

SPOKES

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

DISTRICT 6840 CLUB 04003



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A check for \$7,500 was presented to Children's Center Director, Sarah Case-Price bring total proceeds from the "Night In Italy" dinner to just over \$10,000.



Rotarian and Westminster Presbyterian Church Pastor, Steve Ramp, and Richard Potin (Westminster Furniture Ministry), pictured here with Kids Hub Executive Director, Didi Ellis, were recognized for the church's donation of office furniture to that organization.

MINUTES

JULY 7, 2015

President Sean Priebe presided over the meeting. Thanks to Steve Ramp who gave the invocation and to Brett Phillips who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Thanks to Jerome Brown and Lucy Parkman for serving as our greeters today.

Jaclyn Adams thanked those who participated in today's meeting and welcomed our guests. Dean Cromartie is a guest of Mary Cromartie. Eddie Merrill is a guest of Allen Anderson. Mike Darby is a guest of Brett Phillips. Charlie Lewis is a guest of John Cooper and Karen Sims is a guest of Lynn Walton. Sarah Case Price is a guest of the club.

Sean indicated that he plans to reinstate the classification talks, especially for newer members in an effort to improve our knowledge of each other.

Sean asked Kristy Gould and Sarah Case Price to come forward. He then presented Sarah a check to the Children's Center for Communications and Development. The check represents the proceeds from this year's Night in Italy event. This is the eleventh year our club worked with the Center on this event. This year's total contribution was just over \$10,000. Kristy thanked Sarah and her staff for their continued support and the team work they demonstrate for this event each year. This contribution will be used to help offset the expenses of the new Education Audiologist that the center has hired. The person in the new position will be able to follow up with students who have graduated from the Center to help meet any additional needs they may have or to just make sure they are okay in their new setting.

Sean reported that a District training program will take place at Pearl River Community College in Perkinston on August 29. He encouraged any interested in learning more about the Rotary Foundation or more about Rotary to plan on attending the one-half day program.

He noted that through our District's support of the Foundation more than seventy-nine-thousand dollars was returned this year for global grant projects. These projects included fresh water wells, vaccination programs, literacy projects and a variety of other endeavors. Additionally, another sixty-nine thousand dollars came back to clubs within our district to support a variety of projects, including our club's literacy project. Sean encouraged members to continue to support the Rotary Foundation noting that one-half of everything we give comes back to the district in three years. District Governor John Cornwell will be our featured speaker on September 8. All members are encouraged to attend.

Robert Cummins, Jr. reported that Richard Topp was recently recognized by the Mississippi Society of

Certified Public Accounts with a state-wide aware. Richard was awarded the 2015 Public Service Award.

October 10th is the date for the Bike-a-Thon. Registrations are open on our club's website. Sponsors are needed. Any member interested in assisting is encouraged to let Sean know as soon as possible.

Brett Phillips then introduced today's guest speaker, Chris Buckhalter. A star football player in high school, at the University of Southern Mississippi and in the NFL was incarcerated at the age of 23 for aggravated assault and manslaughter. His football career was ended and he says he hit the lowest point in his life. He was so thoroughly disgusted with himself that he could not even look into a mirror for a long time.

Chris says he came from a good family. His father and grandfather were strong role models for him. His mother and grandmother made sure that he was in church every Sunday. However, he says he used his best resources and made some terrible mistakes in his life.

As a sixth or seventh grader he was smoking marijuana. His drug use then expanded to alcohol. As a teenager he was involved in an automobile accident. His life continued to spiral downward in spite of all the efforts and support of his family, his coaches and fellow players. The problem according to Chris was that he was sure he had all the answers and could make his own decisions. Shortly after that he was sentenced to two ten year terms at Mississippi State Penitentiary.

While in prison he rejected the help that was offered to him through prison ministries until one day he came to the realization that, using his best judgment, he had managed to ruin his life. At that point he began attending services and read the Bible for the first time. He then realized that, although he had managed to make a mess of his life, God had never given up on him. Coming to that realization Chris says he began changing from the inside out.

Today Chris is a personal trainer but spends every opportunity presented to him to help young men that need someone to "come along side and assist." He says he uses every opportunity provided to him to share the message that he had learned in life. He says part of the secret is to share the truth consistently. He also says you'll never make a difference in anyone's life if you just tell them you're there and wait for them to call you. He says they simply will not make that call. His advice to Rotarians is to look for what needs to be done and then go and do it. "Come along side and assist." Together he says our community can make a difference and change lives.

*Minutes courtesy of:
Lamar Evans, Executive Secretary*

D.G. NOMINATIONS OPEN

District Governor nominations for the 2018-2019 Rotary year are now open. All supporting documentation must be received no later than August 7, 2015. Email submissions will not be accepted.

The documents should be mailed to:

*PDG Karen Babin, Dist. Exec. Asst.
900 South Peters, Loft 13
New Orleans, LA 70130*

All applicants must participate in an interview. The interviews are being conducted at Pearl River Community College on Saturday, August 29, following the Foundation, PR and Membership seminar.

The documents to be completed:

*DG Nominee Form
DG Nominee Club Resolution
DG Applicant Certification*

It is, without doubt, the ride of your life. If you've ever wanted to make a difference and lead Rotarians there's no better time than today!

JULY 21

John McFarland
American Red Cross

AUGUST 11

Dr. Randy Henderson &
Justice Duhon
March of Dimes

AUGUST 29

District Foundation, P.r. &
membership seminars

SEPTEMBER 8

John Cornwell
District Governor

OCTOBER 10

3rd annual
Rotary Club
BIKE-A-THON



OUR GUEST



CHRIS WOOTEN

Chris Wooten was born and raised in Corinth, Mississippi. He received a BS degree in Communication Arts and Theater from the University of North Alabama and a MS in Mass Communication with an emphasis in Public Relations from the University of Southern Mississippi. Chris taught children's theater and musical theater for Studio One School of Performing Arts in Sheffield, Alabama. He taught public speaking and theater at Pearl River Community College. He is an adjunct instructor of public speaking at William Carey University, where he is also on staff as designer for Carey Dinner Theater.

Notable theater credits include: Brick in (Cat of a Hot Tin Roof) Best Supporting Actor, Doc (Crimes of the Heart) Best Actor, Cinderella's Prince (Into the Woods) All-Star Cast, in addition to numerous directing and design awards. In 2014, he wrote his first play "The Dick and Jane Project", which was presented at the Mississippi Theater Festival on the campus of Ole Miss in January 2015, winning a nod for original script and All-Star Cast awards for the three actors. In addition "The Dick and Jane Project" was invited for a special performance at the Southeaster Theatre Conference in Chattanooga, TN. Since that time, the show has been produced in seven venues and four cities. The Dick and Jane Project will soon be available as a short film.

Chris currently works for Lamar County Schools as Human Resources Director, serves on the boards of the Family Y and Just Over the Rainbow Theater.



ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG BIKE-A-THON

OCT. 10, 2015 - LONGLEAF TRACE

BENEFITTING
**EXTRA
TABLE**

REFRESHMENTS



POST RACE
EVENT AT



REGISTER ONLINE AT
ROTARYOFHATTIESBURG.COM