

# SPOKES



NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG



Last Wednesday, Wes Brooks gave a training presentation to the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg-Sunrise on how to access My Rotary at Rotary.org as well as the benefits of the ClubRunner platform for club management. In addition, Hattiesburg Club member and Assistant District Governor for District 6840, Bill McLeod provided updates and news from the District.

Pictured: Wes Brooks, Sunrise Club President, Rob Young, and Bill McLeod.

## MINUTES: OCTOBER 20, 2015

President Sean Priebe presided over the meeting. Thanks to Conrad Welker who gave the invocation and to Wes Brooks who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Thanks to Tracie Fowler and Jonathan Shemper who served as our greeters today.

Jaclyn Adams then introduced today's visiting Rotarians and guests. Jaclyn has as her guest today Jarred Carlson. Elizabeth Gillentine has as her guests today Daniel and Rebecca Casada. Sean Priebe has as his guest Jamie Fugue.

Our Mystery Rotarian grew up in Starkville and was a graduate of Mississippi State University. He moved to Hattiesburg in 2009 and married last May. He proposed to his wife at the New Orleans Aquarium where he had scuba divers in the tank hold up a "Will you Marry Me" sign. The most exciting thing he has ever done was jump out of a perfectly good airplane. Brett Phillips is this week's Mystery Rotarian.

Jonathan Shemper thanked the sponsors and volunteers who made this year's Bike-a-Thon a success. From many responses already received from the riders ours is an event they will plan to ride in each year. Our club put together a team effort to make sure the ride went off without a hitch, including the pre-event held at the Walthall School. Proceeds from both event will benefit the Extra Table.

Dan Davis reminded members of the need to contribute to the Rotary Foundation. Members can use Rotary Direct where you can contribute monthly, quarterly or annually. The contributions can be set up to automatically come from your accounts. The contribution totals about \$.28 per day and the money is used for Rotarian causes all over the world, with some of the contributions coming back to our area in the form of grants.

Sean then reported that Rotary Clubs of District 6840 will hold the Northern Ireland/Friends Forever Program on Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at the Donal Snyder Center in Biloxi. All Rotarians and their children are encouraged to attend and visit with the Northern Ireland teens. There is no registration fee but you are requested to RSVP. If you plan on attending, RSVP with vickyg@cableone.net.

The Sunrise Club will hold its annual 5K Fun Run at the Longleaf Trace on October 31. The event will start at the Jackson Road station for those interested.

Sean also reminded members that next week's meeting will be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Club members are reminded to enter the building from the 24<sup>th</sup> Street side. The meeting will focus on our club's future and the changes necessary to make us a viable entity in this community.

Holt McMullan then introduced today's guest speaker, Giselle Russell. Ms. Russell is President of Strategics, Inc. She has a track record of achievement in publicly traded corporations, public and elected officials and VIPs in the high profile, fast-paced public affairs, marketing, public relations and political consulting arenas.

Prior to beginning her presentation she circulated a Republican presidential ballot and asked members to cast their vote for the Republican presidential nominee as if the election was being held today. Those voting Democrat were asked to simply write "D" on the ballot. The ballots were tabulated and the results will be announced at the conclusion of today's meeting.

The title of Ms. Russell's presentation is "The Six Stages of Doom for Donald Trump's Campaign". She predicts that Mr. Trump's campaign will flame out before the July, 2016 Republican National Conference and that he only has a 2% chance of winning the Republican Primary.

Stage One of Trump's doom according to Ms. Russell is the current free-for-all. Trump's campaign is relying heavily on his ability to continue to draw national headlines. Votes are now beginning to watch football, enjoy outdoor activities and to focus more on family and friends. In the meantime, the other GOP candidates continue to plod along and gain strength and attention. Giselle says the public's attention on the presidential campaign is now about one-tenth of what it will be next year.

Stage Two is what she calls Heightened Scrutiny. Beginning in late November she predicts that the polls will show a major shift. Between now and Thanksgiving the candidates will be more carefully scrutinized by the media. In late November the pollsters take the non-voters out of the equation and look only at those folks who will vote in the election.

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

Each year D6840 holds a lovely, semi-formal dinner event to recognize and honor Rotarians who have made a significant financial commitment to The Rotary Foundation - the charitable arm of Rotary International! Previous District Calendars indicated that Friday, October 23, 2015 was the date for this special event. The NEW DATE is: Friday, January 8, 2016, at the Great Southern Club in Gulfport, MS.

