



# SPOKES

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

629 NORTH MAIN STREET • HATTIESBURG, MS 39401

L-R: FAYE GILBERT, SEAN PRIEBE, AN OUR GUESTS, LT COL FELIX DIAZ AND 1<sup>ST</sup> LT BILL WEDGEWORTH.



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## MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 1, 2015

President Sean Priebe presided over the meeting. Thanks to Francis Farmer who gave the invocation and to Alan Anderson who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Thanks to John Cooper and Tracie Fowler who served as our greeters today.

Jaclyn Adams then introduced today's visitors. Scott Hummel has Allison Richardson as his guest. Patrick Browning is Faye Gilbert's guest, as well as both of today's speakers, Lt. Bill Wedgeworth and Lt. Col. Felix Diaz.

Our Mystery Rotarian is a native of Noxubee County and was a graduating class of 1931 student. He or she graduated from Mississippi State and has been married for 22 years to a school teacher. They have one son and two daughters attending Oak Grove High school. This Rotarian's family operated a peach orchard and he or she has worked in banking since the age of 15. Their most recent brush with greatness was using Darius Rucker's iPhone to take a picture of themselves with their son at Battery Park in New York this summer. John Cooper is today's Mystery Rotarian.

Sean thanked all the attendees and Erin Granberry, Tracie Fowler, Dan Davis and Wes Brooks for representing the club at this past weekend's District workshop.

Sean also reminded members of the upcoming Bike-a-Thon. Volunteer sheets are now available for sign-ups. There will be 2 bands, food and beverages at the pre-race celebration on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

Faye Gilbert reported that she contacted the speakers for the Civil Air Patrol today at the request of Larry LeBlanc. She then introduced today's guest speakers Lt. Bill Wedgeworth and Lt. Col. Felix Diaz.

The Civil Air Patrol began in the late 1930s when volunteer pilots desired to put their planes and flying skills to use in the defense of their country. The Civil Air Patrol was officially begun on

December 1, 1941 when F. H. LaGuardia, the U.S. Director of Civil Defense signed an Administrative Order recognizing it. Just one week later thousands of volunteer members were dispatched to the Pearl Harbor saving hundreds of victims after the attack by Japan. On May 26, 1948, Congress passed Public Law 557 permanently establishing the Civil Air Patrol as the auxiliary of the new U.S. Air Force.

There are three primary mission areas of the Civil Air Patrol; Aerospace Education, Cadet Programs, and Emergency Services. These three programs must work together to make the CAP successful.

The CAP's cadet program is offered to anyone from 12 years to 21 years old. Once the cadets complete their 16-step program of aerospace education, leadership training, physical fitness and moral leadership, they will teach and motivate others. Some of these cadets will go on to earn cadet officer status and may enter the Air Force as an E3 (airman first class) rather than an E1 (airman basic). Many cadets will have the opportunity to solo fly an airplane for the first time. Some travel abroad through the International Air Cadet Exchange Program and others assist at major air shows throughout the nation.

CAP's aerospace education focuses on two different audiences: volunteer CAP members and the general public. This program ensures that all CAP members (seniors and cadets) have an appreciation for and knowledge of aerospace issues. CAP's aerospace education members receive more than 20 free aerospace education classroom materials.

The Emergency Services focus is broken down into several functions including search and rescue, disaster relieve, humanitarian services, Air Force Support and Counter Drug work.

**(Minutes continued on pg. 4)**

# OUR GUEST

## 6840 District Governor John Cornwell

John was born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana. He has been married to his wife, Tyrell, a lab technician at Dow Chemical, for 33 years. They have three children, Jason, John and Amber, and four grandchildren. John received his B.A. degree in Sociology from Lake Forest College and holds an M.B.A. from the University of New Orleans. John has served as a board member for his local United Way and has been a mentor for the St. Charles Parish Public Schools. John

has served in the law enforcement profession for thirty-nine years. He is a retired Louisiana State Police Lieutenant and is currently serving as a Major in the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office.

John has been a member of the Rotary Club of St. Charles Parish Louisiana for twenty-three years and is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow. He is active in the planning and execution of his club's signature fund raising event, the Alligator Festival. An avid supporter of the Every Rotarian, Every Year campaign, he is on pace to reach major donor status by the time he assumes his role as District Governor.

At the club level John has served as president, president-elect, secretary, treasurer, vocational service chairman and community service chairman. At the district level he has served as a trainer and an assistant district governor for the River Territory under Governors Wheeler, Lier, Necaize and McCarthy. He is currently serving as the district's first youth protection officer. John is also a member of the district's youth exchange committee and has hosted an exchange student in the past. In addition to Rotary John enjoys golf, swimming, traveling with his family and spoiling his grandchildren.





*(Minutes cont.)*

Each search and rescue crew is made up of a pilot, scanner and an observer. Their job is to look for people who are stranded and need assistance after natural disasters. They work closely with the Coast Guard. The Hattiesburg Squadron currently flies the Cessna 182 and 172 model airplanes.

Volunteer crews fly disaster-relief officials to remote locations and provide help to local, state and national disaster-relief organizations such as the American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Aviation Administration. The Mississippi Squad flew after hurricane Katrina and just recently after the tornado in Columbia, MS.

The CAP flies humanitarian missions, usually in support of the Red Cross-transporting time-sensitive medical materials including blood and human tissue, in situations where other means of transportation are not available. The CAP conducts light transport, communications support, and low-altitude route surveys for the Air Force. It also provides orientation flights for AFROTC cadets. Joint U.S. Air Force and CAP search-and-rescue exercises provide realistic training for missions.

The Civil Air Patrol joined the "war on drugs" in 1986 and works with the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Customs Service offering resources to help stem the flow of drugs into and within the United States.

If you would like more information about the Pinebelt CVP Squadron Cadet Meetings, please call Deputy Commander Bill Wedgeworth at 601-584-6239. If you would like more information about the Senior Squadron meetings, please contact, Lt. Col. Felix Diaz at 706-536-9177 or at famdiaz3@yahoo.com. To find out more about the Civil Air Patrol, visit their website at [gocivilairpatrol.com](http://gocivilairpatrol.com).

*Minutes courtesy of:  
Toni Lee on behalf of  
Lamar Evans, Executive Secretary*

**SEPTEMBER 15**

**James Wilcox, Director  
Center for Economic  
Entrepreneurship  
Education**

**SEPTEMBER 22**

**Robert Hopkins  
USM Chief of Police**

**SEPTEMBER 29**

**Cameron Griffith  
Southern Eye Center**

**OCTOBER 6**

**Brady Raanes  
C3 Wine Company**

**OCTOBER 10**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual  
BIKE-A-THON**

