



SPOKES

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

2015-2016 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Sean Priebe, *President*

Jaclyn Adams, *President-Elect*

Brett Phillips, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Lamar Evans, *Executive Secretary*

Wes Brooks, *Past President*

Dan Davis

Tracie Fowler

Faye Gilbert

Ryan Kelly

Bill MacLauchlan

Mike Ratliff

**Rotary Club of
Hattiesburg**

**629 N. Main St.
Hattiesburg, MS 39402**

**Sean Priebe, Jennifer Payne and
our guest, Mike Lopinto.**



MINUTES: FEBRUARY 16, 2016

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

Thanks to James Prout and Brett Phillips who served as our greeters today.

We did not have a Mystery Rotarian this week. Jaclyn Adams then introduced today's visitor. James Mitchell is a guest of Sean Priebe. James was the Ambassadorial Scholar in Glasgow Scotland during 1999-2000, and is a former member of the Petal Rotary Club. Since he has moved to Hattiesburg, is joining our club.

Jaclyn then announced our Rotarians that are nominees for "Best of the Pine Belt." We have Christian Services for Most-Effective Non-Profit Organization, Steve Ramp for Best Public Servant (Non-Elected), Wes Brooks' band **The 6550's** for **"Best Cover Artist/Band"** and Aaron Ladner as Best Financial Advisor. There is one vote per email address. You can vote for your Rotarians and all your Pine Belt favorites at <http://signaturemagms.com/bopb>

Sean reminded everyone that our lunch on March 29th will be at The Children's Center at USM. There will be a sign up sheet next week, so please sign up so we can get a number of people attending to make the appropriate accommodations.

Sean also announced that at the District Conference April 7-10, we are planning to participate with the Retro Food Fest on Friday evening. Last year we had a booth for Southern Prohibition spotlighting the Hattiesburg Area. Cherries Jubilee has always been a success as well. We are looking for ideas.

Bill McLeod let us know that last week was Jaclyn Adams birthday. We didn't want to let her birthday fly under the radar. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY JACLYN!!**

Tracie Fowler then introduced today's speaker Mike Lopinto our very own Pine Belt arts icon.

He is no stranger to our Rotary club, speaking to us several times previously. He has been with Festival South for 7 years and is now the Artistic Director, but is still the "marketing guy." Last year we had over 2000 guests and participants in Festival South. More than 2.2 million dollars were spent in that 3 week period.

This year Festival South starts on Memorial Day- May 30th and runs thru June 18, 2016. New for the 2016 season, is FestivalSpeaks. Hosted by media personality, Randy Swan, this will be a series of informative and innovative talks with special guests from politics, arts and more!

Returning favorites to the festival are the Festival5K, Best of the Pine Belt Awards Show, Coffee Concerts, Craft Beer Festival, Classical Afternoons, Artie Events for Kids, and FestivalLate Night.

The Festival South Film Expo for promoting local films and filmmakers with ties to the state of Mississippi and/or the American Deep South. There are competition sections for feature films and short films and our special **FestivalSouth EDGE** section, where at midnight each evening you can see a screening of weird, wacky, terrifying, extra-terrestrial, supernatural or otherwise out-of-the-box features. Some of the films can be voted on by the audience.

"Best of the Pine Belt" – On June 3rd, all of the winners will be announced. We started out a few years ago with roughly 10,000 votes for the nominees to now having over 136,000 votes. Another company had to be hired to take care of the voting because it's too large for the Festival South office. Keep the June issue of Signature Magazine with you and use it as guide for the best restaurant, thrift store, etc. when you are out and about. It's a wonderful way to try out new places that you haven't been to yet, and has been voted the "Best."

(Minutes continued on pg. 4)

Our Guest Today: Mike Dixon & Stacy Ahua

On April 2, Downtown Hattiesburg will be the host for Over the Edge, a once-in-a-lifetime event —sponsored by Southern Beverage and iHeartRadio— that gives participants the opportunity to rappel down a local high-rise building as a fundraiser for local non-profit Extra Table.

Throughout the coming months, participants will use peer-to-peer fundraising methods to raise money from their family, friends and community to help send them 'Over the Edge'. Once they have reached their fundraising goal, where they will rappel down the side of the recently restored Carter Building in Downtown Hattiesburg in an all-day event. "Hub City Lofts is excited about hosting the Over the Edge event for the benefit of Extra Table at the Carter Building in downtown Hattiesburg," said Rob Tatum, Owner of Hub City Lofts. "My lawyer and insurance agent thought I was crazy when I approached them with this idea, but...we are all excited for what this event will do, raise money for a great cause, great exposure for Downtown, and ultimately the city of Hattiesburg. Having the Over the Edge coincide with Hubfest will only add interest to an already fantastic event," Tatum concluded.



The Over the Edge event will serve as a fundraiser for non-profit organization Extra Table. Founded by chef, author and restaurateur Robert St. John, Extra Table operates with the mission of providing new, healthy food for the 670,000 people who are food insecure in the state of Mississippi. Through a partnership with Sysco, the nation's largest food distributor, Extra Table raises funds, purchases healthy food bundles from Sysco and has the food shipped to over 20 food pantries and soup kitchens from Pascagoula to Tupelo with hopes to be in all 82 of Mississippi's counties. "We are in the midst of an exciting time in the history of Extra Table," said Michael Dixon, Executive Director of Extra Table. "We are experiencing unprecedented growth in our food distribution across the state. Participating in the Over the Edge event will not only be the most exciting thing you do this year, it will also make an enormous impact in our ability to feed the hungry. We hope everyone will join in the fun."

Over the Edge will also be a unique event for Hattiesburg this year because it will take place during HubFest, an annual festival developed by Hattiesburg Area Chamber of Commerce. HubFest occurs in downtown Hattiesburg, covering several blocks with over 250 artist and vendor booths and attracting tens of thousands of participants.

Anyone interested in participating in or sponsoring Over the Edge can visit www.extratable.org, www.hattiesburgovertheedge.com or send inquiries to info@extratable.org for more details.

(Minutes cont.)

The 3 major headlining events this year are:

“Soul School”- At the Saenger Theater June 4th. Expect to hear Golden Oldies, Beach, Motown, Country, Jazz, Rock, Funk, Rhythm and Blues and Contemporary music. This band always has the audience dancing in the aisles.

The Broadway smash hit Rock of Ages- There will be four performances, June 9, 10 and two on June 11. This is a rock/jukebox musical of classic rock hits from the 1980s. It features songs from Styx, Journey, Bon Jovi, Pat Benatar, Twisted Sister, Steve Perry, Poison and Europe among other well-known rock bands.

“Sandi Patty Forever Grateful: The Farewell Tour,” will headline the Festival Finale on June 18 at Main Street Baptist Church. When Festival South found out she was calling it quits, they had to have her back. You can also sign up to be part of the choir and sing with Sandy.

Tickets for events go on sale April 1, 2016. For more information on Festival South, please visit: <http://www.festivalsouth.org>.

UPCOMING

MARCH 29: TOUR OF THE CHILDREN'S CENTER

JULY 7-19: ROTARY TRIP TO DISTRICT 5360, CALGARY STAMPEDE

APRIL 7-10: DISTRICT CONFERENCE

MAY 28—JUNE 1: ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION (SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA)

a Night in Italy



The Children's Center
FOR COMMUNICATION AND DEVELOPMENT

May 3, 2016

BIKE-A-THON

ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG



9-24-16