

MAY 7, 2013



# SPOKES

ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

## Leadership & Board of Directors

Maura McLaughlin  
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James Duncan

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President-Elect

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Secretary-Treasurer

Lucy Parkman

Chris Price  
Sergeant At Arms

Sean Priebe  
Secretary/Treasurer-Elect

Robert Cummings  
Past President

Janice Touchstone

Valencia Williamson

## Upcoming

**May 7**

SHEILA VARNADO & BRETT REITER, R3SM

**May 28**

Leadership Pinebelt

**May 11**

DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

**June 18**

INDUCTION OF SCOTT HUMMEL

**21**

KRISTIE FAIRLY, VISIT HATTIESBURG

**June 25**

AWARDS LUNCHEON

**May 21**

KRISTY FAIRLY, VISIT HATTIESBURG

**July 2**

DISTRICT GOV. BARBARA MAULDIN



# END POLIO NOW

## "Service Above Self"

Wes Brooks, Editor  
[hattiesburgrotary@gmail.com](mailto:hattiesburgrotary@gmail.com)  
[www.facebook.com/rotaryofhattiesburg](http://www.facebook.com/rotaryofhattiesburg)

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## Minutes: April 30, 2013

President Maura McLaughlin presided over the meeting. Thanks to Allen Anderson, who gave the invocation and to Bill McLeod, who led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Thanks also to Valencia Williams and Dan Davis who served as our greeters today.

Maura led the Club in the 4-Way Test and then asked Sean Priebe to introduce today's guests. Prospective member Sara Peterson is a guest of the club today. Jay Huffstater a guest of Chase Munro. Amanda Lee is a guest of Chrissy Cullinane and Melissa Phelps is a guest of Maura McLaughlin.

Maura announced that there were 948 meals served during last week's Night in Italy event. She thanked all of those who volunteered to make the event the success it was. A full accounting of the event will not be available until all of the bills are received and paid. Some 250 meals left over at the end of the event were donated to Christian Services.

Maura also announced that the club has scheduled a Kollege of Knowledge on May 14<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be held at Southern Oaks and will begin at 10:30 a.m.

Scott Hummel reported that the club has been asked to locate one or more members who will be willing to serve as hosts for the Rotary Youth Exchange program next year. He requested that members give the request consideration and to let him know if you're interested.

Janice Touchstone reported that she has received three RYLA applications. She also asked anyone with a Grover Anderson Scholarship nominee to let her know in the very near future. The deadline for that application is mid-May.

The Hattiesburg Rotary club received four awards during the recently concluded District Conference. The awards include a Presidential Citation, the Best Newsletter Award – Large Club, "The Shelter Box Hero Award," and the President received the President of the Year Award.

Maura then introduced today's speaker, Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann.

Secretary Hosemann reported that his office has received a report of an excessive number of absentee ballot requests from the Macon area this year. Those requests, along with others will be reviewed to ensure that they are legal requests. If they are found to be illegal, the persons voting with the absentee ballot can be charged with a felony. Six individuals were prosecuted in Canton for absentee ballot abuse during the last election. If you are over 65 years of age, or will have to be out of the county on the day of the election, or if you are disabled you can vote using an absentee ballot.

Mr. Hosemann noted that the Mississippi legislature has passed a voter ID law. The law is being challenged through the U.S. Justice Department. Hosemann maintains that he has addressed all of the concerns in the lawsuit and just recently made provisions for all of the emails from his office, the legislative offices and the

governor's office to be turned over to the Justice Department. He expects that process to be completed and a ruling within the next few weeks. If an unfavorable ruling is made on the case, Hosemann says he will pursue relief in the court system.

In order to answer the concerns that have been expressed, the Mississippi law makes provisions for anyone who can't get to their county courthouse for the voter ID to be picked up and returned home at no costs. He has also made provisions for anyone who doesn't have a proper birth certificate to get one at no cost. Legal documents filed with the Justice Department maintain that more than 400,000 Mississippians will be disenfranchised if they are required to get a voter ID. Hosemann says his office conducted a survey of 6,000 Mississippi voters during the last election and only .8%, or about 20,000 Mississippians would be required to obtain a voter ID.

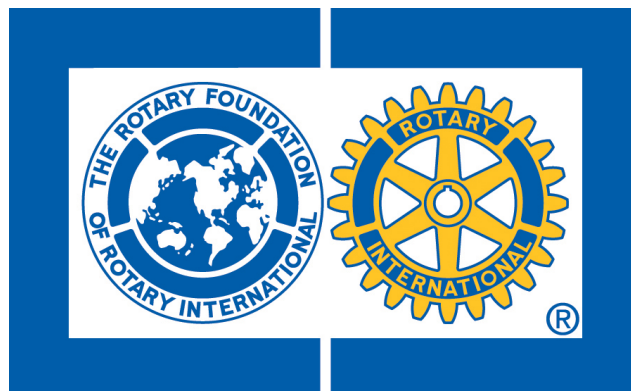
When asked if he anticipates Mississippians being able to vote-online, Hosemann says it probably will not occur in the near term. However, Mississippi is the first state to provide on-line voting for overseas military personnel.

