

SP KES

Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg

September 10, 2013



Elizabeth Van Sant

Rotary Club of Covington
Rotary Youth Exchange

Youth Exchange is one of Rotary's oldest international programs and is a key component of Rotary's New Generations and Peace initiatives. Through Rotary Youth Exchange, students aged 15 1/2-18 1/2 spend one school year studying in another country. The friendships, perspectives, and languages gained in that school year are critical to each student's individual growth and to our global capacity for communication, tolerance and understanding.

Rotary District 6840 will be looking for young people to participate in Rotary Youth Exchange and for local families to receive students into their homes. Students attend one school for one academic year and generally stay with 2-3 families during that time. This is to increase their learning of the local culture and to make it an easier commitment for the host families. Participating students and host families **DO NOT** need to have any prior connection to a Rotary Club to apply. Unlike other Rotary programs, families of Rotarians **MAY** apply to be students or hosts.



MINUTES: September 3, 2013



Our guest, Karen Swaim Babin.

President Scott Hummel presided over the meeting. Thanks to Dan Kibodeaux who gave the invocation and to David Owens who led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Thanks also to Amanda Lee who served as our greeter today. Scott then led the Club in the 4-Way Test and then asked Brian Moore to introduce today's guests. David Thoms is a guest of Hayden Mitchell. Mary Lacy Montgomery is a guest of Tom Montgomery. Jim Furr is a guest of Allen Anderson and Kat Spangler is a guest of Rusty Edwards.

Thanks to all of the members who purchased raffle tickets today. The funds raised will go directly to Polio Plus. Today's raffle and auction generated \$50.00. Congratulations to Bill McLeod who won the Walt Grayson book.

Scott reported that the Bike-a-Thon committee will meet at 11:15 on September 10th. The event is scheduled for November 9th. All committee chairs are asked to attend. The meeting will be held at Southern Oaks.

Scott thanked those who participated in this past weekend's Rotary Youth Exchange activities. He thanked Lucy Parkman for allowing some of the delegates to spend the night in her condo. He also thanked Jennifer Payne who arranged for the students to see the USM game from the president's box. He also thanked Sara Peterson and Southern Mississippi Electric Power Association for inviting the delegation to join them in their tailgating prior to the game. He also thanked Tracey Fowler and the Hattiesburg American for providing game tickets for the delegation.

Scott then introduced today's guest speaker, Karen Swaim Babin. Karen is a past District Governor for District 7930 and has been heavily involved in Rotary events and activities since she first joined in 1987. Karen was

welcomed and introduced Brian Hall, District 2840's Governor Elect who is assisting with audio/visual today.

Karen spoke to us about the Friends Forever program which was founded in 1986. Friends Forever is a Rotary program that brings together 10 teens (between the ages of 15 and 17) for a two week USA trip. The program began as an effort to encourage peace in Northern Ireland and has now been expanded to Israel.

Five of the teens selected from Northern Ireland are protestant and five are catholic. They are brought to America for their 10 day trip and live and work with each other as a team 24/7 during their visit. They travel together, live together and they work together on community service projects. They and their sponsors must commit to a year-long community building project once they return home. The goal of Friends Forever is to give the teens from a troubled area the chance to meet and work together in a neutral environment and then go home and continue to work together. Over the 25 plus years the program has been in existence it is thought that it has changed opinions in Northern Ireland and has aided in providing them the peace that they continue to work on in that nation.



Our District Governor-Elect, Brian Hall, and PDG Karen Swaim Babin (District 7930)

The program recently spread to Israel where five Jewish teens and five Muslim teens are brought together in an effort to introduce them and their beliefs, passions and commonalities to each other in hopes that they will return home and aid the peace process.

Karen reports that transportation costs are the largest expense of Friends Forever. Other expenses include lodging, food, beverage, van rentals, etc. Donations of any amount are welcomed but a \$2,500 contribution will sponsor one student. Club members and Rotary clubs are encouraged to make whatever contribution they can to support the project.

You can get more information from Karen Babin by calling 504-875-4342 or by email at ksbabin@gmail.com. You can learn more about Friends Forever by visiting their website at www.friendsforeverusa.org.

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



September 24
The Honorable Lynn Fitch

Group Study Exchange - Applications for Team Leader

by Mark Spicer

The deadline for submitting team leader applications has been extended to Sunday, September 8th. Interviews for Team Leader will be held at the First Pentecostal Church, Slidell, on Sunday September 15. Forms and program information can be found on the district website at District Programs > Group Study Exchange. Submit applications to Mark Spicer, Chairman of the GSE Team Committee, at 107 Augustine Court, Ocean Springs, MS 39564. Mark can be reached by email at maspicer55@hotmail.com or telephone at 228-218-6220.

Our district will be exchanging teams with District 2483, located in Serbia and Montenegro. Anticipated travel dates are May-June 2014. For four weeks, team members will experience the way of life, customs, and vocational practices of LA/MS and Serbia/Montenegro, while sharing information about their home country.

Rachel's Challenge Launches at Salmen High School, Slidell

by Steve Saux



The Rachel's Challenge program was officially introduced to the students of Salmen High School in Slidell on Friday, August 16. A session was also held that evening for the parents and other interested adults. In the photo, Steve Saux, president of the Rotary Club of Northlake-Mandeville, introduces Rachel's Challenge committee members (L to R) Sharron Newton, Kim Bergeron, Jane Alford, and Vicky Magas as guest speakers of the club's August 22nd meeting.

A	Adamson	Debbie
A	Ahua	Ember
A	Akinwale	Abumere
A	Allen	Mickey
A	Allen, Jr.	William
A	Anderson	Allen
SE	Aultman	Dorrance
A	Bradley	Todd
A	Brooks	Wes
A	Brown	Jerome
SE	Burt	J. Cecil
SE	Carpenter	Stanley
A	Cole	Hoppy
A	Cornett	Michael
A	Cornett	Robert
A	Corts	Richard
A	Cromartie	Mary
A	Cullinane	Chrissy
A	Cummings	Audra
A	Cummings	Robert
A	Davis	Dan
A	Dillard	Evan
SE	Duncan	James
A	Edwards	Rusty
A	Evans	Lamar
A	Farmer	Francis
A	Fowler	Tracie
SE	Gammill, III	Stewart
A	Garraway	Greg
A	Ghents	Christina
A	Gilder	Jerry
A	Gillentine	Elizabeth
A	Gould	Kristy
A	Graham	Erik
A	Granberry	Erin
SE	Greer	Charles
A	Griffith	John
A	Gustafson	David
A	Harris	Anthony
A	Henley	Dan
A	Herzog	Angela
A	Holland	Robert
SE	Hughes	William
A	Hummel	Scott
A	Johnson	David
A	Johnson	David
A	Kibodeaux	Dannie
A	Ladner	Aaron
A	Leblanc	Larry
A	Lee	Amanda
A	Lewis	Kevin
A	Light	Tom

Membership Roster 2013-2014



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Spokes Newsletter
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District 6840, Club #04003

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A	Smith	Curtis
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SE	Tadlock	John
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A	Ward	Patrick
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