



SPOKES



NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG • DISTRICT 6840 • CLUB 04003

Officers

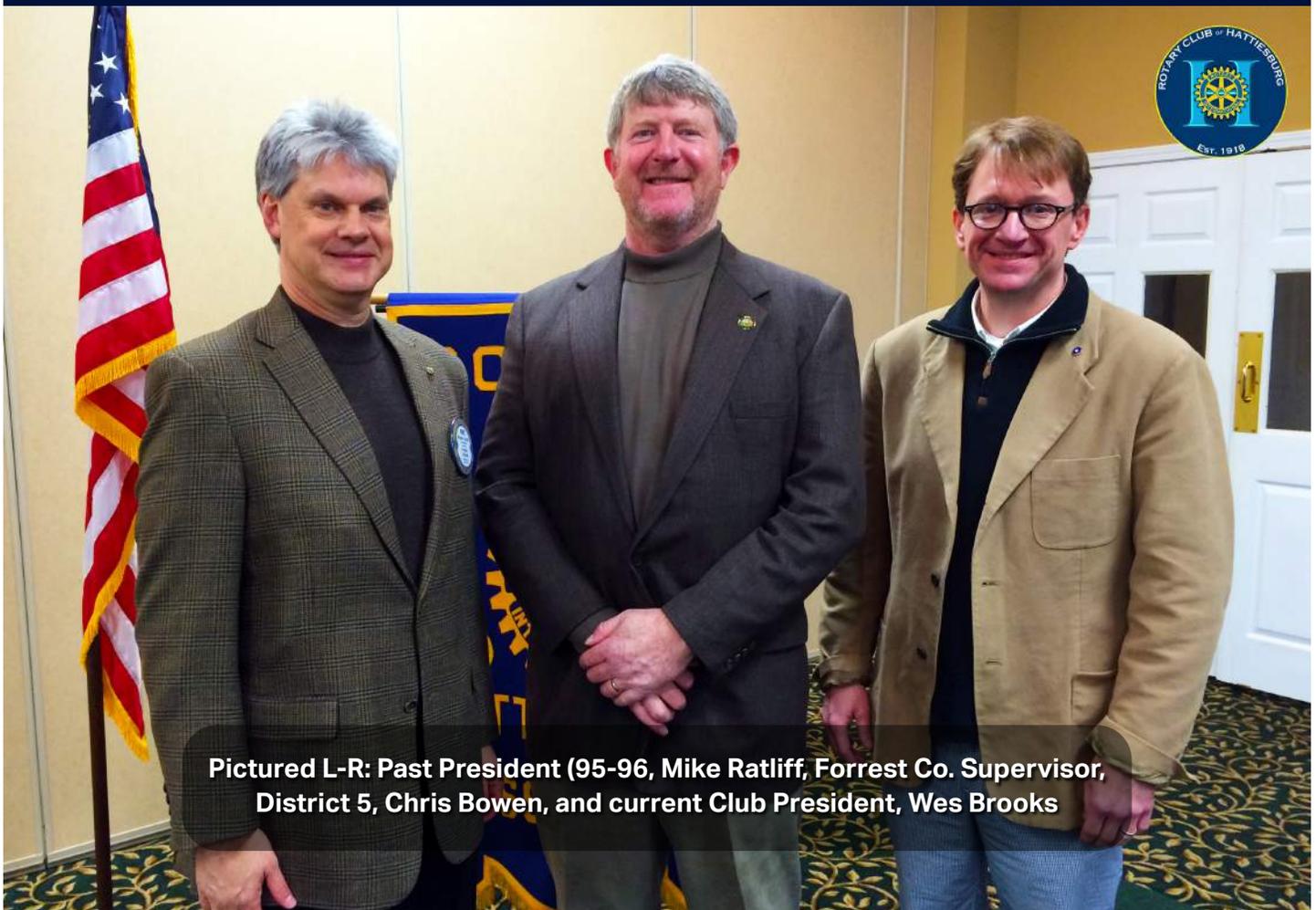
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Rotary Club of Hattiesburg
629 North Main Street
Hattiesburg, MS 39401

www.rotaryofhattiesburg.com



Pictured L-R: Past President (95-96, Mike Ratliff, Forrest Co. Supervisor, District 5, Chris Bowen, and current Club President, Wes Brooks

MINUTES: November 18, 2014

President Wes Brooks presided over the meeting. Thanks to Scott Hummel who gave the invocation and to Conrad Welker who led the Pledge of Allegiance. Thanks to Conrad Welker and Mike Ratliff for serving as our greeters today. Scott Hummel and Abumere Akinwale both brought guests to today's meeting.

Wes reported that the club's annual holiday event will be held next Tuesday, November 25 during the regular meeting time. Members are invited to bring a guest and are asked to bring an unwrapped toy to be given to the Greater Pine Belt Community Foundation. The toys will be used to provide Christmas gifts to one of the Foundation's clients. The USM Men's A Capella Choir will provide entertainment.

