

# The Nerve



A Weekly Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa

P.O. Box 2403, Tuscaloosa, AL 35403 — [www.Rotarytuscaloosa.com](http://www.Rotarytuscaloosa.com)

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Nerve Editor: Ryan Stallings

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## This Week, April 23, 2013 Dr. Judy Bonner The University of Alabama President



Dr. Judy L. Bonner is the current President of The University of Alabama. Before becoming President she has been Provost and Executive Vice President at University Of Alabama since April 1, 2006. Dr, Bonner served as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs since March, 2003. She served as Dean of the College of Human Environmental Studies at The University of Alabama since 1989 and prior to that, Special Assistant to the President, Assistant Academic Vice President, and Head of the Department of Human Nutrition and Hospitality Management. She has held faculty positions at The University of Alabama in Birmingham and The Ohio State University. Dr. Bonner is an active member of civic, scientific and professional organizations and is the author of numerous books and articles. Dr. Bonner holds two degrees from The University of Alabama - the B.S. in Nutrition and the M.S. in Food and Nutrition, and the Ph.D. in Human Nutrition from The Ohio State University.

## Last Week, April 16 Janet Teer

Our Speaker today was Janet Teer, General Legal Counsel for DCH. Janet spoke on how DCH dealt with the tornado emergency of 4/27/11. Janet was the incident commander on this day. She works with the Emergency Preparedness Team at DCH. She said that before when she used to think it was silly to get nervous over the weather – she now "Gets It".

Janet was originally not the Administrator on call that day – but because she works with the team, and Emergency Preparedness is in her designation, she is almost always involved at some level. Ken Aldridge was the Administrator on call – but due to the fact that he is a Physician, and would better serve in that capacity if any emergency arose – she took over that day. She moved to open the Command Center that morning after the Coaling tornado. The Command Center is simple a room with laptops, link phones, cells and other necessary equipment needed in an emergency situation.

After the Coaling incident – there were only 4 – 5 people that came to the ER – not too taxing. They were already prepared in the Command Center due to the NWS indicating earlier in the week that there could be bad weather later in the week – so everything was ready to go. Since the weather continued to look ominous, they decided to keep the Command Center up and running after the Coaling event.

They were just monitoring the weather on TV at about 2:30. The parking decks and waiting rooms began to fill up – as is usual during a tornado threat. At this point it was "watch and wait". At 4:50PM a "code gray" was called. This means the facility is at risk and as many patients as possible need to be moved out of harms way. They were put in the hallway to get them away from the windows. At 5:17 the tornado hit. The power went out. Emergency Power kicked in. They assessed the damage to the building and began the conversation of what to do next. They called the EMA, the Salvation Army and the Red Cross and could not get anyone! Little did they know – all three had been wiped out!

They kept getting info that "most of Tuscaloosa was gone" - but they could not comprehend or believe. Then....people began to arrive. People from Cedar Crest walked. Pickups arrived with full beds, some arrived carrying people on doors. They arrived in every way imaginable. Even the hardened veterans of the ER were shocked by what they saw. The first ambulance brought three

dead children from Rosedale and it continued. They came, and came and came, BUT so did Doctors and Nurses! Some that used to work in the ER, some Retired, some that never had worked in ER. Young and old....they came to help.

The 600 emergency admission kits they had prepared were gone in three hours. Information was collected on pieces of paper, ID bracelets became Sharpie written on hands. Some never got registered at all. They put together a shelter sometime in the night when people who were discharged had nowhere to go.

Eventually Churches called and some were bussed by County School busses who also showed up to help. Every Dr. was hands on doing whatever needed to be done. Stitching up wounds, you name it. Nurses were walking around with scared children on their hips whose parents were either gone or had not been found – while they were tending to the injured. All in all between 6pm and 5am about 1200 were treated. 900 with a record and 300 without.

