



SPOKES

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

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Rotary Club of

Hattiesburg

629 N. Main St.

Hattiesburg, MS 39402



Our guests today: Jeff & Judy Ragsdale from Elite Arms Training.

MINUTES: FEBRUARY 9, 2016

President Sean Priebe presided over the meeting. Thanks to Allen Anderson who gave the invocation and to Bryan Moore who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Thanks to Tracey Fowler and Kemi Simmons who served as our greeters today.

Today's Mystery Rotarian and their spouse are both fifth generation Hattiesburgers. Today's Mystery Rotarian graduated from Hattiesburg High as well as USM and operated a charter and flight training service. This Rotarian served a 4 year term as clerk of the Mississippi State Senate and spent an additional 35 years in local government. This Rotarian and spouse have driven through 49 states and a few countries and at one time had an African lion as a house pet. Today's Mystery Rotarian is Joe Meador.

Jaclyn Adams then introduced today's visitors. Joe Mordica is a guest of Freddy Walter. Bryan Sinclair and Kory Moore are guests of Ben Donald and Lamar Evans has his son, William, as his guest today.

Sean reminded members that the PETS conference is coming up on March 4-6. Jaclyn Adams will be representing our club. The District Conference is scheduled for April 7-10. We are still looking for volunteers who will help put a food event together for the annual food fest. The Night in Italy event is scheduled for April 28 and this year's Bike-a-Thon will be held on September 24th.

Sean then introduced Scott Hummel who introduced today's guest speaker, Keone Fuqua. Keone is the Assistant Professor of Theater and Communications Chair of the Theatre Department at William Carey University. He recently relocated to Hattiesburg from the Mobile area. Previously he worked in Miami and Los Angeles. He is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi.

Keone began his presentation by noting this his name is Hawaiian in origin. It reference strength, the earth and protection of the environment. As a child he was encouraged to grow up speaking many languages and reaching many people. His mother convinced him that his pursuit of a career in the theater world allowed him to accomplish those goals. Although he may not speak many "foreign" languages, he does speak many languages to those he touches and influences through his work.

Theater, according to Keone, began as a need to pass down information from generation to generation. It is a perfect opportunity to study human behavior and share behavioral methods and traits with those who participate.

William Carey University's Department of Theater has been recognized locally and nationally for many years for their work in this area. Keone says the Department is well known nationally for its achievements and its continued support of the arts. He enumerated a number of their accomplishment over the years but specifically pointed out the accomplishment of the speech and debate teams and their coach. This group travels almost every weekend of the year to compete in regional and national tournament. During the 2015-2016 school year they have placed no lower than third in their competitions with more than 300 competitors.

As an example of their work, Keone introduced Branden Lindsay and Jaylen Kashmed who provided us with a sampling of their work. It is very clear to see based on their demonstration how William Carey's program has been so successful. Many thanks to William Carey University for their continued support and influence of the art for our community.

Minutes provided by:
Lamar Evans, Executive Secretary

Our Guest

JACK & JUDY RAGSDALE ELITE ARMS TRAINING

Jack Ragsdale retired from the Tampa Police Department in 2005 after 25 years of service. He was a lead firearms trainer for over 20 years. He taught basic marksmanship, home and business awareness, survival tactics, competition shooting, and advanced techniques, in addition to designing and implementing a train-the-trainer program. He is a nationally respected competitor in several disciplines - Police Pistol, Bullseye, USPSA/IPSC, Action Pistol, and Tactical Police 3-gun. He is a nationally renowned shooter and competitor, and an expert firearms trainer.

He is a life member of and certified instructor with the NRA. He has earned a bachelor's degree from the University of South Florida, where he also competed in the student firearms program. He has been certified through the Florida Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission. He has won the National Police Pistol Competition's Grand Aggregate Award in 1994, and he has scored in the top 10 each year since. He is honored to have earned seven different distinguished badges in pistol competitions.

Since his retirement from active police work, he has chosen to devote his time and effort to his passion - firearms training and competition. He designed and developed a modern facility for those who want to learn to shoot, and he is resolved to teach both novices and experienced competitors the skills and techniques he practices.

His goal is to develop students who are safe, motivated, and disciplined problem-solvers. He teaches confidence - with an emphasis on professional ethics.

As the Director of Elite Arms Training, **Judy Ragsdale** handles most of the administrative duties associated with a firearm's training facility. Having spent many years researching and studying issues related to shooting schools, she is uniquely qualified to direct the center.

Twenty-three years as a law enforcement officer and sergeant for the Tampa Police Department, both in uniform and undercover, have given her a strong background in education and training. She was a member of Tampa's Special Tactics Squad and spent 15 years as a trainer for the department. She is a certified NRA firearms instructor. Her years as both a police officer and as a trainer of police officers have provided her with a wealth of experience to share with those they train at Elite Arms Training.

In addition to her experience as a police officer and trainer, 15 years of competitive shooting have honed her skills as a firearms instructor. She has competed in Practical Police Competition, Tactical Police Competition, Action Pistol, and IPSC. She is a nationally ranked PPC shooter and has won the High Woman Award in many state and regional matches across the country, and won the woman's police nationals in 2012. Additionally, she has earned two NRA distinguished badges in Police Combat. She believes that competition is one of the best sources of training for stress-level shooting. There is no finer measure of a person's skills than when competing against a peer.

Finally, she graduated with honors from the University of Nebraska at Omaha with a Bachelor of Science degree. She is a life member of the NRA and an active member of the National Shooting Sports Foundation. All of these experiences have led her here to Elite Arms Training. Her role as student, police officer, teacher, and competitive shooter has taught her to respect and encourage those who want to learn to use firearms to protect themselves and their families. Now, as the Director of Elite Arms Training, she can provide the learning environment and training for that important responsibility. She is confident that they can meet your training needs.

Upcoming

**FEBRUARY 23—MIKAL DICKERSON, HUB CITY LIFE
THURSDAY, JULY 7 TO TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2016**

D6840 Rotarians are invited to D5360, a special part of Canada, to enjoy the Calgary Stampede, the beautiful Canadian Rockies, and other activities during the early part of our HOT July! There is a growing list of D6840 Rotarians who are interested in visiting the cool Canadian Rockies in July, 2016!

Both in Calgary and in New Orleans, the plans are home-stays with Rotarians, "Bed & Breakfast style." Guests may not need to have their own rental cars/vans. Visitors will be responsible for their personal expenses and meals when they are on their own. The maximum number of visitors is 12.

Karen Babin, 2016 Friendship Exchange Coordinator for D6840

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OLE MAN RIVER PETS: March 4-6

DISTRICT CONFERENCE: April 7-10

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION (Seoul, South Korea): May 29—June 1



April 28



The Children's Center
FOR COMMUNICATION AND DEVELOPMENT
THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

ride details and beneficiary to be announced



SEPT 24
longleaftrace
ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG
BIKE·A·THON