Wes reported that Stephen Moser's membership application has been approved by the board of directors. He is expected to be inducted in the next few weeks.

Bill McLeod reported that November is Rotary Foundation month. He urged members to consider making their annual Foundation contribution before the end of the month. He also noted that planned giving is a focus of the Foundation this year. The Foundation has suggestions for those who may be considering changing their wills to leave a legacy gift to the Foundation. See Bill if you want more details. The annual Paul Harris Fellowship banquet is scheduled for December 4 in Gulfport. Information about the banquet can be obtained from the District's website. And finally, Bill noted that the District Conference will be held in Biloxi, April 10-12 at the Beau Rivage. Sponsorships are needed to help offset the costs of the conference.

Mike Ratliff then came forward to introduce today's guest speaker, District 5 Supervisor, Forrest County, Chris Bowen.

Chris began his presentation talking about his father who was a Rotarian and passed away just a few weeks ago. Dr. Richard Bowen first joined the USM faculty in 1964 where he taught until he retired. Dr. Bowen mapped the Richton Salt Dome in advance of it becoming a nuclear testing site. In 1977 just four years removed from the Arab Oil Embargo Dr. Bowen gave a speech about the necessity of an American energy policy. Additionally, Dr. Bowen spoke across the world on a number of topics, including The National Impermanence of Temperate Wetlands all over the

world. He maintained that all wetlands are temporary because of climate changes and all the life supported by the wetlands are, therefore also temporary. Dr. Bowen instilled a desire in Chris to become a Rotarian but other life interests have prevented that from happening as of yet.

Regarding Forrest County, Chris says lots of people are still very interested in what's going on in our little corner of the world. Thousands of new jobs have been added to our local economy. Chris says part of the reason for our continued economic growth is the ability of our counties and cities to work together for the benefit of economic development and growth. "Residents don't see lines, they see opportunities for growth", according to Bowen.

The county threw many resources in the direction of the tornado recovery efforts when the F4 hit our area last year. In addition to providing manpower and equipment, the county was also able to recruit assistance from other neighboring counties. Forrest county residents bought one of the five live oaks that were replaced on the USM campus. That tree sits just across Hardy Street from iHop.

Some of the issues Bowen sees us facing in the coming years include increased federal regulations. The Environment Protection Agency rules a few years back that all of the bridges and culverts were waters of the United States. That means that any time the county needs to work on a bridge or a culvert, the county must first go through the U.S. Corps of Engineers or the EPA permitting process. Just recently, Bowen says they've not ruled that all ditches should become water of the United States. According to Bowen, the EPA rules and regulations being enforced in our area are the same as those being enforced in Western States. However, Western States have an average of about 10" of rainfall each year while here in our area we experience more than 67" of rain each year.

Another area of concern is the decreased revenue that is now derived from National Forest lands. Previously timber on National Forests was raised and harvested with much of the proceeds going to help fund the counties and schools within their area. Now the Federal government simply provides a stipend to each county. That stipend to Forrest County has decreased by 46% in recent years.

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The county recently refinanced some of the jail bonds and saved the county about \$600 thousand over the bonds life. Bowen hopes to be able to refinance another portion of the bonds within the next year or so saving more money.

And finally the Mississippi Association of Supervisors has created a new insurance pool for counties who wish to participate. Forrest County opted to participate in the pool and has saved about \$60,000 recently in insurance premium.

To access county supervisor services visit <http://forrestcountyms.us> or call (601) 545-6000.

Minutes provided by:

Lamar Evans, Executive Secretary

Rotary Club of Hattiesburg

The "Spirit of Southern" Men's A Capella Choir...

...is a men's a cappella public relations ensemble that performs a wide variety of music from sacred to pop. The young men for this group range from freshman through graduate students and come from various academic studies. They enjoy performing for campus activities, community functions, and also tour frequently for recruiting purposes. Significant performances include frequently singing at the request of the University's president and performances for such dignitaries as Governor Haley Barbour and members from a South African delegation. They have recently been honored with an invitation to perform at the 2011 Mississippi state convention of the ACDA and MENC chapters.



“Human” Observations from Your President

There are three ways to get something done: do it yourself, hire someone, or forbid your children to do it.

Doubt makes the mountain that faith makes disappear.

By the time most men are wise enough to watch their step, they’re too old to go anywhere.

It's a small world. So you gotta use your elbows a lot.



UPCOMING

DEC 2	Paige Kennedy
DEC 4	Paul Harris Society Foundation Gala
DEC 9	Clay Williams, Gulfport International Airport
DEC 15	Rotary Board of Directors Meeting (DuBard School)
DEC 23	NO MEETING
DEC 30	NO MEETING

Guest and visitors,

Thank you for coming to visit with us today! Are you interested in finding out more about the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg? Are you interested in how you might become a member? Would you like to be contacted by one of our members to discuss this? If so, please fill in the blanks below and we will be sure to contact you. Again, thank you! We hope you enjoyed your time with us.

Your Name: _____

Phone number: _____

E-mail address: _____

Questions/Comments _____