



SPOKES

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

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SPOKES NEWSLETTER

Wes Brooks, *Editor*
 Rotary Club of Hattiesburg
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André Heath

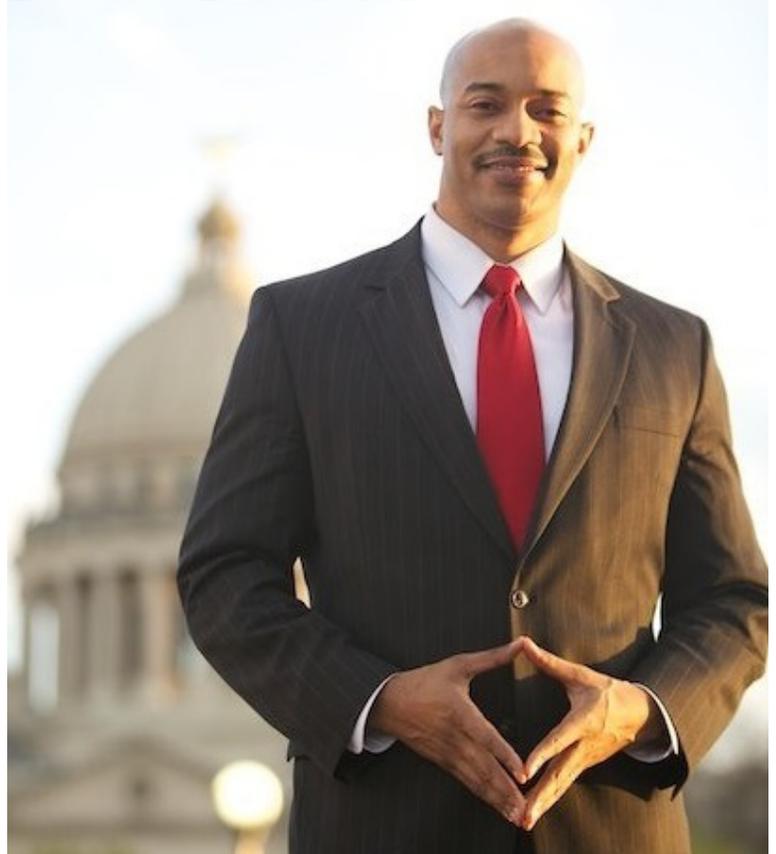
Leadership, Empowerment & Civic Engagement

A native of Crystal Springs, Mississippi, André J. Heath enjoys speaking to groups and organizations on leadership, personal empowerment, and civic engagement. In 2011, Heath became 1 of 82 contestants from a pool of 30,000 participants from 116 countries to advance to the semifinals of Toastmasters World Championship of Public Speaking.

In 2012 The Mississippi Business Journal selected Heath to its "Top 40 Under 40" class and, in 2013, the City of Petal recognized him as a trailblazer in the community. André serves on the ADP Leadership Pinebelt Steering Committee, is President of the Hattiesburg Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, and is a member of the Petal School District Board of Trustees.

André and his wife, Amy, have two children, Austin and Alyssa.

Our Guest





Our guest on April 29 from Groundworx, LLC pictured L-R: Chris Price, Liz Strickland, Julie Cooke, Scott Hummel, and Ronnie Blackwell.

Minutes: April 29, 2014

Scott Hummel presided over the meeting. Thanks to Steve Ramp who gave the invocation and Allen Anderson who led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance. Thanks to Gene Owens and Brian Moore for serving as our greeters today.

Brian Moore noted that we have no visiting Rotarians and no visitors today.

Scott reminded members of the upcoming District Conference on May 9 and 10. Anyone interested in participating in the sponsorship program to help offset the District's conference costs are encouraged to get with Bill McLeod or Scott Hummel today.

Scott thanked the Night in Italy committee for an excellent job with last week's event. Chris Price reported that we served more than 1,100 meals. This year's event is the largest Night in Italy event in several years. The club will be making a donation to the Children's Center as soon as all of the bills are paid.

It was reported that Larry LeBlanc will be released from the hospital on Thursday of this week. He will continue to receive home therapy services.

The Group Exchange students will arrive in our area on Wednesday, May 14 and depart on Saturday, May 17. Mike Ratliff is heading up this year's committee. Anyone interested in participating in the program is encouraged to get with Mike in the very near future. Scott reports that plans are to have a club-wide cookout on Friday, May 16. More information will be forthcoming.

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(Minutes cont.)

If you haven't brought your two pairs of shoes and socks for the Shoes for Orphan Souls campaign, you have only until next Tuesday to bring them. Aaron Ladner reported that we are several pair away from our goal. Every member is encouraged to participate. If you'd rather write a check, make the check out to Rotary and give it to Aaron by next Tuesday.

Scott reported that the club's board of directors met last evening and among the many items discussed there is consensus that our club should begin organizing a Rotary District-wide Milton Wheeler Memorial scholarship program for William Carey University. Scott will be sending out additional information in the near future.

Scott then introduced two of the performers in Camelot which was presented recently by William Carey University. Ryan McNair and Carissa Read performed for our club. Many thanks to the very talented performers.

Chris Price then came forward and introduced today's presenters. Elizabeth Strickland, Ronny Blackwell and Julie Pittman-Cooke. All are associated with Groundworx.

Julie noted that the organization's mission is to create a long term green solution to Hattiesburg's wastewater treatment system. Groundworx has developed a land treatment system to accomplish this mission. This is the treatment option accepted by the City of Hattiesburg recently.

The project has either purchased or leased a total of ten-thousand acres of primarily timber land south of Hattiesburg. This land will be used as the location for the spray irrigation of the pre-treated wastewater. Approximately 30% of the acreage will be the spray field. The rest will be held in reserve or will serve as a buffer zone.

Julie says the plans are for the city to divert the industrial waste now flowing into the lagoon system into a small treatment plant where it can be treated and then released into the lagoon system. From there it will be transported with the remaining wastewater to a holding facility. From there it will be released over the spray field which will shift locations depending on weather and other conditions. The spray field is primarily a pine tree forest. Trees in the spray field will be harvested and sold.

Tuesday, April 29, the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg was treated to special selections from the William Carey University production of "Camelot." The full performance of "Camelot" took place April 22-26 at the Winters School of Music at William Carey University.



(Minutes cont.)

Julie noted that part of the project includes the construction of a welcome center. The center will be used as an educational tool for area schools. Once completed she maintains that the land treatment center will be a flagship system for the state of Mississippi. The development of the Hattiesburg system is very similar to a system that has been in operation in Texas for the past 80 years.

The bond sale for the project will total \$141 million. The city will have 30 years to pay those bonds off and then can assume ownership of the facility. The city also negotiated an option to purchase the facility from day-one of operation if the need arises. Any revenue generated from admissions, billboard advertising or timber sales will be used to directly offset the operational costs, reducing the city's annual budget requirements.

Once everything is approved and in place it is estimated that the facility can be on-line and fully functional within a two year period.

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



District 6840 Conference
MAY 9-10
 Biloxi Civic Center

Rotary 

Rotary International Conference
June 1-4
 Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

