

The Nerve



A Weekly Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa

P.O. Box 2403, Tuscaloosa, AL 35403 — www.Rotarytuscaloosa.com

Volume 95 — Issue 40 — May 7, 2013

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This Week, May 7, 2013 Dr. Robert Witt

Officers, 2012-13

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On March 5, 2012, Dr. Robert E. Witt was unanimously elected Chancellor of The University of Alabama System, which is Alabama's largest higher education enterprise. Comprised of doctoral research universities in Birmingham, Huntsville and Tuscaloosa as well as the UAB Health System, the UA System budget exceeds \$4.6 billion with student enrollment of 57,000 and more than 26,000 employees.

Prior to becoming UA System Chancellor,

Dr. Witt was President of The University of Alabama, assuming that post in 2003. During his nine-year tenure he was responsible for successfully undertaking an ambitious plan for academic growth and achievement that has positioned UA as one of America's fastest growing public universities. The University of Alabama's Fall 2011 freshman class was the largest in history and ranked second in the nation among public universities in the enrollment of National Merit Scholars.

Before being recruited to Alabama, Dr. Witt was President of the University of Texas at Arlington from 1995-2003. He began his 35-year career in higher education in the state of Texas in 1968 when he joined the business school faculty at the University of Texas at Austin, rising through the ranks as chair and associate dean. In 1985 he was named dean of the UT business school, which was recognized by the Wall Street Journal as one of the top seven schools of business in the world.

Robert Witt received his B.A. in economics from Bates College, his M.B.A. from the Tuck School at Dartmouth College, and his Ph.D. from Penn State University. In 2011 he was inducted into the Alabama Academy of Honor, comprised of 100 living Alabamians elected on the basis of service to the state.

Last Week, April 30

Last week the Rotary Club welcomed Amy Grinstead with the Community Soup Bowl. This year is the 30th anniversary of the Soup Bowl, which was started by Rev. Craddock at Christ Episcopal to feed the hungry. Thirty years ago – they fed about 50 people a day. They started at the church, then rented a house near the church and cooked soup, then transported to the church to serve for 7 years, and then finally built the current building 15 years ago.

Lunch is served 7 days a week from 11 – 12:50. Staff handles Monday – Friday, and volunteers handle the weekend, with the Assistant Director in charge on weekends to supervise. They average 220 plates on weekdays and 250 on the weekend. There is a rise on weekends and when school is out because children are added to the count.

Donations can be in many forms such as money, food, and by volunteering time. They are primarily funded by the downtown churches, and roughly 2% of their funding is received through grants. Average cost is about \$2.00/plate or roughly \$10 – 12K per month operational costs. Local contributors are Publix, Edelweiss and Panera for desserts & breads.

The people that come to the food bowl are made up of some homeless, some transient, and some families that work, but just cannot make ends meet. They come on foot, by bike, hitch-hike, and public transportation. She has people that walk from as far as from Northport, Duncanville and Alberta.

Food supplied comes from the Food Bank, in many cases. They work with other agencies so as not to duplicate services.

There is an East Tuscaloosa Soup Bowl in Alberta that serves 2 weekdays with sack lunches provided at Hargrove United Methodist on Sunday. Sometimes local Ministers have a Bible study prior to the doors opening. Although the organization itself is for feeding of the hungry and not a "ministry" her stated mission for the Soup Bowl is to be the hands & feet of Jesus, as referenced in Matthew 25.

Asked about underlying issues or trend, Ms. Grinstead said "most people are simply low-income that cannot get by on what they make – or have been out of work longer than anticipated and have used all their resources up. Good people, Everyday people that just need a little help".



Announcements

- Tuscaloosa Rotary Honor Flight will be making its 4th flight on May 18th 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@mlc
- **Dave Pass** (sponsored by James Leitner), **Chris McCune** (sponsored by Drew Kyle), and **Cason Kirby** (sponsored by Susan Caples) have all met the requirements for induction into the club, and have been approved by the Board.
- J.G. Brazil made a Paul Harris presentation to John Jessup.
- Reminder! Tuscaloosa Rotary shirts can still be ordered through Chuck Turner.
- Margaret King presented the recipients for the Spain Hickman Award, Jack Seay Scholarship, and the Frank Deaver Scholarship to the club, and awarded each their scholarship. Each spoke briefly and humbly, thanked the club, and described how they planned to use the money. Very exciting futures ahead!



News from the Foundation:

With the emphasis on the importance of The Foundation and every Rotarian making a contribution each year to The Foundation, comes the additional recommendation for every Rotarian to keep up with his/her giving history. A monthly report is generated on-line by Rotary International entitled, "Club

Recognition Summary.” That Summary is printed out by the Club Foundation Committee Chairman and is available at each club meeting should a member wish to know where they stand in their giving toward Paul Harris Fellow or Multiple Paul Harris Fellow. Members are also encouraged to go on-line themselves to www.Rotary.org and review their giving history through “Member Access.” IT’S EASY. On the Home Page of Rotary International, in the upper right corner click on “member access.” You will be asked to establish an account. Click on “create account.” Once you have an account and have it opened, click on “View Your Contribution History.” You will have complete accounting of all contribution during your Rotary membership. NEXT STEP; Keep contributing and watch it grow.



Can Rotary Make Our World Safer?

By Frank Deaver:

War is a dirty word. Why war? Why not peace? History is filled with the ugliness of warfare, and mankind appears not to have learned the lessons taught by history. The suffering is largely imposed on the innocent – those sent to do the fighting, and those who cannot escape the venue of the fighting.

Decision-makers who initiate war seldom involve themselves or their family members in the fighting, but send others into battle. War's victors dictate the terms of peace, but often it is only temporary. The defeated seek opportunity for revenge. A rebellion may be crushed, only to resurface again.

Why do we fight? Is it for land, or for power? Is it aggression, or revenge? Is it greed, or hatred? Is it defense, or pre-emption? Is it for a noble cause, or for selfish motives? Is it for a current conflict, or an extension of ancient differences? Does the end justify the means? Are even desirable ends worth the human suffering?

These questions lead to even more important ones. Are there no alternatives? Is it not better to talk than to kill? Have negotiations been exhausted before lives are sacrificed? Can't we consider what we agree on rather than on our differences?

And what is the role of Rotary? Could wars be avoided with prior consideration of our Four-Way Test? Can Rotary help reduce hostilities?

Rotary stands for international friendship, for respect, for fairness. Our Group Study Program, Friendship Exchanges, and international scholarships promote understanding. Our humanitarian services promote health and prosperity. Our Rotary Centers for International Studies encourage peace and conflict resolution.

If, in these activities, we can encourage more discourse and less hostility, Rotary will have contributed to peace. Rotary will have discouraged the hell of war.



Guests April 30

Guests at the April 30 meeting of the Club included:

Ryan Flynn, guest of Jack Warner (Yellow Hammer Inn); **Dedre Van Zandt**, guest of Margret King (Capstone Int. Ass. Director); **Lisa Williams** guest of Rodney Landreth (Trussville Rotary Club); **David Pass**, guest of James Leitner (Sealy Realty) **Chris McCune** (Cadence Bank), guest of Drew Kyle; **Sahar Kashavaz**.



At the Head Table April 30

Mitchell Loper (speaker intro), **Susan Caples** (Invocation), **Lucas Hayes** (guest intro), **Karen Baldwin** (Pledge).

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

May 14

**Gina Simpson with
The EDGE**

May 21

**Lauren Ballard
Angel Flight Soars**

May 28

Judge Mark Fuller

“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

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.

REPORT ALL MAKEUPS TO CLUB SECRETARY NANCY JONES