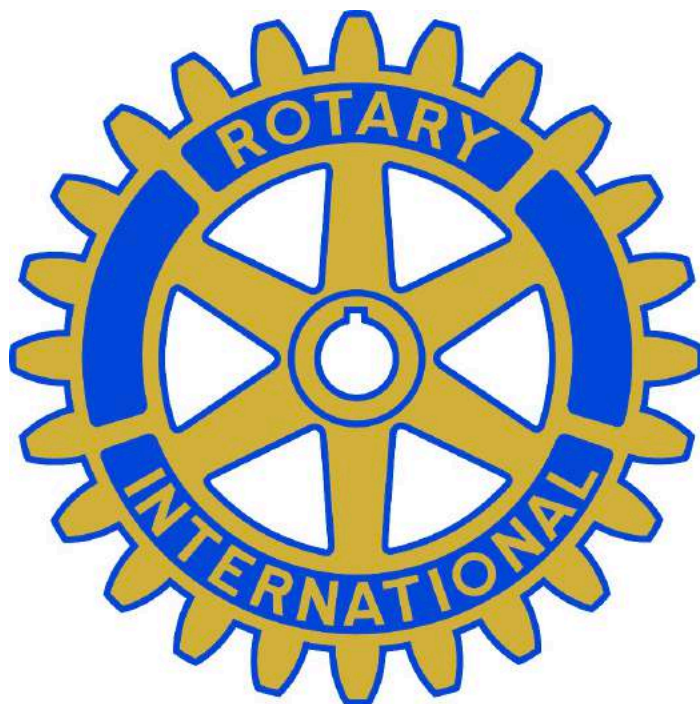


SPOKES

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



2012-2013

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SERVICE ABOVE SELF

MINUTES: JANUARY 22, 2013

Maura McLaughlin presided over the meeting. Thanks to Scott Hummel, who gave the invocation and to Bill McLeod, who led members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Maura then led the Club in the 4-Way Test and then asked Sean Priebe to introduce today's guests. Chris Price has as his guest Corey Loftis. Bill McLeod has as his guests Gordon Broom and John McLeod.

Sean thanked those who attended the recent beer tasting event. Several potential new members attended.

Bill McLeod then reported that District Conference sponsorships are needed. The conference will be held in Bat St. Louis April 18-20. Anyone interested should contact Bill. He also noted that the District is looking for GSE team hosts later this year.

Bill McLeod then introduced today's guest speaker, Billy McGee, Forrest County Sheriff. Sheriff McGee has been our sheriff since 1992.

The sheriff reported that his offices and the new jail is now occupied. The \$22 facility is approximately 114,000 square feet and is designed to house 660 inmates. The new jail is a state-of-the-art facility that is operated mostly by computers and computer operators. The new facility is safer for guards as well as inmates. Currently there are approximately 300 inmates housed at the facility. The County Board of Supervisors has received bids for either the demolition or the purchase of the old jail. McGhee reports that he anticipates that bid request will be revised and re-issued on the coming months.

The Forrest County Sheriff's Department consists of about 150 employees. They are broken in various divisions included a detective division, a sex crime division, a patrol division, a court division and a transportation division.

McGee reports that there is some gang activity being monitored in Forrest County, however, those engaged are not very well organized. He notes that this area is very fortunate to have a gang task force consisting of members from the Hattiesburg Policy Department, the FBI and other agencies. According to McGhee there is an organized motorcycle gang present. That gang owns and operates a beer joint in the county. The criminal activity of gang members has thus far been targeted to their own members.

On the issue of gun control, McGhee says he has no plans to enforce the President's recent executive orders, however, if federal laws change he will be required to enforce them. He supports background checks for everyone who purchases a weapon and says it makes good sense for the protection of everyone.

He also noted that the State Supreme Court issued a ruling several years ago regarding possession of a weapon. The ruling says that if you can legally purchase and possess a weapon in your home, your automobile is considered an extension of your home and you can therefore carry a weapon in your vehicle. However, he cautioned club members to never pull a weapon on someone unless they are prepared and have the capacity to kill that person. Otherwise, the weapon will be taken away from and used on you by the criminal.

Regarding juveniles, McGhee says the nation is going in the wrong direction. He says juveniles are not required to pay for the crimes they've committed and that all too often they use juvenile detention as a badge of recognition with their friends.

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

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

LAST WEEK – JANUARY 22:

A big “thank you” to Forrest Co. Sheriff Billy McGee for his presentation!



PLEASE WELCOME TODAY'S GUEST...

LIEUTENANT COLONEL MIKE D. HOLMES

**DIRECTOR, UNIFORMED DIVISION
MISSISSIPPI HIGHWAY PATROL**

Born and raised in Jackson, Ms., Lt. Col. Mike Holmes graduated from Mississippi Baptist High School in 1981 and earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Southern Miss in 1986.

Lt. Col. Holmes began his 25-year career in law enforcement in 1986 with the Hinds Co. Sheriff's Department and transferred to the State Troopers assigned to Scott Co. In 1987, he transferred to the Jackson District where he served for the next 12 years. He was promoted to Master Sergeant (Assistant Inspector) for Troop C in 2000, Director of Motor Vehicle Inspection Department in 2010, and Assistant Director, Lieutenant Colonel MHP in January of 2012. During his tenure at the Highway Patrol he was on the SWAT Team for seven years and Assistant Special Operations Group Leader for five years.

Lt. Col. Holmes and his wife, Melissa, have been married for 25 years and have two children. Their 22 year-old son, Brandon, is a recent graduate of U.S.M., and their 18 year-old daughter, Bailey, will be attending Mississippi State in the fall.



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**EACH ROTARIAN:
REACH ONE, KEEP ONE**

NEXT WEEK (FEB. 5):

VICKIE L. STUART, DPA, CRNA

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR

NURSE ANESTHESIA PROGRAM – THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI



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UPCOMING DATES

FEB. 12	ROBERTA M. HUMBLE – AUTHOR/PROFESSOR
FEB. 19	CONNIE KEENE, INVESTIGATOR – INVESTIGATOR, FORREST CO. D.A.
MARCH 12	CAROLYN SMITH, M.A., LPC, CSAT, EMDR, INTENSIVE WORKSHOPS
MARCH 19	ISAAC L. BOOSE, M.ED., LPC-S, LMFT, CCAP, “BURNOUT & STRESS”
MARCH 26	CARVER BROWN, PINE GROVE ALUMNI COORDINATOR
APRIL 2	DR. JOE PAUL, VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS, USM
APRIL 9	CINDY BIVINS, M.ED., INTERIM DIRECTOR, DIRECTOR, CHILDREN’S CENTER, USM
APRIL 18-20	**DISTRICT CONFERENCE**
APRIL 23	“A NIGHT IN ITALY” FUNDRAISER (<i>NO NOON MEETING</i>)
APRIL 30	THE HONORABLE LYNN FITCH, STATE TREASURER OF MISSISSIPPI
JUNE 25	AWARDS LUNCHEON - TENTATIVE