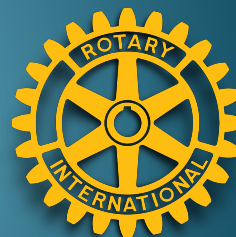




# SPOKES



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

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Sean Priebe, President-Elect  
Erik Graham, Vice President  
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Rotary Club of Hattiesburg  
629 North Main Street  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401

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

Pictured L-R: Wes Brooks, Mike Dixon, Jonathan Shemper, and Stacy Ahua



## MINUTES: October 14, 2014

President Wes Brooks presided over the meeting. Thanks to Ryan Kelly who gave the invocation and to Tracie Fowler who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Thanks to John Cooper and Rust Edwards for serving as our greeters today.

Aaron Ladner welcomed our guests. Melissa Phelps was a guest of Maura McLaughlin. Joseph Gadelhe was a guest of Rusty Edwards. Paul Presley is a guest of James Duncan. Paul is to be inducted as a new member at next week's meeting.

Jonathan Shemper announced there is just a few days left until the Bike-a-Thon. As of today a total of 55 riders have signed up for the race. This exceeds the total number of registrants from last year's event. Jonathan asked that Rotarians bring goodies from their businesses to be stuffed into the goodie bags for the riders. If you have something, please make sure you bring it to next week's meeting.

Wes reported with sadness that Stanley Carpenter died earlier this week. Hewlett Winstead is in charge of arrangements. Wes also expressed the club's condolences to Maura McLaughlin over the loss of her sister recently.

Wes then introduced today's guest speaker, Mike Dixon. Mike currently serves as the Executive Director of the Extra Table, a non-profit agency based in Hattiesburg that is addressing both food insecurity and obesity in our area.

Mike reported that the Extra Table partners with Sysco, the nation's largest food distributor. He also noted that 100% of every dollar donated to the Extra Table is used to purchase food for hungry neighbors in our area. The only exception to the 100% rule is if the contribution is designated for a specific purpose. He noted that the organization recently received a grant that will cover \$58,000 of administrative costs for the organization.

The Extra Table purchases food from Sysco at deeply discounted rates. In fact, Mike says his organization can buy almost double the amount of food you could purchase at WalMart. The food is then distributed to non-profit entities that are in the business of feeding those in need. The Extra

Table works in our area with Edwards St. Fellowship and Christian Services. These two organizations are providing between 13,000 and 16,000 meals or food packages to folks in the greater Hattiesburg area.

The need is great according to Mike. It is estimated that 214,720 children in Mississippi (28.7% of all of our children) suffer from what is known as "food insecurity." This is a measurement created by USDA. About 21% of all Mississippians fall into this category. Many children get breakfast and lunch at school and may not get anything else to eat until they go back to school. It is estimated that approximately 17,000 Forrest county residents fall into the "food insecurity" category.

The Extra Table currently serves 11 locations, primarily in south Mississippi. They are adding 7 other locations throughout the state in the next few months and hope to be statewide by this time next year. The challenge will be developing a donor base in an area that will support their efforts.

If you're interested in donating, you can text "Extra" to 41-444, set up a payroll deduction or make a Pay Pal contribution.

You can also participate in the Rotary Bike-a-Thon by either sponsoring or signing up as a rider, even if you don't plan to ride.

Wes thanked Mike for his presentation and presented the Extra Table with an \$800 check, which is the amount the club would have spent on lunch at today's meeting. Members brought their own lunch today and Southern Oaks graciously allowed the club to make the contribution.

For more information or to find out what other events the organization has planned, visit their website at <http://extratable.org>.

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



## CLUB VOTE TO PASS MOTION TO AMEND CLUB BYLAWS

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.

# DR. WAHNEE SHERMAN

## **Executive Director Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program**

Dr. Sherman became the Executive Director of the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program in February 2013. With the addition of the Mississippi Rural Dentists Scholarship Program by the Legislature in April 2013, she assumed leadership for that program as well. She provides leadership and direction for both programs geared toward improving healthcare in rural Mississippi. The MRPSP currently includes 4 practicing physicians, 33 physicians in residency training, 53 medical student scholars, and 34 undergraduates. The MRDSP includes 1 practicing dentist, 6 dental student scholars, and 5 undergraduates.



Sherman is originally from Lena, Mississippi, population 150. After earning bachelor's degrees in political science & communications and a master's degree in student development at Mississippi State University, she worked at the University of Memphis before joining the staff at Mississippi University for Women. At MUW, she served as Assistant Vice President for Student Services where she oversaw leadership development, community service, campus wide programming, social clubs & Greek life, orientation, career service, student government, welcome week, and diversity education. In 2008, she earned a doctorate in higher education administration from the University of Alabama. She joined the staff at UA in 2009 as the Director of the Community Service Center. During her tenure of expanding service offerings at UA, she also worked extensively with disaster relief efforts following an F4 tornado in Tuscaloosa in 2011. Sherman has teaching experience in the areas of leadership development and service.

## UPCOMING

<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 \_\_\_\_\_