Janet stated "It is amazing what people can do when they feel like heroes. Your hospital was full of heroes that day. That is how they did what they did.

Many improvements have been made to DCH – like new shatter resistant windows at the ends of the hallways, hurricane shutters. We will have a safer – more prepared facility if another Community Emergency strikes.

Janet ended with this statement: "Plan beyond your wildest dreams, because your wildest dreams CAN happen."



## Announcements

- Tuscaloosa Rotary Honor Flight will be making its 4<sup>th</sup> flight on May 18<sup>th</sup> and we will be taking both WWII and Korean War Veterans to see their memorials in Washington, D. C. More information will be posted on the Club's Website, and anyone interested in helping out with this year's flight or knows a potential veteran or guardian can e-mail Rotarian Jordan Plaster at [james\\_plasterjr@ml.c](mailto:james_plasterjr@ml.c)

- Two people have been proposed for membership into the Club. They are **Chris McCune** (sponsored by Drew Kyle) and **Cason Kirby** (sponsored by Susan Capels).
- President James announced the Club will have Rotary t-shirts available to order in the coming weeks.
- Phil Williams, District Governor passed away. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers



## **News from the Foundation:**

### **PAUL HARRIS FELLOW INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

The Club is making a limited number of Foundation Recognition Points available for Rotarians wishing to contribute to the Rotary Foundation to become a Paul Harris Fellow. This matching plan is a one-time only offer for Rotarians to help Rotarians in good standing complete their initial Paul Harris Fellow giving. A maximum of 250 Recognition points and a minimum of 100 Recognition points per individual will be available on a first come basis from the club until all points allocated have been used. Recognition points are equivalent to dollars that have been contributed to the Foundation but not yet used for recognition. The program is only for Rotarians who are interested in becoming first time Paul Harris Fellows. The total of Rotarian contribution and club contribution must equal \$1,000. The club contribution will match the Rotarian's on a one-to-one basis. For example, if a Rotarian has a current contribution balance of \$500, they may request 250 Recognition points from the club to go with a \$250 contribution for a \$1,000 total and Paul Harris recognition. If you are interested please see J. G. Brazil, Chairman, Club Foundation Committee, for further details. This offer is good for the month of April only.

The Rotary Foundation encourages all Rotarians to become Paul Harris Fellows and to continue to make annual contribution to the Foundation so that Rotary may carry on its vital humanitarian programs around the world. This incentive program recognizes this worthy goal and encourages all eligible members to consider taking this opportunity to step up to Paul Harris Fellow.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

April 30

Amy Grinstead  
with Community  
Soup Bowl

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May 7

Dr. Robert Will

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May 14

Gina Simpson with  
The EDGE

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“If there is any one particular in which I would have Rotary distinguished from other organizations, it is in the quality of character which results in the doing of things.”

— Paul Harris



## At the Head Table, April 16

**Jackie Wuska** (guest intro), **Nancy Jones** (speaker intro), and **Loy Singleton** (Invocation), **Randall Huffaker** (pledge)



## Guests April 16

Guests at the April 16th meeting of the Club included: **Ryan Flynn**, Guest of Jack Warner (Sales at Yellowhammer Inn); **Victoria Gilbert**, guest of Tina Jones (Intern TTSC); **Rachel Nathan** guest of Matt Hood (Hotel Capstone); **David Pass**, guest of James Leitner (Sealy Realty) **Chris McCune** (Cadence Bank), guest of Drew Kyle

## ABSENT? MAKING UP ATTENDANCE IS EASY...

- Visit with the Morning Rotary Club every Thursday at 7 AM at Indian Hills Country Club.
- Attend another club's meeting within two weeks before or after an absence.
- Participate in a Rotary event, such as a committee meeting, social function, Interact event, etc.
- Make up at E-club online: [www.rotaryclubone.org](http://www.rotaryclubone.org).

REPORT ALL MAKEUPS TO CLUB SECRETARY NANCY JONES