Improvements continue in the area of 16<sup>th</sup> Section land management. The Secretary now requires that he is the person who signs all of those leases throughout the state. Revenue from 16<sup>th</sup> Section lands has gone from \$53 million to \$89 million annually. Hosemann will present a \$433,000 check to the University of Southern Mississippi today as a result of a 16<sup>th</sup> section land lease on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Hosemann reports that he is negotiating for the state to purchase a portion of Cat Island in the Mississippi Sound to be used as a public preserve. The \$8 price tag on the project is being paid for mostly by sources other than tax revenue. Mr. Hosemann says it is possible that the state could end up with all of Cat Island in the future.

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

**Addendum, 5/6/13:** Chrissy Cullinane has proposed Amanda Lee for membership. Her application has been received and approved by our Board of Directors.



# Col. Sheila Varnado (Ret.) - R3SM

Our Speaker, Sheila Varnado, is the Executive Director of R3SM (Recover, Rebuild, Restore Southeast MS), the Long Term Recovery Agency for Forrest, Lamar and Perry Counties.

R3SM was established in 2006 after the devastation from Hurricane Katrina. The agency's focus is on assisting families recover from natural disasters who had no insurance, were under-insured, elderly, disabled or single parent household. They coordinated the repair of over 400 homes after Katrina and supervised the builds of 14 new homes. They have case managed thousands of families in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Isaac and are currently serving the community after the February tornado.

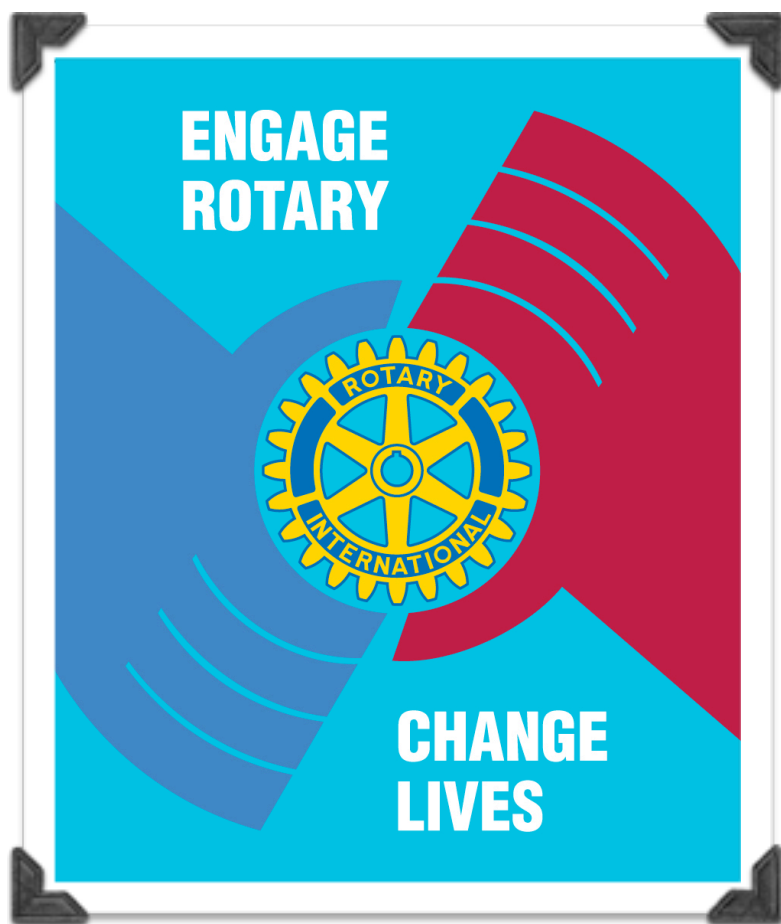


## LAST WEEK



Pictured L-R: Mississippi's Secretary of State, Delbert Hosemann, Jr., Club President, Maura McLaughlin, and Larry LeBlanc





**Rotary District Assembly  
May 11, 2013**

Bay Waveland Yacht Club  
666 North Beach Blvd.  
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520  
8:30am - Noon

**CONTACT**

**Rotary Club of Hattiesburg  
c/o Association Management Systems  
629 North Main Street  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401  
601.582.3330  
[www.hattiesburgrotary.com](http://www.hattiesburgrotary.com)**