

SP KES

Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg

October 1, 2013

Mississippi Treasurer Lynn Fitch and our guest from William Carey University (L-R): Joseph Zanza, Nistha Pradhan, Jeremiah Lindley, Stella McIver, Luis Trude, and William Carey College of Business Dean, Dr. Cheryl Dale.



SEPTEMBER Perfect Attendance

Ember Ahua
Wes Brooks
Dan Davis

Lamar Evans
Francis Farmer

Scott Hummel
Bill MacLaughlan
Maura McLaughlin

Bill McLeod
Brian Moore
Gene Owens

Jennifer Payne
Sara Peterson
Brett Phillips

Sean Priebe
Steve Ramp
Johnny Stevens

Conrad Welker

Officers & Board of Directors

Scott Hummel
President

Wes Brooks
President-Elect

Jennifer Payne
Vice President

Sean Priebe
Secretary-Treasurer

Brian Moore
Sergeant-At-Arms

Maura McLaughlin
Past President

James Duncan

Brian Moore

David Owens

Lucy Parkman

Valencia Williamson



Mississippi Treasurer Lynn Fitch
and Wes Brooks

MINUTES: September 24, 2013

President Elect Wes Brooks presided over the meeting. Thanks to Dan Kibodeaux who gave the invocation and to Lamar Evans who led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Thanks also to Chase Munro and Jeremy Bolling who served as our greeters today. Wes then led the Club in the 4-Way Test and then asked Brian Moore to introduce today's guests. Julian Allen was a guest of Jennifer Payne. Delaney Gore was a guest of Maura McLaughlin. John Cooper was a guest of Sean Priebe. Janet Williams and Scott Hummel had a number of guests. They were Cheryl Dale, Nistha Pradhan, Stella McIver, Luis Trude, Joseph Zanza and Jeremiah Lindley.

Wes asked that members keep Toxie Morris in their thoughts. Toxie fell recently. He also noted that the RYLA application date is October 8. Anyone interested should see Wes or Scott. Members were reminded that former Governor Haley Barbour is our speaker on October 15. Members are encouraged to invite a guest for that meeting. The Bike-a-Thon plans continue. If you are interested in sponsoring or participating please contact Jonathan Shemper. The Sounds to Symbols Run for the DuBard School is coming up on October 12. See Wes for more information.

Wes then introduced today's guest speaker, The Honorable Lynn Fitch, Treasurer of Mississippi. Lynn thanked members for the speaking invitation and for the opportunity to serve as the manager of the state's bank. She noted that the bank has about 25 billion dollars worth of transactions each year. It is not uncommon for 10 to 15 million dollars of transactions daily, according to Fitch.

An issue that Fitch is currently supporting is the addition of personal finance training in our public school system. She says this one small addition could change our state's culture. She maintains that children should be informed about the financial building block of their future. They need to know how to balance a checkbook, understand mortgages, loans, and financial accountability. Mississippi is listed as the least financially capable state in the nation.

Ms. Fitch reported that 41% of credit card users only make the minimum monthly payments and that 22% owe more than they make. Two out of three Mississippians have no savings and 41% of us have unpaid medical bills. She maintains that personal financial training at an early age could help our state's economy. She also notes that employees who are better stewards of their financial life are better and more dependable employees.

One of the changes the Treasurer has made while in office is debt restructuring which has saved Mississippi \$33 million dollars. Her office has also distributed approximately \$10 million in unclaimed property. In addition, she has introduced new systems and new technologies that have improved efficiency and saved money.

Wes thanked Treasurer Fitch for her remarks and her public service. He then recognized Brett Phillips. Brett recognized Elisha Buckley, a teacher at Hawkins Elementary. Ms. Buckley was presented with a Rotary check and was recognized as our club's teacher of the month.



