

# Rotary Club Of Hattiesburg



September 25, 2012

## **WELCOME TODAY'S SPEAKER**

### **Ed Day, CEO of Mississippi Power**

He's worked in a number of areas over his career and has a strong background in managing very large engineering and construction projects.

He is uniquely qualified to lead Mississippi Power as they build the new state-of-the-art clean coal power plant in Kemper County.

Just a couple of quick facts about Mr. Day. He received a mechanical engineering degree from the University of Alabama and his MBA from Samford University.

He and his wife Laurie have three children and live in Ocean Springs.

### ***Dates to Remember:***

Zone 31 meeting is scheduled for October 4 -7 in  
Huntsville, Alabama

Club assembly is scheduled for November 27.

Mid-Year Checkup – January 12, 2013

Beer Tasting event is scheduled for January 17, 2013

## Minutes from 9/18/12

President Maura McLaughlin presided over the meeting.

Thanks to Steve Ramp, who gave the invocation and to Wes Brooks, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Maura then led the Club in the 4-Way Test and then asked Chris Pierce to introduce today's visiting Rotarians and guests. Chris, in his opinion of comedy or encouragement, passed the following words to the group!

*"Character is doing the right thing when nobody's looking. There are too many people who think that the only thing that's right is to get by, and the only thing that's wrong is to get caught." - J. C. Watts*

Visiting guests at the meeting are listed below:

Mr. Barry Bruckner, Petal Rotary member  
Mr. Bob Bruckner, guest of Barry Bruckner  
Mr. David McPhail, Petal "Sunrise" Rotary member  
Ms. Rhumbi Chiposi, guest of Audra Cummings  
Mr. Ross Randall, with the Hattiesburg Public School District  
Mr. Jason Smith, with the Hattiesburg Public School District

An update was given on Stanley Carpenter's health. Let us remember those members who are ill and continue to pray for their health and recovery.

Scott Hummel and Chase Munroe served as greeters for the meeting.

Chase gave a pitch for the Blue Dog art raffle tickets. If you have not purchased any tickets, please try to do so! Maura gave a reminder on the following announcements:

- \* Zone 31 meeting is scheduled for October 4 -7 in Huntsville, Alabama
- \* Club assembly is scheduled for November 27.
- \* Beer Tasting event is scheduled for January 17, 2013

Jerome Brown introduced our speaker for the meeting, Mr. James Q. Bacchus. Mr. James Bacchus has served 38 years in education and is currently serving as Superintendent of Hattiesburg Public School District that educates 4,500 students PreK-12. Prior to his district leadership, Mr. Bacchus served 30 years as a teacher, coach, assistant principle, and high school principal. Educated in the Desoto County School system in Mississippi, he received his Bachelor of Science in Education from Jackson State University in Jackson, MS and his Master of Education and Administration from the University of Memphis. Mr. Bacchus' leadership style is one that allows total inclusion of decision making.

James is married to Cecilia Ward Bacchus, a retired educator. They have three children who were educated in public schools, of which two of them are educators. He has six grandchildren.

Mr. Bacchus spoke regarding the past and current processes of children being educated in the public school system. Reflections were given with an educational power point presentation of how the present public system is being molded to drive its students to success. He made mention of the cradle to college learning experience. Special emphasis was giving to the fact that children who were early learners and were able to comprehend with good reading skills by the third grade become the most successful group of students to succeed. Learning begins prior to school age and many students are not getting a good head start due to the lack of parents who may not be educating their children prior to beginning their school experience.

Points were shown that upon implementing the need for early learning and development the public school in Hattiesburg is showing good progress and has had good accomplishments this year. Some of these accomplishments are as follows: Forensics National recognition, Athletics top 20, Student won the county spelling bee, advancing to the state competition level, Science fair winners in all grade levels.

Mr. Bacchus mentioned the importance of people getting involved in the early life of a child's education. Volunteers are needed help children who may not be getting the quality of concern for them at home and are in need of a positive role model to give them affirmation. This affirmation can come through a volunteer reading to them and helping the child learn to read, thus guiding them into a life of future success!