



The Bath Tub

Hot Springs National Park Newsletter



www.hsnrotary.org
hsnrotaryclub@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/hsnrotary

Week of June 21, 2021

Upcoming Programs:

June 22, 2021

Installation Banquet
Hot Springs Country Club 6:00 pm

June 23, 2021

NO CLUB MEETING DUE THIS DATE!

June 30, 2021

Governor Asa Hutchinson
Please RSVP for this meeting to Donna K if you have not already done so

Parth and Dr. Vijay Patel, Medical Arts Building



President-Elect **Tiffany Tucker** introduced Rotarian **Parth Patel**, with VIPA Hospitality, the company that just purchased the historic Medical Arts Building in downtown Hot Springs. Patel, in turn, introduced his father, Dr. Vijay Patel, to provide history of their company, as well as discuss plans for the grand old building that was built in 1929.

Dr. Patel had a dream of making hotel investments, and that dream became a reality when he opened the Fern Park Motel in

Orlando, FL. Wanting to build his own hotel, he realized that dream in 1989 building a Super 8 in the Chicago area. It wasn't an easy time for Patel, as when he was close to completing that building using non-union labor, it was mysteriously burned down. He didn't falter, and rebuilt it. Now his company, VIPA, owns more than 30 hotels, 7 of them right here in Hot Springs, AR. Four years ago he became interested in the historic Medical Arts Building. Wanting to purchase and bring the beautiful Art Deco building back to life, he found again, that it wasn't easy as there were four different owners to work with. He persevered and has purchased floors 1-15. The 16th floor's owner has not been located at this time but Dr. Patel says he doesn't need that floor.....he has the first through the 15th floors.

Engineer studies show that even though the building has been vacant and neglected for many years, it still has strong bones and could last another 200 years.

VIPA has completed other historical hotel renovations and plans to bring the grand building back to beauty under the Marriott brand. His plans include a Japanese Garden with a bar on the back side of the building and will bring the facade and interior into a beautiful and inviting space.

For more information on VIPA Hospitality and to see photos of other hotels they have renovated, go to www.vipahospitality.com.



Club Leaders



[Chuck E. Launius](#)
President



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



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



[Gary McQuin](#)
Secretary



[Courtney W. Moore](#)
Treasurer



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



[Harmony Hurst Morrissey](#)
Club Director
Membership Chair



[Justin Nicklas](#)
Club Director - Administration



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

[Arthur D. Floyd](#)

The 4-Way Test



Invocation - **David Fleming**

Pledge ♦ **Scott Green**

The 4 Way Test ♦ **Jared Zeiser**



Sergeant-at-Arms



[Donna K. Smith](#)
Club Executive Secretary



[Stephanie Alderdice](#)
Webmaster



[Michelle Ratcliff](#)
iPast President



[Candace M. Young](#)
Assistant Governor

JFLA Presentation

Rotarian **Sara Brown** presented JFLA graduate certificates and pins to Rotarians **Harmony Morrissey** and **Justin Nicklas**



Birthdays

Charles H. Dante Jr.
June 23rd

David Trice
June 23rd

Gary A. Troutman
June 28th

Mary Anne Couch
July 3rd

Susan Allen Harper
July 6th

Sara Brown
July 15th

Kathleen A. Sellman
July 16th

John A. Hogan
July 18th

William L. Kerst
July 18th

John A. Pratt
July 19th

John Scott Dews
July 25th

Patrick J. McGuire
July 30th

Guests

Rotarian Christi Nation introduced our guests after presenting **President Chuck** with a "Rotarian of the Year" pin that will be handed down year to year for those who are awarded that distinguished honor. Thank you, Christi!

Michelle Ratcliff hosted Kirstie Kendall, who is now being proposed for membership and **Nicole Herndon** hosted Sara Day.



Board Notes

The next Board meeting will be held at the **Hot Springs Country Club** on **Tuesday, July 13 at 11:45**. This will be a meeting with current and upcoming members of the Board. As always, all membership is invited to join us, especially new members who are trying to earn that coveted Blue Badge!

Announcements

The 2021-2022 Installation Banquet will be Tuesday, June 22 so

NO CLUB MEETING WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23!

June 30 will be our next Club Meeting with Governor Asa Hutchinson as our speaker. Please RSVP to Donna K prior to Friday, June 25 for this meeting!

As **President Chuck** announced, beginning with our **July 28** meeting, the **7th Floor Lake Hamilton Ballroom at the DoubleTree Hotel** will be our new home!

Effective July 1, 2021, our monthly dues will increase by \$10 to \$82.