Members of the Paul Harris Society have pledged to donate \$1,000 annually to The Rotary Foundation. Just \$83.34 per month through "Rotary Direct," a lump sum payment of \$1,000, or some other cumulative donation total of \$1,000 or more, provides important funding for the humanitarian and educational projects and programs which forward Rotary's mission to make the world a better place.

In order to honor the legacy of PDG Dayton Robinson (1997-1998), D6840 leaders established the "Dayton Robinson Society" - recognizing Rotarians who contribute at least \$250 annually to The Rotary Foundation.

Half of the donations to The Rotary Foundation allocated to SHARE when making a contribution, will come back to our district 3 years later as "District Designated Funds" - the source for "District Grants" to fund eligible local or international projects sponsored by our clubs.

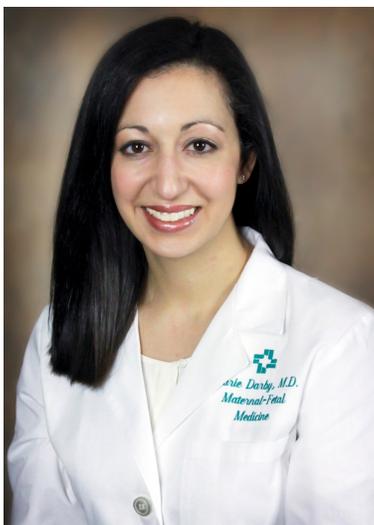
The special dinner on January 8 will feature Past RI Director Larry Lunsford, from Kansas City. Socializing at 6:00pm, and dinner at 7:00pm, cost \$40 per person. Reservations and selection of dinner entree (steak or fish) can be made with DGN Kathie Short, topdogms@aol.com, 228-234-1256.

Members of the Paul Harris Society and the Dayton Robinson Society will be honored at this event. Others interested in similar significant financial support for The Rotary Foundation's work are also welcome to attend.

Any questions can be addressed to PDG Brian Hall, Chair of the D6840 Paul Harris Society, DGN Kathie Short or me!

Yours in Rotary service,

PDG Karen Babin, D6840 Executive Assistant 2015-2016  
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## NEXT WEEK

**Marie M. Darby, MD**, is a maternal fetal medicine specialist offering services with Hattiesburg Clinic Maternal Fetal Medicine. Dr. Darby earned her medical degree from Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans, La. She served her internship and residency in Obstetrics & Gynecology at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, Miss., where she also served a fellowship in Maternal Fetal Medicine. Dr. Darby is board certified in Obstetrics & Gynecology by the American Board of Obstetrics & Gynecology. As a maternal fetal medicine specialist, Dr. Darby provides care for women with issues deemed to be high-risk to the mother or child; including, but not limited to heart or kidney disease, hypertension, diabetes and multiple babies.

**NOVEMBER 3**  
BRADY RAANES  
(C)3 WINES

**NOVEMBER 10**  
THERESA ERICKSON  
GREATER PINEBELT  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

**NOVEMBER 17**  
VAUGHN WILSON,  
AUTHOR

**NOVEMBER 24**  
PDG BRIAN HALL  
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL  
FOUNDATION

(Minutes cont.)

Stage Three begins with the Iowa and New Hampshire primaries. If Trump comes out of those two primaries with lackluster performance, his campaign will lose what strength it had going into the primaries. A poor performance in Iowa and New Hampshire will hurt Trump's pool numbers significantly.

Stage Four is what she calls Winnowing. From February 15 through March 15 she predicts that the candidates who remained strong after the Iowa and New Hampshire primaries will consolidate their strength and should continue to out poll Trump.

Delegate Accumulation begins in mid-March and will continue through June. With declining poll numbers Giselle predicts that Trump's campaign will continue to lose strength and will not be able to accumulate the necessary delegates to support a strong candidacy.

The End Game occurs at the Republican National Convention. Giselle maintains that the GOP will do what is necessary to try and eliminate Trump from the ticket. Seven percent of all of the delegates at the Convention are the Super Delegates. The remaining delegates vote to vet and validate their choices. Ms. Russell says the GOP wants a candidate on the ballot who is accountable and electable, two traits that she says Trump isn't perceived to possess by the party.

Ms. Russell says reality TV stars won't be perceived as reliable political candidates. She predicts that the voters will turn to a more established leader but are likely to strongly consider an outsider who can offer changes.

A recent poll shows that only 47 percent of American voters say they could vote for Donald Trump while 52 percent says they could not vote for Trump.

In today's straw poll, Ben Carson won. Jeb Bush came in second and Donald Trump came in third.

Minutes courtesy of: Lamar Evans, Executive Secretary.

**2015-2016 ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG OFFICERS & DIRECTORS**

