



SPOKES

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

629 NORTH MAIN STREET • HATTIESBURG, MS 39401

L-R: DG John Cornwell, Tyrell Cornwell, Sean Priebe and Bill McLeod



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MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 8, 2015

President Sean Priebe presided over the meeting. Thanks to Mike Ratliff who gave the invocation and to Paul Presley who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Thanks to Maura McLaughlin and Paula Braham who served as our greeters today.

Jaclyn Adams then introduced today's visitors. Will Russel is a guest of Bill McLeod. Ben Donald is a guest of Sean Priebe and Todd Jarvis is a guest of Allen Anderson.

Our Mystery Rotarian was named Little Miss Simpson County at the age of 10. Her talent was an Egyptian dance to "Who Know What the Sphinx Thinks", a song she still knows by heart. She was also the only one of 40 contestants who could name the Vice President of the United States. At age 30 she was a championship clogging team member performing at the State Fair. She spent two weeks in Italy with her husband's ex-wife. She was Rotarian of the Year in 2003 and became a Rotarian because of the Group Study Exchange program. Our Mystery Rotarian is Erin Granberry.

Sean also reminded members of the upcoming Bike-a-Thon. Volunteer sheets are now available for sign-ups. Every Rotarian is requested to take an active role in helping make this year's event a big success. Some of the proceeds from the tickets that will be sold for the BBQ Friday night pre-race party will be donated to the Extra Table.

Bill McLeod then introduced our guest speaker today, 6840 District Governor John Cornwell and his wife, Tyrell.

John said he wanted to talk to our club about two things; the Rotary existence and this year's theme which is "Be a Gift to the World."

He began his presentation by demonstrating that Kodak lost its vision of preserving memories and began a film maker. When digital technology surpassed the ability of Kodak's the company almost went bankrupt. John says Rotarians must not lose our focus. Yes, we socialize and have

meals together but our focus is to bring community leaders together to exchange ideas and then take action. All of the other "trappings" of a club can go to the wayside but Rotary will continue to exist if we maintain our focus.

He also encouraged every member to create a My Rotary account. Having your account communicates valuable information to the Rotary leadership. That valuable information assists in making good decisions and can often help the District and individual clubs by opening doors for Rotary International benefits.

As a child John was the oldest of five children. His mother had to drop out of school after the 10th grade to take care of her family. His father only had an 8th grade education. He says his mother and his father were the two biggest gifts he's ever received. His neighbors were also gifts because they had power that was granted by his parents to help influence his growth and development. He also considers his school teachers as gifts. They sacrificed to help him learn, grow and mature. He also was the recipient of scholarships throughout his life. These he considers as gifts of opportunity. None of these gifts were wrapped and in some cases he never knew who the giver of the gift was.

John reminded us that service may not always be appreciated. It may not always be what you want and in many instances you will never know who was affected by your service. However, as Rotarians we serve and therefore are Gifts to the World.

Sean thanked John for attending today's meeting and sharing his story. Sean also reminded members that we will not have a lunch meeting on October 6th which is the week of the Bike-a-Thon, however, all members are encouraged to sign up to volunteer for the event.

**Minutes courtesy of:
Lamar Evans, Executive Secretary**

OUR GUEST

JAMES WILCOX, DIRECTOR CENTER FOR ECONOMIC ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION

James Wilcox is a native of the Mississippi Gulf Coast and currently resides in the Hattiesburg area where he directs The University of Southern Mississippi's Center for Economic and Entrepreneurship Education. With an educational background in business and economic development and a philosophy of educational activism, James' efforts have helped to establish a climate for empowering youth entrepreneurship in Mississippi and have distinguished him as an educational leader in the state. James is particularly recognized for preparing K-12 teachers in the subject areas of entrepreneurship, economics, and financial literacy as well as co-creating and advancing the Southern Entrepreneurship Program--a statewide youth initiative that trains 500+ Mississippi high school students per year in business development.



NEXT WEEK

ROBERT HOPKINS USM CHIEF OF POLICE

SEPTEMBER 29

Cameron Griffith
Southern Eye Center

OCTOBER 6

NO
MEETING

OCTOBER 10

3rd Annual
BIKE-A-THON

ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG



2015

BIKE-A-THON

**REMEMBER TO SIGN UP
FOR A VOLUNTEER SHIFT!**