At our June 16, 2021 meeting, Executive Session was called by Immediate Past President **Michelle Ratcliff** to discuss updating our Club Bylaws. With a motion by Rotarian **Neal Gladner** that was seconded by Rotarian **Richard Herrington**, revisions to our Club Bylaws were approved by a unanimous vote of members present. The revisions were made to update the affiliation of the new Hot Springs National Park After Hours Satellite Club with the HSNP Rotary Club.

President Chuck Launius



This week was my last meeting as your club's president as we have our installation banquet next Tuesday and President Elect **Tiffany Tucker** will preside over the June 30th meeting when we have Governor Hutchinson visit our club.

I want to simply restate what we spoke about this past Wednesday with the future of our Wednesday's meetings and the monthly dues for our club.

After much planning, effective July 28th our Wednesday meetings will be held at the Double Tree Hotel which is on Central Avenue overlooking Lake Hamilton.

After careful consideration of membership's concerns, as well as conferring with the board and the past president's committee, we feel this change is needed in order to maintain the value our club holds for its members.

There will be more details to come as we draw closer to July 28th but our reasons are simply based on the concerns of our membership in regards to food options, parking costs and the actual venue setting.

The Lake Hamilton Ballroom which offers a panoramic view of Lake Hamilton, quality audio and video equipment, as well as a stocked and variety food buffet for our members with the bonus of free parking. I'm confident you will be pleased with the new setting. The cost of this venue and food is the same as what we pay now at the Arlington.

I want to thank the Arlington and its staff for this venue which we have resided in for almost 100 years and in years to come we as a club will always hold a special memory of the Arlington Hotel.

Secondly, AND this has nothing to do with our venue change as I stated the cost is the same in both venues, our club has endured rising costs in food along with general inflationary pressures in our operating costs. Please understand our balance sheet is strong, very strong, but with the increase in costs, we have to raise our dues. After cutting a variety of expenses in our budget for the upcoming year, we realize we must move our monthly dues to a rate that enables our club to maintain a balanced budget with little to break even margins at the end of our fiscal Rotary year.

So after much planning, effective in July we will adjust our monthly dues to \$82 per month.

This will enable our club to maintain strong financial integrity in the future and, again, the primary cost driver over the past three years since our last increase is our meals, along with inflation in operating costs for our club.

Our club stands strong financially at this time. In the coming Rotary year, we will certainly have to be a bit more creative in fund raising from the general public in order to drive the revenue needed to fund our committee goals, serve our community, to leave our rates alone in the near future and allow fund raising to replace future due adjustments. So let's remember this as we enter the new Rotary year.

Lastly, I want to thank each of you for the support and encouragement this past year because without it my residency as president would have been diminished. I know the changes we are about to undertake can find value in your heart for Hot Springs National Park Rotary, a club that stands separate from all other clubs. With a new venue, a strong balance sheet and engaged members, I feel we are about to prosper as a Rotary Club. Thank you again, fellow Rotarians, as all of you are certainly **◆Salt of the Earth◆**.

Absence

We missed you!			Active R85
Alderdice, Stephanie Allison, Ronnie G. Jr. Britton, Beau Brooks, Brenda Brown, Daniel Brown, Jeremy W Butterfield, Roxanne Carney, James A Carter, Kim Couch, Mary Anne Dante, Charles H. Jr. Davin, Peter Dews, John Scott Disney, Daniel E. Dodd, Nick Garner, Lance B. Gooch, Don	Graham, Joseph P. Hall, Kevin R. Harper, Susan Allen Helm, Michael D. Hinz, Ernie D. Hogan, John A. Hollingshead, Carol Jared, Donna Johnson, Paulette S. Kelly, Judith Heikes Kerst, William L. LaFollette, Diane Lipton, Michael J. Martinez, Rafael Matone, Chad DDS McCabe, Patrick G. McGrew, Richard W	Mouton, Alex Northern, Martin Pitard, Toddy Pratt, John A. Raub, Michael Ross, Doug Stobaugh, John S Switzer, Meredith Blaise Taylor, Kathy H. Thurber, Darla Tuohey, James Michael Warren, Les A. White, Michael Woodward, Maria Wright, Raymond Zunick, S. Robert	Brunner, John H. Craft, Joyce L. Davenport, H. W. Endicott, Lynn E. Fleischner, Stuart Allen Mazzanti, James R. Smith, Dennis C. Smith, Scott A. Woosley, Joseph L.

Thought for the Week

**"Keep knocking,
 and the joy inside will eventually open a window
 and look out to see who's there".
 ~Rumi**