L-R: Principal Donna Scott; Teacher of the Month recipient, Elisha Buckley, and Brett Phillips



Service Above Self

**Dr. William Lewis, President
Pearl River Community College**

Dr. William Lewis is a native of Clinton, Ms. He earned a Bachelor's degree from Mississippi College as well as the Master's and Doctoral degrees from The University of Southern Mississippi. During his more than forty years of service to the state's public education system, his experiences as a professional educator have included teaching, coaching, and administrative assignments in Mississippi's public schools, colleges and universities.

Serving as Superintendent for the Petal School District for eight years, Dr. Lewis led a school district that became widely recognized as one of Mississippi's top performing districts on statewide measurements of student achievement. During his tenure the school district achieved state, regional, and national recognition for excellence in the classroom, on the athletic fields, and in the fine arts. The school district also developed programs of excellence in polymer technology and early childhood education during his tenure. In December 1997, the school district formally dedicated the Polymer Technology Building at Petal High School in honor of Dr. Lewis.

In January 1998, Dr. Lewis was named Executive Director of the Public Education Forum of Mississippi. In this role he was responsible for directing the activities of highly visible business-support organization established to promote improvement in the state's public education system.

Dr. Lewis was selected to become the college's tenth president on July 1, 2000. Since his appointment, Pearl River has experienced a significant growth in enrollment, developed a national reputation for excellence in teaching and learning, produced a national championship in football, and has become highly recognized for its arts programs. In 2013, the College was recognized as a national finalist for the prestigious Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence and received a recognition as the 28th best community college in America on TheBestColleges.net list of Top 50 two-year institutions in the country.

Dr. Lewis was recognized in 1998 by the Petal Chamber of Commerce as the recipient of the Bobby Runnels Community Leadership Award for outstanding service and leadership to the Petal community. During homecoming activities at Mississippi College in October 1999, Dr. Lewis was presented with the college's Distinguished Alumni award from the Department of Teacher Education.

He currently serves as Chair of the Mississippi Association of Community & Junior Colleges President's Association and as Chair of the Mississippi Enterprise for Technology Board of Directors. He is also a member of the Board of Directors for the Mississippi Humanities Council and the South Mississippi Planning and Development District.

Dr. Lewis is married to the former Janet Ladner of Gulfport and they have two grown children, Kelli and Jay. Dr. and Mrs. Lewis also have three grandchildren.



Rotary International
**WORLD POLIO DAY:
MAKING HISTORY**
Join Rotary's Livestream Event

**THURSDAY, 24 OCTOBER
5:30 P.M., CST**



#endpolio | endpolionow.org

Facebook

SEPTEMBER
Total Reach
87,178

The number of people who have seen any content associated with the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg Facebook page.

UPCOMING

October 5
Rotary Leadership Institute

October 8
Susan Light
Pink Ribbon Fund
Breast Cancer Awareness

October 15
Governor Haley Barbour

December 2
Paul Harris Society
Gala Dinner

January 11
Mid Year Checkup

March 7-8
P.E.T.S.
Jackson Convention
Complex

May 9-10
District 6840 Conference
Biloxi Civic Center

June 1-4
Rotary International
Covention
Sydney, Australia

Spokes Newsletter
Wes Brooks, *Editor*
Rotary Club of Hattiesburg
District 6840, Club #04003

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Hattiesburg, MS 39401
(601) 582-3330

Mark your calendars!

November 9, 2013



ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

Partnering with
Adalyn Thomas
FIT KIDS

Promoting healthy lifestyles
for the children of Mississippi

BIKE-A-THON

Free	\$25	\$40
For Children 12 & Under	Early Registration	After October 21

60 Mile - 30 Mile - 8 Mile - 2 Mile - Mountain Bike Trail

Come join us, Super Bowl legend and NFL great Adalyn Thomas and his Fit Kids organization as we bike to promote healthy lifestyles for the children of the great State of Mississippi.

11/9/13 | LONGLEAF TRACE | 7:30a 1:00p