

MINUTES FROM 10/27/09

Bill McLeod presided over the meeting.

Gene Owens gave the invocation and led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Four Way Test.

Jaclyn Adams and Janice Touchstone brought Justice O'Keefe Duhon as a visitor; John Weeks came with Patrick Ward, and Wes Brooks was a visitor of Steve Ramp. Also, Shannon Woodward brought Meredith Cothern and Carolyn Jones was a guest of Susan Light.

Thanks to Dan Kibodeaux and Aime Spears who served as our greeters today.

Erik Graham reported that reader recruitment for the Reading Between the Lions project has begun. He recognized and thanked all of the sponsors and asked for more volunteers for the Golf Tournament. He thanked Cellular South, Outback Steakhouse, York and Cockerham, Brown Bottling, Stokes Distributing, Forrest General Hospital and Play it Again Sports for donating to the prize packages and being sponsors.

Jennifer Payne and Jaclyn Adams thanked everyone for their efforts contributing to the success of the recent Wine Tasting event. More than \$8,000 was generated from this event. All of the net proceeds will be used to support Rotary service projects in the coming weeks and months.

Richard Topp asked for volunteers on the nights of December 12th and 19th for Salvation Army bell ringers

Jennifer Payne also confirmed the Rotary Club Christmas party will be held December 15, 2009.

Richard then inducted Audra Saunders, Patient Care Coordinator of Forrest General Hospital. Audra spoke a few words of thanks and appreciation for being considered as a Rotarian.

LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Erik Graham then introduced today's guest speaker, Dr. Martha Saunders, President of the University of Southern Mississippi.

She explained her experiences growing up in Hattiesburg, attending the University of Southern Mississippi, and moving away. She was gone for a long time, but now that she has come home, she has come home with a fresh eye. Saunders truly appreciates the culture of the city and our university. Saunders said, "I marvel at the tradition and unique history that we truly have."

She then shared a video called, "A year in review". It is a film USM puts together annually detailing highlights

and extremely meaningful moments for the university in the past year.

They recently celebrated the 99th founding day of USM and are planning a huge event for the Centennial Birthday Party next year. Saunders informed the club that the university started planning over a year ago for the budget cuts related to the depression of the economy. They estimated a rough \$12 million to be removed from the budget, and they were right. But they were also prepared. Saunders decided making planned surgical cuts would better the university than cutting out education for all. An Academic Planning Group is in place, planning for the worst but working towards the best. She has decided that Institutes and Centers from this point forward need to be self-funding and not rely on Government assistance. They also plan to combine programs and departments instead of allowing them to become obsolete.

Saunders has cast a campus-wide campaign for "Reduce. Re-use. Recycle". This campaign is a huge reality for the university, in combination with the other changes. She was excited to announce the Trent Lott center will be opened in the next few months. This building is a research center for Economical Development, which has a strong commitment to healthy bodies and minds on campus. It will focus on energy and recycling.

The university has finally recovered from Hurricane Katrina in all aspects of construction, enrollment and school spirit. Research funding is up 27% in the first quarter and private giving is up 22%. This she says "Speaks tons of devotion of our friends, family members, and alumni." If we continue with private giving at this rate, the university can have permanent scholarships in place.

Saunders also wants to focus on the barriers that control the students during their time spent at the University of Southern Mississippi. Identifying the problems and dropping those barriers of financial aid, enrollment, parking and adaptation are easy processes and the challenges are left in the classroom. The classroom should be the only struggle in a college experience in her eyes. She also facilitated exit surveys of the non-returning students to analyze their experience with the university and decide what was salvageable and address these issues. The results suggested that some students left due to the campus environment, financial aid, need for better advisement; but, to her surprise only 12% left due to failing out of class. "This research has been very beneficial to our over arching goal," said Saunders. She explained, now that we know what the issues are, we can fix them.

She also looks forward to seeing all of the members on campus celebrating the next 100 years of The University of Southern Mississippi.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Joey Fillingane State Senate District 41

Senator Joey Fillingane has graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi and Mississippi College School of Law. Senator Fillingane was elected to the House of Representatives in 2000 and served there until 2006. Since 2007, he has served in the Mississippi Senate. Mr. Fillingane also works in Hattiesburg as an attorney. He is the chairman of Division A of the Judiciary committee and is the vice chair of the constitution committee. He comes to us to speak to us about his experiences in the Mississippi Legislature.

Contact Information: Capitol Email: jfillingane@senate.ms.gov

Capitol Website: <http://billstatus.ls.state.ms>. ...

Phone: 601-359-3238

THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE....

has proposed for membership Brian Moore. Please welcome our newest member Audra Saunders. Please see a board member if you have any questions about those proposed.

IMPORTANT DATES

Nov 3	Senator Joey Fillingane
Nov 10	Sandra Bender, Ph.D
Nov 17	Dr. Alan Covin, Cardiologist
Dec 15	Rotary Christmas Party in Evening (no daytime meeting)



2009 Rotary Club of Hattiesburg
Golf Scramble
Total Raised \$6,121

Thanks to all our supporters!
So many came out, even with the pending bad weather. Robert Cummings, David Owens and Patrick Ward cooked in the rain. Many rotarians came out and gave their time and support. We couldn't have done it without all the help.

Sponsored by
Dr. Ted Harden, Jr., Optometrist

Forrest General Hospital, Putting Green Sponsor

Hattiesburg Oral Surgery Center (Drs. York and Cockerham)
Driving Range Sponsors

Brown Bottling Company, Beverage Sponsor
Stokes Distributing, Beverage Sponsor

The Roberts Company, Food Sponsor

Space Jump Sponsored by Sight and Sound

WHLT/CBS 22, Media Sponsor

Hole Contests and Sponsors

#7 – Outback Steakhouse ~ Beverages provided
(Tee shots within 10 feet of the hole win Dinner for 2)

#15 – Play It Again Sports ~ Longest Drive Contest
(Winner receives New Callaway Driver)

#17 – Play It Again Sports ~ Closest to the Pin Contest
(Winner receives New Taylor Made Cart Bag)

THANK YOU TO OUR 2009 HOLE SPONSORS:

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Spokes

November 3, 2009
www.hattiesburgrotary.com

District 6840

Club Number 04003

Organized 1918

ROTARY YEAR
2009-2010

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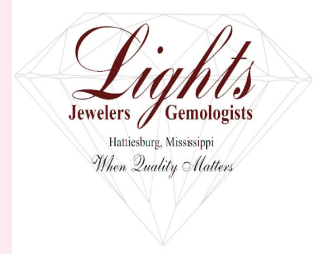
Official Newsletter of the

ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

P.O. Box 15185
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39404



“SERVICE ABOVE SELF”



Thanks to Lights Jewelers for the donation of the beautiful sapphire and diamond ring. The ring was raffled at the Wine Tasting and helped to increase the proceeds by over \$800!

Jaclyn Adams mother won the drawing and generously gave the ring to Jaclyn.

Rotary appreciates all the businesses like Light's Jewelers that go above and beyond with their generous donations to support the programs of The Rotary Club of Hattiesburg.

Susan embodies the motto of “Service Above Self”!