

RI General Secretary John Hewko meets with Bill Gates on polio eradication

Rotary International News -- 9 September 2011

General Secretary and CEO of Rotary International John Hewko met with Bill Gates, cochair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, 7 September in Seattle, Washington, USA, to discuss moving forward together to eradicate polio and continuing to energize Rotarians to see the eradication effort through to the finish.



General Secretary and CEO of Rotary International John Hewko (right) met with Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, 7 September in Seattle, Washington, USA, to discuss moving forward together to eradicate polio.

"The meetings at the Gates Foundation were very productive," Hewko says. "Bill Gates recognized the enormous contribution of Rotary to the cause of polio eradication and the tremendous capacity of Rotarians to continue the fight. We identified several concrete opportunities to work even more closely together to achieve our mutual goal of a polio-free world."

Polio eradication is within reach. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) has made significant steps forward since the launch last year of its new strategic plan and the bivalent oral polio vaccine. Among the four polio-endemic countries, India has reported only one case of the disease so far this year. A recent report by the GPEI Independent Monitoring Board, while noting some concerns in meeting GPEI goals, nevertheless stated that India is "on track to interrupt transmission this year."

Polio cases worldwide decreased almost 50 percent during the first six months of 2011, compared with the same period in 2010.

To read more about this story, visit www.rotary.org



Spokes

October 04, 2011
www.hattiesburgrotary.com

District 6840

Club Number 04003

Organized 1918

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2010-2011

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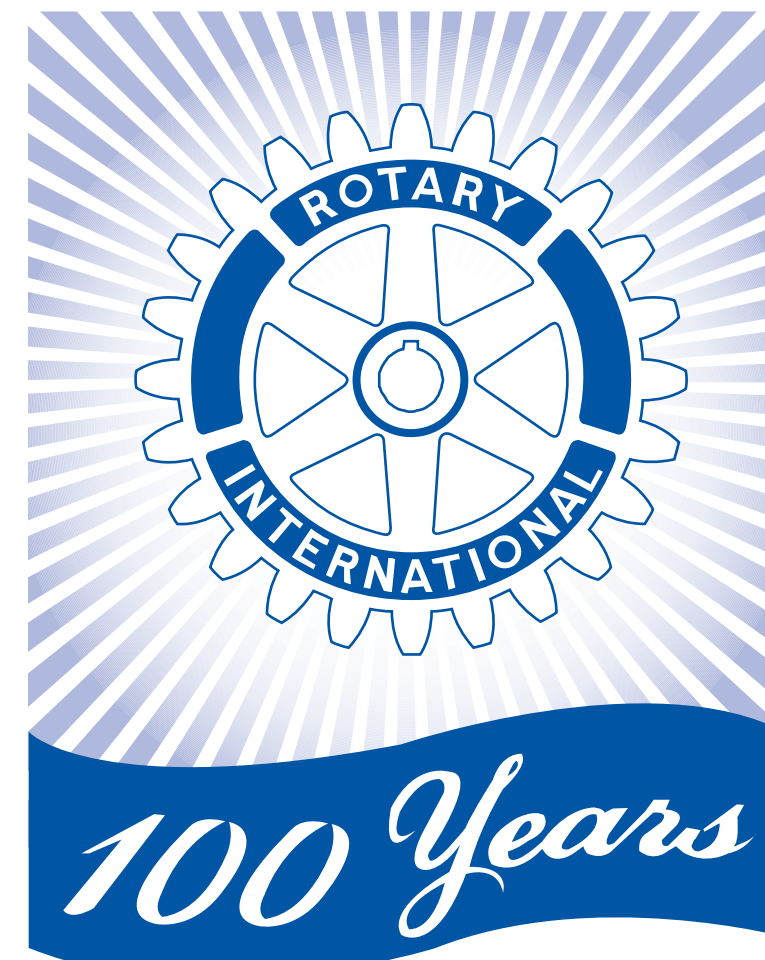
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Official Newsletter of the

ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

A CENTURY OF SERVICE



A NEW CENTURY OF SUCCESS

“SERVICE ABOVE SELF”

MINUTES FROM 09/27/11

President Robert Cummings presided over the meeting.

Thanks to Mike Ratliff, who gave the Invocation, and to Christina Ghents, who led the Club in the Pledge of Allegiance. Robert then led members in the Four Way Test.

Thanks to today's greeters Chris Price and Wes Brooks.

Sean Priebe then welcomed members to today's meeting. He noted that there are no visiting Rotarians however, Steve Ramp had Clark Remsburg as his guest.

Robert announced that Greg Buie has announced that he will step down as chair of the Night in Italy event after the 2012 event. This is Greg's third year to serve as the event's chair. Chris Price has agreed to work with Greg this year as a co-chair and will assume the full duties for the 2013 event.

