



The Bath Tub

Hot Springs National Park Newsletter



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www.facebook.com/hsnrotary

Week of January 25, 2021

Upcoming Programs:

January 27, 2021

*Ted Thompson,
Project HOPE Food Bank*
Link: <https://zoom.us/j/92199154224>

February 3, 2021

*Dushun Scarbrough,
Arkansas MLK Commission
Black History Month*

Wayne Smith, Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort



Rotarian **Don Gooch** introduced our speaker, Wayne Smith, in the classic Don Gooch way - with song! (And a great Oaklawn song, at that.)

Smith arrived in Hot Springs in 2017, becoming only the sixth General Manager of Oaklawn since it opened in 1905. He was hired to identify, plan and execute that plan to make Oaklawn more attractive for visitors. Currently undergoing a \$100 million expansion which includes a Hotel, Spa and Event Center, Smith is doing exactly that.



Things were going smoothly until Covid hit in March, 2020 and like everyone, Oaklawn has had to make changes and push back projected openings due to the protocols and the delays caused by the pandemic. Opening Day for the 2021 Racing Season begins this Friday with several new rules in place due to the Department of Health requirements:

- * Only Box Members and Jockey Club Members will be allowed in with their guests; there will be no general admission tickets sold at this time.
- * The members must also make reservations for themselves and their guests, as personnel from Oaklawn will greet them upon arrival with temperature checks and the normal questions that we have somehow grown accustomed to over the past nine months.
- * Masks will be required except during the time that guests will be eating or drinking.
- * Boxes will be blocked off in a checkerboard-like system so that social distancing in the boxes can take place. Close to 300 boxes will not be available out of the 800 boxes on site.
- * Oaklawn is implementing a complete "Box Service System" so that racing fans will only have to leave their seats to go place their bets or go to the restrooms.
- * Smith encouraged racing fans who are not members to download and use the "Oaklawn Anywhere" app.

What hasn't changed is that Oaklawn will have the richest purses in the country and have the top trainers and horses, with over 1300 horses already on site. Once weather permits, the infield will be open and this year, there will be no charge for parking in the Oaklawn Parking Lots. With news from the construction at Oaklawn, the new fine dining restaurant, The Bugler, has opened and got great reviews from our Rotarians who have been fortunate enough to dine there. In addition to fabulous food, The Bugler provides an amazing view of the horses on the track. They are open from 4pm - 10pm Wednesday through Saturday and will be open for lunch from noon until the last race on racedays.

Club Leaders



[Chuck E. Launius](#)
President



[Tiffany Tucker](#)
President-Elect
Club Programs Chair



[Neal C. Gladner](#)
President-Nominee
Vice President
Membership Chair



[Gary McKuin](#)
Secretary



[Courtney W. Moore](#)
Treasurer



[Rollin Caristianos](#)
Club Director - Community Services



[Harmony Hurst](#)
[Morrissey](#)
Club Director - Meetings & Activities



[Justin Nicklas](#)
Club Director - Administration



[Tiffany B. Rogers](#)
Club Director
Youth Services Chair

[Arthur D. Floyd](#)

Smith is hopeful that the hotel will be opening in early April and says shuttles will be provided to their guests to take them to the many other areas in our community that tourists love, such as the Northwoods Trail, Garvan Gardens, downtown, lakes, etc. Unlike other casinos who want to keep their visitors onsite and all to themselves, Oaklawn wants to include everything our community has to offer for their guests.

Smith feels strongly that Oaklawn has competitive advantage over other nearby casinos: and Hot Springs is that advantage!



Sergeant-at-Arms



[Donna K Smith](#)
Club Executive Secretary



[Stephanie Alderdice](#)
Webmaster



[Michelle Ratcliff](#)
iPast President



[Candace M Young](#)
Assistant Governor

The 4-Way Test



Invocation - **John Hoefl**

Pledge ♦ **Jean Wallace**

The 4 Way Test ♦ **Diane LaFollette**



Birthdays

Jack C. Porter
January 29th

Richard Herrington Jr.
January 29th

Daniel E. Disney
February 5th

Mary Gail Greenberg
February 5th

William Solleder
February 6th

Michelle Ratcliff
February 9th

Neal Harrington
February 12th

John D. Selig
February 20th

Jared Zeiser
February 22nd

Michael Raub
February 28th

Student Guests

Rotarian **Cheryl Stafford** introduced our student guest, Jacob Heffington, a Senior from Hot Springs World Class High School. Jacob attended one of our meetings last year and he is also a member of the Interact Club. We look forward to hearing from Jacob next week!

