

# SP KES

Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg

September 3, 2013



## Rotarians at The Rock!

Saturday, August 31, Scott Hummel and Wes Brooks were host to two Rotary exchange students as they experienced their first "real" barbeque (Letha's) and collegiate football game (USM vs. Texas State): Andréa Molestina of Ecuador and David Badajkov of Belgium. Andréa and David's host mother, Shelly Schonekas, who also attended, is Past President of the Rotary Club of St. Charles Parish.

## MINUTES: August 27, 2013

Lucy Parkman and Iris Easterling, Chair of Board of Directors at the Greater Pine Belt Community Foundation.



President Scott Hummel presided over the meeting. Thanks to Wes Brooks who gave the invocation and to Wallace Weakley who led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Thanks also to Brett Phillips and Jennifer Payne who served as our greeters today. Scott then led the Club in the 4-Way Test and then asked Sean Priebe to introduce today's visiting Rotarians and guests. John Cooper is a guest of Sean Priebe. Jeremy Bolling is a guest of Ember Ahua. Ryan Kelly and Liz Cotton are guests of Scott Hummel. Brian Bledsoe is a guest of Chrissy Cullinane and Amanda Lee.

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 more than \$150.00.

Scott reported that the board met last evening and that Aaron Ladner presented a proposal for two Service Projects throughout the year. The first project is coming up on November 19 when members will be asked to bring their own lunch and to bring a sack of food for area food pantries. The money the club usually spends on lunch will be donated to the Extra Table. Club members will be asked to assist in the delivery of food items to local food banks.

Jennifer Payne reported that the Bike-a-Thon committee will meet at 11:15 on September 3rd. The event is scheduled for November 9th. Approximately 50 volunteers will be needed the day of the event and Valencia Williams will be the volunteer coordinator for the event.

Scott also reported that the deadline for the Group Studies Exchange program leader is coming up on September 8. The registration deadline for the team members will follow closely. The group will travel to Serbia from mid May to Mid June next year. The focus of the exchange will be Education. Anyone interested should contact Scott in the very near future. The GSE program is open to non-Rotarians aged 25 – 40.

Sean Priebe then introduced today's guest speaker, Theresa Erickson. Theresa joined the Pine Belt Community Foundation in 2009 and serves as their Executive Director. Prior to joining the Foundation Theresa served as the Business Development Director at Hattiesburg Clinic.

She reported that Community Foundations began in 1914 with the formation of the first such foundation in Cleveland, OH. Today there are more than 700 across the nation. The Pine Belt Community Foundation was begun in 1997 as an Area Development Partnership Leadership Pine Belt Group project. Today almost \$5 million has been disbursed through the Foundation. Their mission is to build a better community through philanthropy.

The Foundation serves as the builder and manager of endowment funds. It also manages spenddown funds and makes grants available throughout the year. It allows contributors the flexibility of contributing to whatever their passion is without having all the costs and administrative expenses of forming and maintaining a non-profit organization. The Greater Pine Belt Community Foundation provides funds to non-profits, schools and churches.

Endowment funds are invested allowing greater return on those investments. The Foundation holds costs down by contracting out some services. Theresa also notes that a great deal of the success of the Foundation is a strong board and committee structure and an active leadership.



The Foundation receives its operating funds through administrative fees charged to the funds. Those charges represent approximately 17% of the total budget. The remainder of the budget comes from partner contributions and earnings from the GPCF Endowment.

There are a variety of ways you can get involved with the Foundation. Theresa suggests that you identify what your passion is and then explore the gift and fund options that are available to you. She maintains that this can be an excellent method of honoring the memories of loved ones.

For more information or to get involved call 601-583-6180 or visit their website at [www.pinebeltfoundation.org](http://www.pinebeltfoundation.org).

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



## Karen Swaim Babin

Past District Governor 1997-1998, District 7930

As a member of the Rotary Club of Cambridge, MA in the early 1990's, Karen was impressed by a presentation about Friends Forever – a program for teenagers from areas of conflict, to build bonds of trust and friendship. That began a 20+ year involvement with Friends Forever, including the planning of six 2 week retreats for Catholic and Protestant teens from Northern Ireland. These intense experiences begin their year long “peace building” program back home. Promoting peace with young people fit perfectly with her passion for Rotary’s mission!

