

Service and Fellowship



Rotarian Robert Hall greets children who will be vaccinated against polio during a National Immunization Day. Moradabad, India. *Photo by Alyce Henson / Rotary Images.*

The Rotary motto Service Above Self conveys the humanitarian spirit of the organization's more than 1.2 million members. Strong fellowship among Rotarians and meaningful community and international service projects characterize Rotary worldwide.

Plan a project Help your club get started on successful projects by learning how to identify community needs, assess available resources, set goals, and more.
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- Project planning
- Project enhancement

Areas of focus Explore the six Areas of Focus recognized as community service priorities: peace and conflict resolution; disease prevention and treatment; water and sanitation; maternal and child health; education and literacy; economic and community development
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Make connections Connect with Rotarians outside of your community to organize a cultural or vocational exchange, partner on service projects, and more.
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- ProjectLINK
- Rotary Friendship Exchange
- Rotary Fellowships
- Project fairs

- Group Study Exchange



Spokes

September 20, 2011
www.hattiesburgrotary.com

District 6840

Club Number 04003

Organized 1918

ROTARY YEAR
2010-2011

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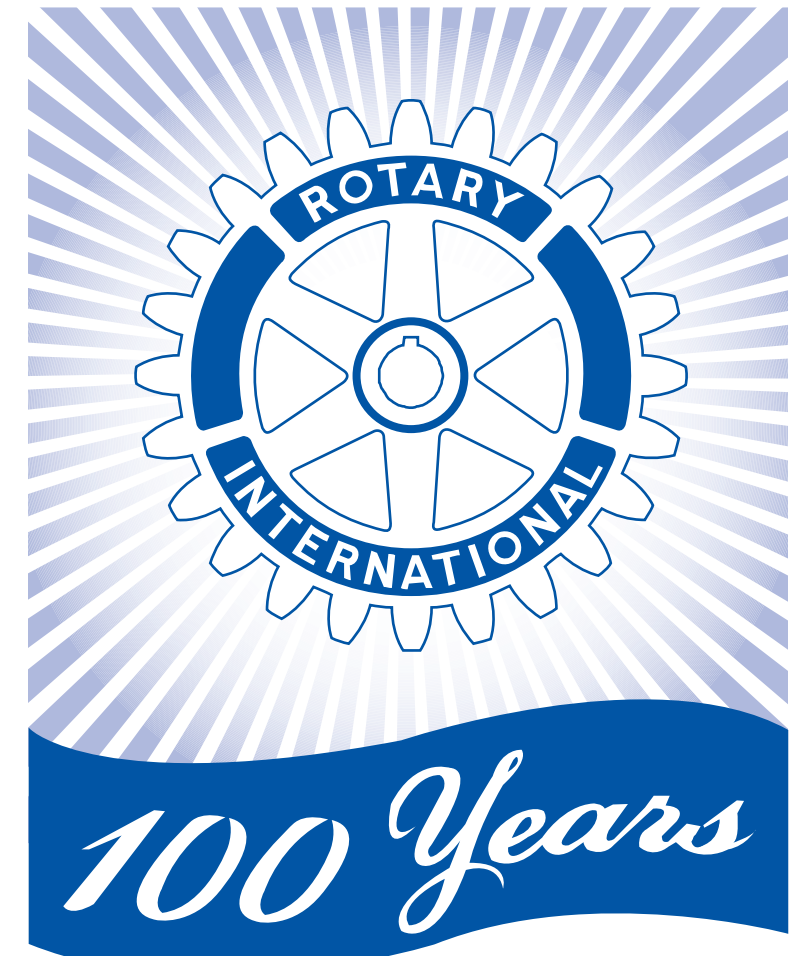
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Official Newsletter of the

**ROTARY club Of
HATTIESBURG**

A CENTURY OF SERVICE



A NEW CENTURY OF SUCCESS

“SERv ic E Ab Ov E SEI f”

MINUTES FROM 09/13/11

President Robert Cummings presided over today's meeting.

Thanks to Scott Hummel, who gave the Invocation and to Wes Brooks, who led the Club in the Pledge of Allegiance. Robert then led members in the Four Way Test.

Special thanks to Steve Ramp and Gene Owens for serving as our greeters.

Sean Priebe then welcomed members to today's meeting. He noted that we have no visiting Rotarians or guests today.

Wes Brooks provided the group with his classification talk. Wes became interested in music at the early age of six. He continues to embrace that desire as a weekend hobby rather than a livelihood. Wes graduated from high school in 1989 and then attended the University of Mississippi. He finished his college education at William Carey University. Shortly after graduating from William Carey he was married and now has one son. His son was enrolled in the Children's Center for Communication and Development at the age of three. Today he is in the third grade and doing excellent. Wes acknowledges that he has found Rotary a very meaningful experience in his life. In his own words, he has learned that if you can get out of your own way and put service above self, you can change lives. Thanks for that inspiration, Wes.

