



SPOKES

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

629 NORTH MAIN STREET • HATTIESBURG, MS 39401

L-R: Sean Priebe, James Wilcox and Faye Gilbert.



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MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 15, 2015

President Sean Priebe presided over the meeting. Thanks to Lynn Walton who gave the invocation and to Tracie Fowler who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Thanks to Brett Phillips and Bryan Moore who served as our greeters today.

Jaclyn Adams then introduced today's visitor. Kyle Napier is a guest of Allen Anderson.

Our Mystery Rotarian was born in Purvis but spent most of his childhood on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, West Virginia and Massachusetts. His family moved back to this area and he graduated from Petal High. In his 20's he flew to Boston with a backpack and a tent. He bought a motorcycle and spent the next 15 days cruising the backroads of the Eastern seaboard back home to Mississippi. He married the love of his life at age 30 and spends time teaching his two sons how dangerous motorcycles are and how speeding is bad. Today's Mystery Rotarian is Ashley Read.

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. Thanks to Wes Brooks for designing flyers and posters for the Bike-a-Thon. All members are encouraged to register to ride, to volunteer and to provide some form of sponsorship.

Faye Gilbert then introduced today's guest speaker. James Wilcox who is the Director of the Center for Economic Entrepreneurship Education in the College of Business at the University of Southern Mississippi.

James talked about the Southern Entrepreneurship Program (SEP) that he co-created. Through this state-wide youth initiative program, more than 500 young people are being trained each year in the arena of business development and entrepreneurship. The

program also works in schools K through 12 and teaches the teachers how to teach entrepreneurship and economics. The program began in 2007 and was incorporated into the USM School of Business last year.

James says the primary goal of the program is to limit the brain-drain that our state experiences. He says that challenging our youth to recognize the assets they have, finding a way to "boot strap" an idea into a bigger idea and matching their ideas with skill sets is helping them find ways to be successful right here at home.

Their statewide program has three elements. In their first session they teach the youth about asset mapping and help them find the skills and resources they have. The second session consists of regional events where they teach soft skills such as networking, dining skills, market research and communications. The third phase of the program consists of regional competitions that end up in a state competition. Participants are encouraged to begin an entrepreneurial venture with \$10 which is about what they spend on junk food each month. From this initial endeavor they are challenged to roll their profits into bigger ideas. The winner of the state competition receives a cash prize of \$1,000.

James shared some of the program's success stories. Their students have developed profitable businesses in professional photography, lawn care and landscaping, music video production and art production.

The program continues to look for partners. If you'd like to partner or if you know a company or person that would, contact James. The program plans future expansions into the community colleges and middle schools.

For more information visit www.theSEP.org.

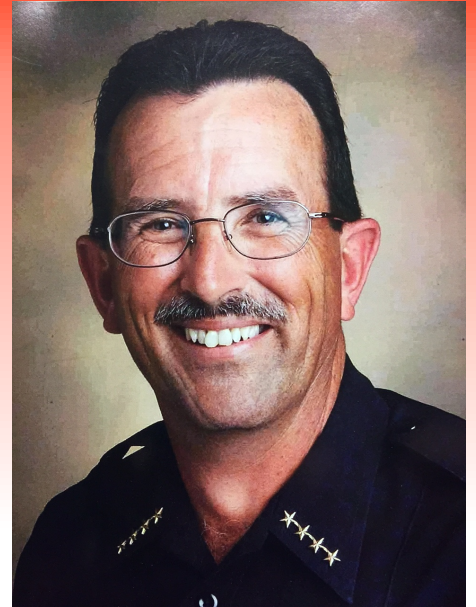
**Minutes courtesy of:
Lamar Evans, Executive Secretary**

OUR GUEST

CHIEF ROBERT HOPKINS

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Police Department at the University of Southern Mississippi works to provide an environment conducive to living and learning. This support starts from the time students have decided to enroll and continues through retention efforts and graduation. Traditional law enforcement operations are designed around the needs of students to lessen opportunities for them to become victims of crime or to experience other incidents that could impact their abilities to learn and grow. Providing non-traditional services allows the police force at Southern Miss to lessen the stressors that could occur outside the learning and living community. Evaluating efforts and services ensures that the department members are achieving their goals of providing safety and security to the campus community.



Chief Robert Hopkins has served as the Chief of Police for Southern Miss since October, 2001. Prior to that time he served as a criminal investigator at Southern Miss, as the Assistant Chief of Police for the Hattiesburg Police Department, as Captain and Patrol Division Commander, as Lieutenant of the Detective Division, as a Patrolman in Hattiesburg, and as a Patrolman in Purvis. He has received numerous certifications, skills and awards. Chief Hopkins has earned recognition for training with the IS 800 National Response Plan and with the IS 700 National Incident Management System. His awards include a Special Service Award from the USM Alumni Association (2013), Student Activities Hall of Fame (2012), Outstanding Staff Award (2008), Gold Leaf Award for Outstanding Service to the campus community (2007), and an Award of Appreciation for Extraordinary Service in Response to Katrina (2006). Chief Hopkins is a licensed polygraph examiner for the state of Mississippi and he currently serves on the Forrest County Sexual Assault Crisis Center, as a Board Member for the Forrest County Emergency Management District, and as an elected Board Member for the Petal Municipal School District.



NEXT WEEK

Dr. Cameron Griffith
SOUTHERN EYE CENTER

OCTOBER 6
NO MEETING

OCTOBER 10
BIKE-A-THON

OCTOBER 13
Giselle Russell

ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG BIKE-A-THON

OCTOBER 10 2015