Rotary duties and responsibilities at the local, District and Zone levels in the Boston area, Upstate New York, and now Louisiana, have been Karen’s top priority since joining Rotary in 1987. Twelve years of chairing orientations for Ambassadorial Scholars and Group Study Exchange participants, plus other training, administration and Rotary Foundation responsibilities led to the honor of The Rotary Foundation’s Citation for Meritorious Service Award in 2007, and Rotary International’s Service Above Self Award in 2010.

Karen represented District 7190 (Upstate NY) at the 2010 Council on Legislation, has represented 2 RI Presidents, and is an enthusiastic supporter of The Rotary Foundation – Major Donor, Member of the Bequest Society and the Paul Harris Society. She has attended 13 International Rotary Conventions, and has 4 step-children and 10 grandchildren living in Louisiana and Tennessee.

## FRIENDS FOREVER

Friends Forever’s mission is to promote trust, empathy and friendships among cultures in conflict. We accomplish this by recruiting Catholic and Protestant youth from Northern Ireland, and Arab and Jewish youth from Israel, and developing them into leaders through an intense year long program. It begins with a two week “Life Raft” here in the US and is followed by an 11 month perpetuation phase back in their homelands.

Each group in our program is comprised of 10 youth from conflicting cultures, 1 youth worker from each community, and 1 U.S based Site Manager. During their two weeks in the United States, the group eats, sleeps, and travels as a whole. They are engaged in a rigorous program of community service, public presentations, dialogues with local high schools and a variety of self-exploration and team building activities. They leave feeling inspired from their experience and filled with confidence that they can make a difference back home. They return not simply a collection of individuals defined by their differences, but as a team.

Founded in 1986 by Bob Raiche, Friends Forever began as a joint Portsmouth YMCA and Rotary effort to unite one small group of Catholic and Protestant youth from a small town in Northern Ireland. Since then we have grown to work with over 1,200 youth across Northern Ireland and Israel. Headquartered in Portsmouth, NH, Friends Forever brings groups to Host Communities in New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, Louisiana, and Illinois.

Friends Forever is unique in that we empower local communities to directly participate in the international peace process. Citizens from all walks of life play a role through donating their financial support, time and other valuable in-kind contributions that allow us to host these youth across the region. Our unique combination of individuals, local businesses, Rotary Clubs and other organizations bring amazing youth peacemakers into the homes and hearts of a community.

September 10	Elizabeth VanZant - Rotary Youth Exchange
September 17	Andy Impostato, BancorpSouth - Impact of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act
September 24	The Honorable Lynn Fitch, Treasurer, State of Mississippi
October 1	Dr. William Lewis, President, PRCC
October 8	Susan Light - Pink Ribbon Fund 10th Anniversary - Breast Cancer Awareness Month
October 15	Former Governor of Mississippi, Haley Barbour

## Officers & Board of Directors

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

## Right on.

“He who knows nothing is closer to the truth than he whose mind is filled with falsehoods and errors.”

**Thomas Jefferson**

“It’s human nature to start taking things for granted again when danger is banging loudly on the door.”

**David Hackworth**

“Remember that everyone you meet is afraid of something, loves something, and has lost something.”

**H. Jackson Brown, Jr.**

“Hey, remember that guy who gave up? Neither does anyone else.”

**Unknown**



## Huh??

“Rotarians, be patriotic! Learn to shoot yourself.”

**Gyrator, Journal of the Rotary Club of Chicago**

“We are not ready for an unforeseen event which may or may not occur.”

**Dan Quayle, Fmr. Vice President**

“The word ‘genius’ is not applicable in football. A genius is a guy like Norman Einstein.”

**Joe Theisman, Ret. Quarterback**

“It isn’t pollution that’s harming the environment. It’s the impurities in our air and water that are doing it.”

**Al Gore, Fmr. Vice President**