Robert announced the official kick-off of the NFL Monday Night Football square program. A winner will be announced at next Tuesday's meeting. If you are present proceeds from the event will be split between you and a charity. If the winner isn't present the entire proceeds will be applied to the club's Rotary International Permanent Fund.

Robert also announced that Hattiesburg Rotary has received a Certificate of Appreciate from Rotary International for the club's support of the 2011 International Conference. Thanks to Suzy Steen who chaired our RI involvement.

September is Rotary International New Generation's month. Robert noted that it is the club's opportunity to focus on our involvement in Rotary youth initiatives.

Brian Hall has been declared the District Governor Elect for Rotary District 6840. Robert also invited club members to share their favorite recipe to be included in the district cookbook.

Janice Touchstone encouraged members to sign up for this year's Polio Plus and Sustaining Member campaign.

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Audra Cummings then introduced today's guest speaker, Marlene Thompson, an adoptive specialist for the Mississippi Department of Human Services.

Marlene began her discussion with club members by telling them that she is here today as a recruiter for foster and adoption home parents. She admitted that she will be asking club members to open their heart and their home to the many children right here in Forrest County who currently need a good family and home situation. On any given day there are 3,398 children under the care of the Department of Human Services. Of those 101 are currently available for adoption. Seventeen of the children are in Forrest County. There are not enough willing resource parents available to take care of these children. Marlene noted that more children become available for foster care and adoption than there are homes and families for them. Some of them may be forced into long-term group home care, which is the least preferable place for them.

The primary goal of DHS is to reunite these abused or neglected children with their parents, siblings or other relatives. Family is important to the development of children however, care must be taken to ensure that the children are safe. DHS staff make sure that the children are safe, that they have permanency and that their overall general wellbeing is taken care of.

In order to become a resource parent, you must be at least 21 years of age, a single, married or divorced Mississippi resident. You must also demonstrate that you can take care of the child or children by providing proper housing, be financially able to meet their needs, be healthy, provide reliable transportation and medical insurance. DHS staff will conduct a home inspection to make sure the child will be in a safe environment.

Resource parents are required to take a PATH training program offered through DHS. The Parents as Tender Healers Training is a 15 hour program that answers almost every question a resource parent may have regarding their responsibilities.

If you or someone you know is interested in talking more about your involvement, please call 1-800-222-800. That is also the number to call if you are aware of a child that is currently in an abusive or unsafe environment. Marlene can be reached directly at 601-554-4354 if you wish to discuss this more with her.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sept 20 Michael Marks, Just Over The Rainbow
Acting organization (JORT)

27-Sep Kathy Emmons, FGH Spirit Girls

WEEKLY FOUNDATION RAFFLE

Our Foundation Chair, Brian Moore coordinates a raffle each week to help raise funds for the Foundation and also Polio Plus. If you have items to donate to the raffle contact Brian Moore or Janice Touchstone. We appreciate all those who participate with prizes and buying raffle tickets!

We Have a Facebook Page!

Thanks to Jared Eastlack for setting this up and Jaclyn Adams for getting some items posted. Please go to Rotary Club of Hattiesburg on Facebook and "like" our page. Post your pictures 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
Friday, 9/2 9:30am	Sean Priebe	
Tuesday, 9/6 9:30am		
Friday, 9/9 9:30am	Susan Steen Jerome Brown	Lucy Parkman
Tuesday, 9/13 9:30am	Conrad Welker	
Friday, 9/16 9:30am	Wally Weakley	Wes Brooks
Tuesday, 9/20 9:30am		
Friday, 9/23 9:30am		
Tuesday, 9/27 9:30am		
Friday, 9/30 9:30am	Aaron Ladner	

TODAY'S PROGRAM

Meet Our Presenter, Marlene Thompson

Marlene obtained both her Bachelor (2007) and Master of Social (2009) Work degrees from USM.

She has been employed with Mississippi Department of Human Services since January 2007 and has been an Adoption Specialist since June 2009.

She is responsible for the recruitment & licensing of adoptive homes.

She's also responsible for recruiting adoptive homes for children that have the plan of adoption, but they do not have an identified placement.

Marlene maintains & supervises the adoptive placement of each child that has been placed in an adoptive home.



Water and sanitation is one of Rotary's areas of focus. Worldwide more than 800 million people lack access to clean drinking water.

Rotary Images/Alyce Henson

Looking for Rotary District Information or International Information?
District Website www.rotary6840.org - Rotary International www.rotary.org