



**Shari Long** 9/8  
**Casey Ferguson** 9/11  
**Tom Robinson** 9/12  
**Amber Clemons** 9/14  
**Bill McNutt** 9/18  
**Marion Winkler** 9/18  
**Max Miller** 9/20



**CALENDAR**

- ▶ TODAY:  
**Mike Miller**  
Sunbelt Conference official
- SEPTEMBER 8:  
**Mike Miller**  
Sunbelt Conference official
- LAST MEETING:  
**Ken Pruett**  
Miss. Furniture Association
- RICK FAUCETTE** | PROGRAM CHAIR



**NEWEST MEMBERS**

Monte Foxx  
Lisa Bryant  
Jillian Foster  
Jay Dey

**Do your part  
and introduce  
someone to  
Rotary today!**

**TODAY'S SONG**

**America, The Beautiful**

O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain.  
For purple mountain majesties Above the fruited plain.  
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,  
And crown they good with brotherhood  
from sea to shining sea.

**ROTARY NEWS**

**Tupelo Rotary's contribution to improving literacy**

**Debbie Hall**

Literacy & Education Committee Chair

A study posted about a year ago by the Public Policy Center of Mississippi gave the following information on national literacy levels:

▶ **Prose Literacy** (ability to understand and get information from continuous texts such as editorials & instruction manuals)

– 14% below basic; 29% basic; 44% intermediate; 13% proficient

▶ **Document literacy** (ability to understand and get information from noncontinuous texts such as job applications & maps)

– 12% below basic; 22% basic; 53% intermediate; 13% proficient

▶ **Quantitative literacy** (ability to make calculations from numbers within texts, such as balancing a checkbook)

– 22% below basic; 33% basic; 33% intermediate; 13% proficient

Mississippi's current estimates of literacy will not be known until this study's data are completed. However, the state's dropout rate was recently estimated at 38%, 8% above the national average, by the nonprofit group Editorial Projects in Education, so it is likely that literacy rates will be correspondingly low. According to

the Lee County information from Create's 2008 State of the Region information, 75% of Lee County's population has a high school diploma, so that should make our area some better than the state average for literacy.

This information is useless unless we do something about it. We are: Our Club, along with many other Rotary Clubs, will be distributing dictionaries to third grade students. For the past 3 years, The Rotary Club of Tupelo has distributed 3,300 books to the students of Tupelo Public and Lee County Schools. This year that number will increase to 1,200 dictionaries to a record enrollment of 3rd graders in Tupelo and Lee County schools. Money to purchase the dictionaries comes from your dues community service assessment.

Over the next few weeks, you will be asked to assist by putting the Rotary name plate in each dictionary, Our plans are to distribute these on October 16, Noah Webster's 250th Birthday. Please let one of the Literacy & Education group members know if you would like to be a part of this exciting project for the future of our community: Members are Skip Johnson, Mike Miller, Todd Beadles, Octavius Ivy, Tracy Kramer and Richard Hastings.

**WORTH REPEATING**

*"The man who has done his level best... is a success, even though the world may write him down a failure."*

**B. C. FORBES**

**TODAY'S PROGRAM**

**Mike Miller**

*Sunbelt Conference football official*

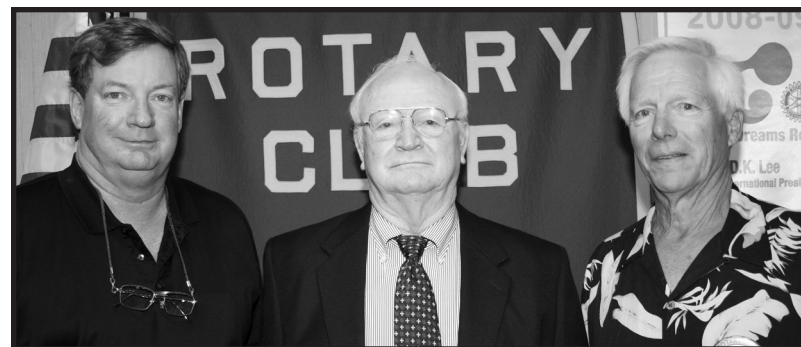
Mike Miller, of Tupelo, officiates football games for the Sunbelt Conference, a Division I Football Bowl Subdivision league. He has worked with the league since 2003.

Miller began his football officiating career in 1987, working junior high and high school games. In

1993 he began working Mississippi community college games, and in 1997 began officiating in the Gulf South Conference, a Division II league.

He and his wife, Harriet, have two children and two grandchildren.

**ROTARY RECENTLY**



**MISSISSIPPI'S FURNITURE LEADER**

Ken Pruett, center, head of the Mississippi Furniture Association, spoke to the Rotary Club of Tupelo recently. Shown with Pruett are, left, program chair Rick Faucette and, right, Wayne Scoville, club president.

**LETTER OF THANKS**

Dear Tupelo Rotary Club Members,  
We wanted to express our sincere gratitude for inviting us to your meeting on the 18th August. We felt very privileged to join you for a lovely lunch and the fascinating talk given by Dick Guyton a true gentleman and personal friend of Arena Travel.

The fans very much enjoyed the lunch

particularly sitting with and meeting your members who were extremely welcoming. Wishing you well in all the good work the club does for the local community and looking forward to meeting you again in the not too distant future.

Kindest Regards,  
Stuart Wade & Neil Cameron  
*Arena Travel / Elvis Presley Fan Club of Great Britain*

**NOTES & EVENTS**

**Next Meeting Friday, Sept. 19:**

Our club will not meet on Monday, Sept. 15. Instead, we meet on Friday, Sept. 19, along with the Kiwanis Club, for the CREATE Teachers of Distinction program.

**GSE team members sought:**

Next year our district is planning on sending a GSE team to India. The approximate dates are Jan. 5 to Feb. 2, 2009. Do you know anybody who would be interested in going? Please talk to your coworkers and friends. The candidates must meet the following requirements: 1) Must be between the ages of 25-40 years; 2) Must be in their early stages of business career; 3) Must be U.S. Citizen; 4) Must be able to take off 4 weeks from their work.

Rotary will pay all the expenses for the travel between Memphis and India. While in India, the candidates will stay with the Rotarian families. We are also looking for a Rotarian to lead the group. If you're interested, see Wayne Scoville for an application.

**ROTARYVIEW INFO**

For items to be published in RotaryView, please contact:

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*Deadline for item submission  
is Noon Wednesday.*