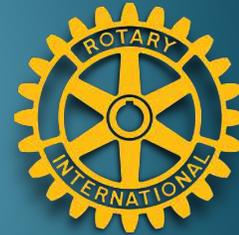




# SPOKES



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

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**Wes Brooks, President**  
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**Tracie Fowler**  
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**David Owens**  
**Lucy Parkman**  
**Valencia Williamson**

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

[www.rotaryofhattiesburg.com](http://www.rotaryofhattiesburg.com)

Fellow Rotarians,  
We are saddened to learn of the passing of Stanley Carpenter. Funeral arrangements have been made with Hulett Winstead.

Pictured L-R: Ryan Kelly and Mike Lopinto



## MINUTES: October 7, 2014

President Wes Brooks presided over the meeting. Thanks to Rusty Edwards who gave the invocation and to Faye Gilbert who led the Pledge of Allegiance. Thanks to Gene Owens for serving as our greeter today.

Ryan Kelly welcomed our guests. Patricia Burchell was a guest of Maura McLaughlin. David Hayhurst was a guest of Faye Gilbert. Gregg Silberg was a guest of Scott Hummell. Randy Price was a guest of Aaron Ladner and Paul Presley was a guest of James Duncan.

Todd Watson was the Fame Fee winner, spotted by Todd Watson in WDAM and this week's 50 x 50 raffle was won by Angela Herzog.

Jonathan Shemper announced there is 25 days left until the Bike-a-Thon and if you cannot ride or sponsor anyone, please think about volunteering. They still need many volunteers and The Bike-A-Thon is to benefit the Xtra Table. Jonathan also informed everyone that next week's speaker was going to be Mike Dixon with the Xtra Table.

Wes reminded everyone to bring a bag lunch to next week's meeting and the check usually given to Southern Oaks is going to be donated to the Extra Table charity.

Randy Price explained how the Fieldhouse for the Homeless started and its objectives. It is a ministry that was started by two sisters; Cynthia Young and Priscilla Brown to help with the homeless in our community. The objective is to help the homeless get into housing, help to furnish everyday household items, help them get back in touch with family members and reenter society. To learn more about Fieldhouse for the Homeless, please visit: <http://fieldhouseforthehomeless.com/>.

Ryan Kelly then introduced today's guest speaker, Mike Lopinto. Mike has been with Festival South when they were only able to put on one or two concerts a year during the summer months. It is a part of the Hattiesburg Concert Association.

There are four main goals of Festival South; Education, Enrichment, Business and Tourism.

**Education:** Bring events to our community students, from collegiate level to preschool. We want to get the music to them. We had Peter and the Wolf playing this morning at the Saenger Theater. There were around 300 children that were bused in from all over the state.

**Enrichment:** To bring in and promote high quality art events, e.g. sculptures, singers, dancers, instrumentalists etc. into the community. We are creating a rich culture of the arts in our area.

**Business:** To help increase the economy here for local businesses. We want the people that are staying in hotels and visiting with friends and family to shop in our stores, eat in our restaurants and have something to do while they are in town. To see that there are so many things going on in our town that they will want to come back.

**Tourism:** Bring in new tourists to see what we now have to offer and see what is going on in our town. We are constantly growing and expanding things to do and see around the Hattiesburg area.

We did a study and it showed there has been a boom that festival south brought over the last few years, bringing in about 8 million dollars within the 2 week period of the festival.

We are having a festival South Film Expo on June 2 - 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015. We are soliciting films, film makers and production crews to bring into town.

On June 5<sup>th</sup>, there will be an award show called "The Best of the Awards Red Carpet Event". Awards will be given for the film expo on this night and after the award show, there will be a party for all the people who have won awards, the film makers and for anyone that purchased a ticket.

Some other festivals that we are in the process of creating are: Festival 5 K, Festival South Diners Club- with the local restaurants and Festival Fashion Week and Festival Furry- with pets and a pet parade and festival Shares.

**Festival Shares:** To find ways to completely sponsor not just our headline events but all our events. The goal is to do an event with all the expenses taken care of by sponsors then take the proceeds and hand them over to the Extra Table. Make it a community wide celebration. Turn it into a focused effort of turning Festival South into a real festival. Anything anyone can do to help someone in our community. Buy the dinner for the car behind you in the drive through, cook someone dinner, help someone with their yard, anything to do to help someone.

**Mark your calendars for June 6 - 20, 2015.** There is going to be something to do for everyone. For more information on Festival South, please visit: <http://www.festivalouth.org>

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

## [YOUR ATTENDANCE IS REQUESTED OCTOBER 21](#)

Your attendance is respectfully requested two weeks from today to vote on a proposed amendment to the bylaws by the board of directors. The following motion was offered at the September 30 board meeting:

**Motion:** *A motion was made and properly seconded to recommend to the membership a change Article 6 Section 1 of the club's bylaws. That section currently reads "If a member is unable or unwilling to pay dues for 180 days, he or she shall be removed as a member barring extraordinary circumstances." The motion, if accepted would change the section to read "If a member is unable or unwilling to pay dues for 90 days, he or she shall be removed as a member barring extraordinary circumstances." The motion was accepted.*

### **MIKE DIXON** **Executive Director**



Michael Dixon is a native Floridian and graduate of Palm Beach Atlantic University in 1997 with a degree in Psychology. He completed his Masters of Divinity degree at the McAfee School of Theology, Mercer University in 2003. Later that year, he married wife Sarah Dixon (who is unequivocally out of his league) and soon after moved to Hattiesburg to begin a Young Adult ministry at First Baptist Church. In 2007, Michael founded Ekklesia Hattiesburg, a non-denominational community committed to serving those in need in Hattiesburg.

In January of 2014, Michael and Sarah welcomed history's most adorable child to date, Lillian Violet Dixon, into the world. In May of 2014, Michael assumed the new role of Executive Director of Extra Table, a Non-Profit agency based in Hattiesburg, which addresses both food insecurity and obesity in Mississippi by delivering healthy food in bulk to soup kitchens and food pantries. Extra Table is currently partnered with 17 food agencies throughout the state of Mississippi, spanning from Pascagoula to Jackson.

## UPCOMING

<b>OCT 21</b>	Dr. Wahnee Sherman, Mississippi Rural Physician Scholars Program
<b>OCT 25</b>	Rotary Leadership Institute
<b>OCT 27</b>	Rotary Board of Directors Meeting (DuBard School)
<b>OCT 28</b>	Dr. Trent Gould - The University of Southern Mississippi, College of Health
<b>NOV 1</b>	BIKE-A-THON for Extra Table - Longleaf Trace Gateway
<b>NOV 18</b>	Rotary Board of Directors Meeting (Southern Oaks)
<b>DEC 4</b>	Paul Harris Society Foundation Gala
<b>DEC 15</b>	Rotary Board of Directors Meeting (DuBard School)



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 \_\_\_\_\_