Board Notes

The next Board meeting will be held **via Zoom** on **Tuesday, February 9 at noon**. All membership is invited to join us, especially new members who are trying to earn that coveted Blue Badge!

Please let President Launius or Donna K know that you are interested in joining us so we can send you the appropriate meeting link.

Announcements

Our **student guest program** is going great! But we need your help to schedule more students! If you have a relationship with, or know of a high school senior who would like to participate in our student guest program, please reach out to our Student Guest Committee Chair, **Linda Ragsdale** (lindarags6032@gmail.com). Linda is working with school counselors to get these arranged. Due to the Covid changes in our meetings, students will join us once via Zoom to observe our meeting and speak to us on their second virtual visit.

The application for **HSNP Scholarships** is now online with a deadline for application of **February 1**. [CLICK HERE](#) for the scholarship application. Please share with friends and/or on social media!

President Chuck also reminded our members that you can now pay your monthly Rotary statement by credit card. Just follow the link on your monthly statement. Please note that there is a 3% service fee automatically added to your credit card payment. If you have any issues or concerns, please reach out to Donna K at hsnprotaryclub@gmail.com

President Chuck Launius



In this week of our country's historical inauguration of our next President of the United States, I had a more sentimental moment, if not emotional one, to share.

First, this past week it made me so proud to read about our own Hot Springs National Park Rotarians receiving the vaccine, being involved in the distribution of the vaccine or administering the vaccine to our community. Thank you for your leadership and it certainly makes me and all Rotarians proud because you are setting such a strong example to our community. This week our state started vaccinating group 1B which are residents over the age of 70, as well as employees working in all the various fields of education.

Meanwhile, group 1A continues to be vaccinated (which are all the various categories of healthcare workers in public and private practices, as well as our most devastated population, the residents and staff of long term care facilities.) Soon the vaccination of group 1C will begin which are a variety of essential workers and those 65 years and older and those who are ages 16 to 64 years old with high risk health issues.

What does this mean to us as a club? Well, I estimate from 65% to 75% of our members are either in Group 1A, 1B or 1C. This means we have members taking the vaccine now OR soon will be taking it in the weeks ahead for those who so choose.

We all have had moments in our lives when hope is finally evident and when it is actually realized; it is certainly a moment when you pause to be thankful. Such was the case for me this past Monday night when my mother who is in group 1B texted me to say. "Son, I received my first vaccine shot today with my second shot scheduled for February 15th, hope to see you soon thereafter." I have only seen my mother three times since last March and we were outside and socially distanced, so my own personal hope was finally evident and realized.

I hope all of you soon have that same experience that I had Monday night. As a club, our hope will soon be realized and evident as we meet again in person over a great lunch and great fellowship in the near future. The vaccine will certainly get us there very soon. As Rotarians and leaders of worldwide polio vaccination and eradication, we certainly appreciate the power a vaccine can yield for hope.

Thank you for being great examples to our community in your discipline, as well as your actions in our community with the fight against Covid-19.

I would expect nothing less from Hot Springs National Park Rotarians.

Links to view previous Rotary Zoom Meetings

To view this week's presentation:

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the January 20, 2021 presentation by **Wayne Smith with Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort**.

For these previous recordings:

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the December 2, 2020 presentation by **Eric Munson, Arkansas Securities Commissioner and David George, Sr. Securities Examiner/Investor Education Coordinator**.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the special Holiday Entertainment meeting held on December 9, 2020 with songs by **Sylvia Stem** and **Christine Demeo**, as well as an appearance by **Santa Solleder!**

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the January 6, 2021 presentation by Rotarian **Dr. Gene Shelby** who gave us a **Covid update on Garland County**.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the January 13, 2021 presentation by **Bonnie Swayze with Alliance Rubber**

Company.

Thought for the Week

*Optimism is a happiness magnet.
If you stay positive, good things and good people will be drawn to you.
~Mary Lou Retton*
