

## MINUTES FROM 10/06/09

President Mary Cromartie presided over the meeting.

James Duncan gave the invocation. Robert Cummings led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mary led members in the Rotary Four Way Test.

Gene Owens recognized today's guests and visiting Rotarians. Pierce Stevens was a visitor from the Petal Club. Jan Cameron and Brittany Thomas were guests of Mike Ratliff. Matt Starrett was a guest of Patrick Ward. Ms. McLeod was a guest of Bill McLeod. David Pamford was a guest of Susie Steen. Nikki Thompson was a guest of the club. Nikki will be assisting us in the Reading Between the Lions project.

Thanks also for today's greeters Kristina Gould and Todd Mixon.

Bill McLeod, membership committee chair announced that the club will be inducting three new members next month.

Jennifer Payne reminded members about the wine tasting event coming up on October 16. Only 16 tickets are left to be sold.

Robert Cummings reminded members of the October 30, 2009 golf tournament. Volunteers are needed to assist during the day of the tournament. There are still a few team slots open if club members wish to register a team. A cookout will follow the tournament for all members and their families to come and enjoy fellowship.

## LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Erik Graham then introduced today's guest speaker, Judge Keith Starrett, the Southern District Federal Judge.

Judge Starrett began by noting that club members should be very proud of Rotary's literacy efforts. He noted that the benefits of such programs may never be known by those who sponsor and participate in it. However, keeping a child engaged in learning and in school has been proven as a way to reduce the cradle-to-cell cycle.

According to Mr. Starrett, he has sentenced approximately ten-thousand people to jail time in the last eighteen years. Of those, and all other criminal cases in the country, fifty to eighty percent are drug and alcohol related crimes. America is the most heavily incarnated county in the world with

approximately one percent of the entire population currently serving jail time.

Housing criminals is a very expensive option, according to Starrett. Between forty and fifty billion dollars is spent each year in America housing the criminal population. Here in Mississippi we spend between three hundred and three hundred and fifty million dollars housing prisoners. The question Judge Starrett asked is, "Why?"

In response to the question he maintains that there are five primary reasons for the large increase in American crime. They are; the educational level, poverty, drug and alcohol abuse and addiction and single parenthood. Judge Starrett maintains that single parenthood is the largest contributor to crime in America.

About ten percent of those sentenced to jail time are harden criminals according to Judge Starrett. The rest he maintains are good people who have just gotten into trouble. Another troubling statistic is the seventy five percent recidivism rate.

As a means to help fix the problems, Mr. Starrett maintains that we should re-think the criminal justice system. He suggests that we spend more money on helping people get back to our communities as productive citizens rather than spending more on building new housing facilities. He is participating in a re-entry program in the Hattiesburg area known as Attitude - Accountability-Accomplishment-one day at a time. The program gives individuals who have served their time options when they return to society and skills to use in their return. Graduates of the program have a twenty-five percent recidivism rate.

The re-entry program has three major components. One is help in finding meaningful employment. Judge Starrett says a job is the best insurance around that prevents a return visit to jail. The program also helps in the arena of family support. Additionally, you must remain drug free for a year to graduate from the program.

According to Judge Starrett, the re-entry program is about turning lives around - not just punishing folks for making a mistake. Prison is designed to de-humanize a person and according to Mr. Starrett, everyone needs a purpose. If a person coming out of prison wishes to sign up for this re-entry program they can reduce their probation time by as much as twenty percent if they graduate.

## TODAY'S SPEAKER

### Bio of Jennifer Payne

Jennifer Payne is the coordinator for the Centennial Celebration for the University of Southern Mississippi. Jennifer is from Pearl, MS and an alumni of Southern Mississippi. She received a bachelor's degree in speech communication. She received a master's degree in higher education administration from Florida State. She has been the national consultant for Chi Omega Fraternity and also the coordinator for the Florida State University Institute on College Student Values.



CENTENNIAL

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI



**THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE....** has proposed for membership Audra Saunders. Audra and Robert Cummings are engaged to be married in November. If you have any questions about those proposed for membership please see a board member.

### IMPORTANT DATES

<b>Oct 16</b>	<b>Wine Tasting and Auction at Mary Cromartie's house -7 pm - get your tickets today</b>
<b>Oct 20</b>	<b>Jeff Haydle - Wireless Network Specialist</b>
<b>Oct 27</b>	<b>Dr. Martha Saunders</b>
<b>Oct 30</b>	<b>Rotary Golf Tournament -Shadow Ridge 11:30 am</b>
	<b>with cookout to follow around 4 pm, for all members and families</b>

