

September 29, 2009

Dear Rotary Colleagues:

After enjoying membership in the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg for almost four decades, it was difficult to transfer my membership to the Laurel club, even though I have resided in Laurel for almost fifteen years. Powell Ogletree, a long-time friend of my father-in-law who was a USM alumnus and an avid Rotarian in Biloxi, pestered me from the day I arrived at USM in 1969 until I agreed to join in 1972. Yesterday I tendered my letter of resignation after arranging to transfer my membership to the Laurel club.

Rotary afforded me many friendships and happy moments. During Milam Cotten's presidency it was my pleasure to write a history of our club and to transfer the existing Rotary records from the offices of the Hattiesburg Historical Society, then in the Saenger Building, to the USM Archives in the McCain Library. Evidently for those activities, I received the Hannah Award at the end of his term. It was also an honor to serve at least two terms on the board and two as Vice President. I am grateful to many Rotary colleagues who made these benefits possible, and I hope to visit with them at Rotary functions from time to time. Nancy also has enjoyed attending Rotary socials and particularly took pleasure in decorating for the Christmas banquets for several years. Since graduation from college and completing military service, I have benefitted greatly from service club activity. In my late twenties, I was president of the 350 member El Paso Junior Chamber of Commerce and I still remember the lessons learned from that challenging experience.

Finally, to those of you whose friendship I have enjoyed, I say thank you. I hope our paths continue to cross.

With regards and best wishes,

John D W. Guice

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#### Members:

To receive the *Spokes* to your email Lamar Evans must have your most current email address. Please keep Lamar updated. You can email Lamar your address at [amsle@megagate.com](mailto:amsle@megagate.com) or write your email address on the sign-in sheet.

# Spokes

October 6, 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 MCLAUGHLIN  
*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

**SPOKES Editor**  
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*Official Newsletter of the*

## ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

P.O. Box 15185  
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39404



**“SERVICE ABOVE SELF”**

**MINUTES FROM 9/30/2009**

President Mary Cromartie presided over the meeting.

Richard Jones gave the invocation. Allen Anderson led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mary led members in the Rotary Four Way Test.

Gene Owens recognized today's guests. Patsy Lee was a guest of Todd Bradley. Ann Johnson was a guest of Todd Mixon. Joey Davion was a guest of Patrick Ward and Dwayne Higgason was a guest of Steve Ramp. Prospective member Betsy Rowell was a guest of Jerry Buti.

Thanks also for today's greeters Jaclyn Adams and Richard Jones. It was mentioned that Joe Spell was in the hospital for observation.

Bill McLeod, membership committee chair recognized the twenty-seven Rotarians who had perfect attendance for the month of August. He also thanked Steve Ramp from conducting the Kollege of Knowledge and recognized the six Red Badge members who graduated and have now become Blue Badge members.

Jaclyn Adams, Gene Owens and Jennifer Payne all discussed the various attractions associated with the October 16 wine tasting. Only one-hundred tickets are available and members are encouraged to purchase their tickets soon. A number of excellent auction items will be available for bid for those in attendance. Additionally, a very nice ring is being raffled off prior to the event. All of the funds generated from this event will be devoted to the Club's community service projects.

Robert Cummings reminded members of the October 30, 2009 golf tournament. A large number of non-Rotarians are participating in the event as sponsors and players. Robert urged current members to join the effort to have fun and generate money for the club's community service projects.

Todd Bradley then introduced today's guest speaker, Dave Shelman, a Consumer Banking Executive with Regions Bank. Dave discussed his work with the financial Services Volunteer Corps (FSVC).

Rotarian Todd Mixon introduced Mr. Shelman to the organization back in 2000. The Corps has been in business since 1990 and was an entity that came out of the Brooking Think Tank. The Corps is managed by 19 board members. Paul Volcker who served two terms as the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the U.S. Federal Reserve System from 1979 to 1987 and Dr. Henry Kissinger, the U.S. Secretary of State from 1973 to 1977 and Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs from 1969 to 1975, and the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1973, were two of the current board members mentioned by Dave.

The FSVC exists in fifty countries and has more than 8,000 volunteers. The organization has been responsible for brining banking officials from Indonesia and Russia to the Hattiesburg area.

Dave has made visits on behalf of the FSVC to India, Egypt and Russia. In all of the visits, the volunteers were looking at the current banking and financial systems of those countries and were challenged with finding solutions to existing problems.

In India the group made recommendations to help that country move from localized to centralized lending practices specifically for small businesses.

In Russia the group assisted the country in moving from the state owned economy to a market growth economy, a move that was necessitated after the fall of the Soviet Union. In 2003 the group helped Russia institute a new banking insurance model to protect the depositors.

**Bio of Judge Keith Starrett**

Judge Keith Starrett is a federal district judge in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi. Judge Starrett was appointed by President George W. Bush and took the federal bench on January 1, 2005. Prior to his appointment to the federal judiciary, Judge Starrett served as a circuit court judge for the 14th Circuit Court District of Mississippi (1992-2004). During his tenure as a circuit court judge, Judge Starrett established and presided over Mississippi's first felony-level drug court, was appointed to the Mississippi Drug Court Commission, and was a member of the state commission to redraft the Mississippi Criminal Code. Prior to serving as a Mississippi state court judge, Judge Starrett spent seventeen years in private practice, and one year as a part-time assistant district attorney for the 14th Circuit Court District of Mississippi. Judge Starrett received his J.D. in 1974 from the University of Mississippi School of Law and his B.S. in 1972 from Mississippi State University. Judge Starrett was named a Fellow of the Mississippi State Bar Association and received the Association's Judicial Excellence Award in 2003. He was also honored with a Justice Achievement Award by the Mississippi Court Administrators Association, and received the Leadership Award from the Louisiana Association of Drug Court Professionals. Judge Starrett presently serves on the board of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals. He has been an instructor at the National Judicial College and has written articles published in The Mississippi Lawyer and The Mississippi Police Journal. Judge Starrett is an Eagle Scout.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- Oct 13** Jennifer Payne - USM Centennial Celebration
- Oct 16** Wine Tasting and Auction at Mary Cromartie's house -7 pm - get your tickets today
- Oct 20** Jeff Haydle - Wireless Network Specialist
- Oct 27** Dr. Martha Saunders
- Oct 30** Rotary Golf Tournament -Shadow Ridge 11:30 am  
with cookout to follow around 5 pm, for all members and families

*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 Jackson
Bolton - 7:30	Flowood - 12:00	Gluckstadt - 12:00	Jackson
Methodist Church	River Oaks Hospital	Parker House Restaurant	Taylorville - 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			