Robert also announced that February 9th has been set as the date for the wine tasting event. The Social Committee is planning a Valentines theme for this year's event.

Thanks were extended to Aime Spears for her hard work with the weekly newsletter. Thanks were also extended to Jaclyn Adams who has uploaded a new video to the Club's Facebook page.

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Audra Cummings then introduced today's guest speaker, Kathy Emmons who serves as the Coordinator for Forrest General Hospital's Sweeteas, Spirit Girls and Spirit of Women events.

Kathy's presentation focused primarily on her work with the Spirit Girl program which currently has 153 participants. These girls come from all walks of life and are in grades seven through twelve. They come from twenty-six different schools throughout the 19 counties served by the hospital. The primary purpose of the program according to Kathy is to instill self esteem.

Participants are selected by a three judge panel after completing an application process. Each applicant is then interviewed by the judges who come from outside the hospital's service area. The program has grown so much since its inception that applicants are now turned away.

Once selected the Spirit Girls must provide twelve hours of community service throughout their year. Events where they serve include the ARC program, the Miss Hospitality Pageant, Doctor's Day Dash, Festival South, DREAM projects, Heart Walk and the Spirit of Women events. This is not a complete list of the community service projects in which the girls serve. Kathy suggested that anyone needed volunteers for a community project should contact her.

In addition to the community service, the girls are exposed to a number of educational events throughout the year. Topics covered in those events include interviewing techniques, dressing for the proper body type, texting while driving and bullying.

Many thanks to Kathy for sharing information about the Spirit Girls program.

Robert then announced that there is no winner in today's football pool. The prize rolls over to next week.

TODAY'S PROGRAM

Meet Our Presenter, Betty Gill

2011-12 Rotary District 6840 Governor

Betty is a life-long resident of Washington Parish, Louisiana. A Rotarian for 15 years, Betty is an active member of the Rotary Club of Franklinton where she currently serves as secretary/treasurer. She has held the positions of president, secretary, treasurer and chaired many committees in her local club.

She has served District 6840 as Assistant District Governor for the Heartland Territory for 9 years. She has served as a Board Member of RYLA since 2005. She was named the 2007-2008 Outstanding Rotarian of the Year for District 6840. She is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow, Sustaining and Bequest Member.

Betty is married to her best friend and fellow Rotarian, Mike. She has two daughters, Jennifer & MaKayla and son-in-law Dustin and Grandson Braxton along with Mike's son, Kory, daughter-in-law April, Granddaughter, Hannah, Grandson Andrew and son, Kyle.

Not a stranger to community involvement, Betty served two years as president of the Franklinton Chamber of Commerce and one year as Chairman of the local United Way. She serves as a board member for the local community theater and has been a volunteer on many community events. She and Mike are active members of the First Baptist Church of Covington, LA. In 2009, Betty was elected The Daily News Citizen of the Year in West Washington Parish, Louisiana for her involvement in community service projects through Rotary and other local service organizations.

Betty recently retired after 38 years in banking. She held the position of Vice President/Business Banker with Whitney National Bank at their Franklinton Office.

Her motto for life: "Life is not measured by the number of breaths you take. but by the moments that take your breath away!"

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Oct 4 Betty Gill, District 6840 Governor
- Oct 11 Rick Taylor- Lake Terrace Convention Center
- Oct 18 Rick Duke, Director, USM's Trent Lott National Center for Excellence in Economic Development & Entrepreneurship
- Oct 24 Rotary Board Meeting at The United Way
- Oct 25 Web Heidelberg & Sally Hughes--Gordon's Creek Project

WEEKLY FOOTBALL BOARD GAME

Our football board game has had a couple of rule changes. If the winning square has not been purchased by a player the proceeds will carryover to the following week. Each week's winner will split the cash proceeds with the club which will benefit the Rotary Permanent Fund. The winner will not be announced until the end of the meeting, must be present to win.

We Have a Facebook Page!

Visit Rotary Club of Hattiesburg on Facebook and "like" our page. Post your pictures, videos and comments.

READING BETWEEN THE LIONS LITERACY PROGRAM

Volunteers needed each week on **Tuesday or Friday** mornings at 9:30 to read children's books to Pre-Schoolers. Read for about 20-30 minutes.



The Family Y -
Veterans Memorial Blvd.
601-268-0808
Call Dan Kibodeaux or
sign up at lunch meetings
or email
dan@Unitedwaysems.org
call 601-545-7141

September Reading Volunteers Needed!

Date	Volunteer	Volunteer
Tuesday, 10/4 9:30am		
Friday, 10/7 9:30am	Jaclyn Adams	
Tuesday, 10/11 9:30am	Chris Price	
Friday, 10/14 9:30am	Wes Brooks	
Tuesday, 10/18 9:30am		
Friday, 10/21 9:30am		
Tuesday, 10/25 9:30am		
Friday, 10/28 9:30am		

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