### Meeting Dates for Area Clubs

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>
Bay Springs - 12:00	Columbia - 12:00	Clinton - 12:00	Madison-Ridgeland - 12:00
City Hall	The Backdoor Restaurant	Baptist Health Plex	Steam Room Grill 155 N
Bolton - 7:30	Flowood - 12:00	Gluckstadt - 12:00	Jackson
Methodist Church	River Oaks Hospital	Parker House Restaurant	Taylorsville - 12:00
Collins - 12:00	Laurel - 12:00	Hattiesburg Sunrise - 7:00	MS Power Co. Building
Cedars Restaurant	Laurel Country Club	Wesley Medical Center Cafeteria	Wiggins - 12:00
Ellisville - 12:00	North Jackson - 12:00	Heidelberg - 12:00	Gulf Coast C.C. Cafeteria
J.C.J.C. Cafeteria	St. James	Library	
Jackson - 12:00	Episcopal Church	Poplarville - 12:00	
MS Museum of Art		Pearl River C.C. Cafeteria	<i>Friday</i>
Lucedale - 12:00		Richton - 12:00	Rankin County - 12:00
MS Gulf Coast Community		Magnolia Restaurant	Rankin Co. Med. Ctr. Annex
College Cafeteria		Waynesboro - 12:00	Slidell, LA - 12:00
Petal - 12:00		Western Sizzlin	Pinewood Country Club
Civic Center		Prentiss - 12:00	
South Hinds County - 12:00		Country Fisherman	
BoDons Catfish & Seafood			



## EVENTS FOR THE HATTIESBURG ROTARY CLUB

**HATTIESBURG ROTARY WINE TASTING  
SILENT AUCTION**  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2009 7:00 PM  
115 BEDFORD ROAD –

**Wine Tasting Benefiting  
Polio Eradication, Clean Water Projects and Literacy  
Projects**  
Tickets 40.00 or Couples 70.00



See Jaclyn Adams, Mary Cromartie, or Jennifer Payne for tickets & to sign up to help.

**Hattiesburg Rotary  
Annual Golf Tournament  
with BBQ Social**

**Shadow Ridge Golf Club**

**October 30, 2009**

**11:30 registration**

**12:30 shotgun start**

**TITLE SPONSOR:**  
**Dr, Ted Harden, Jr**  
**Optometrist**

**PUTTING GREEN SPONSOR:**  
**Forrest General Hospital**

**Bring the family out for the  
BBQ after the tournament  
ends.**



**Space walk,  
food and fun!**

**We need players and  
sponsors**

**\$65 per player  
(four players per team)**

**\$100 tee sign sponsor**

**Driving range sponsor  
\$250**

**Tee box sign \$100**

**See Erik Graham, Robert  
Cummings, or Todd Bradley for  
more information.**

### **New Orleans Convention Organizing Committee Seeks Hosts for Fellowship Event**

The 2011 RI Convention includes four evening fellowship/social events. Three of the four are sponsored and organized by Rotary International.

Rotarians and local Rotary clubs are encouraged to sponsor and organize the fourth event, called Host Hospitality night and will be held on the Monday evening of the convention.

Host Hospitality night is an RI convention tradition offering a memorable opportunity for registrants to have dinner and an evening of hospitality and fellowship. The event can be as small or as large, as simple or as extravagant, as the hosts design.

We are asking for all interested Rotarians and Rotary clubs to fill out the preliminary interest form at [www.rotary6840.org](http://www.rotary6840.org). And to provide the name and contact information of a person to serve as a contact liaison with the Host Hospitality committee. Send the info to Neil Alford.

Plans need to be coordinated for this event now. We would appreciate it if you could confirm your plans to participate by December 30, 2009. Your kind consideration of this request is appreciated. Any questions, please contact:  
Neil Alford, PDG District 6840  
Host Hospitality Committee  
[neil@alfordlegal.com](mailto:neil@alfordlegal.com)

# Spokes

**October 13, 2009**  
[www.hattiesburgrotary.com](http://www.hattiesburgrotary.com)

District 6840

Club Number 04003

Organized 1918

**ROTARY YEAR**  
**2009-2010**

**OFFICERS**  
MARY CROMARTIE  
*President*

BILL MCLEOD  
*President-Elect*

ROBERT CUMMINGS  
*Vice-President*

MAURA MCCLAUGHLIN  
*Secretary – Treasurer*

LAMAR EVANS  
*Executive Secretary*

GENE OWENS  
*Sergeant-At-Arms*

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Term Expiring – June 30, 2010**  
Steve Ramp  
Erik Graham  
Wally Weakley  
Patrick Ward

*Past President:*  
Richard Topp

**Term Expiring – June 30, 2011**  
Heath Hillman  
Gene Owens  
Mike Ratliff  
Aime Spears

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*Official Newsletter of the*

## **ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG**

P.O. Box 15185  
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39404

A CENTURY OF SERVICE



A NEW CENTURY OF SUCCESS

**“SERVICE ABOVE SELF”**