

The Nerve



A Weekly Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa
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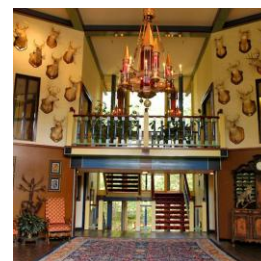
This Week, February 14: Sweetheart's Night!



It's time once again for Rotarians to join together with their sweethearts to celebrate Valentine's Day! This week, (appropriately) on February 14, Rotarians will gather not at Indian Hills, but at North River Yacht Club for Sweetheart's Night 2012. The Gala event will feature dinner and music by the Lamplighters, and some fabulous door prizes (plus, if we are lucky, singing by **Rotarian Jim Thompson...**)!

Entertainment will begin and the bar will open at 6 p.m. Guests will then be seated for dinner at 6:45. The charge for a spouse is \$ 34 and will be billed on your next Rotary statement. All bar purchases will also be billed on your next Rotary statement.

Also note a special offer for this year: [The Yellowhammer Inn](http://www.TheYellowhammerInn.com) is offering a one night Sweetheart Special rate for only \$79. Call and make your reservation today!



For questions or further information, including a list of those registered to attend, please visit our club website at www.rotarytuscaloosa.com, or contact **Rotarian Diane Salls** at 205-248-6104. Our thanks to Diane and to all of her committee members for all of their excellent work!

Last Week, February 7: Page Makes Big Plans for West Alabama Business



The new President and Chief Executive Officer of the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama believes in public service, and he believes in people. “When people come together for like causes,” Jim Page says, “you really can change the community you live in.” Last Tuesday Rotarians learned a bit more about how Page recently found his way to Tuscaloosa, and his vision for the CCWA. **Rotarian Jordan Plaster** introduced the Speaker.

After working in a pro-business lobbying firm in Montgomery, Page had settled down to work in Decatur Alabama, working over nine years for the Chamber of Commerce and recruiting retail businesses for the city. He had no plans to leave, but then he got an email advertising an open position for the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama. Page knew of what he called “the caliber of the people” in Tuscaloosa and the region, and described the CCWA as a “fine organization.” He sought the position, and soon got the job.

Now firmly established in his new position, Page’s vision for the future centers on two sets of specific set of priorities. The first concerns internal reforms, including a re-alignment of the current staff of eight, and a renewed, strategic approach to the resource and funding challenges the CCWA faces.

A second, more expansive set of priorities centers on external affairs. Above all, Page intends to keep the CCWA focused on tornado recovery. “We intend to do everything in our power,” he said, to help businesses “get what they need” to get going again. Page is realistic about that process, and takes the view that it is “a marathon, not a sprint.”

Other priorities include a renewed emphasis on the Chamber’s role as a civic partner (working with the United Way of West Alabama, for example); an emphasis on public policy and advocacy (Page makes no apologies: the CCWA is a special interest group, and businesses need a voice!); an emphasis on workforce development, and targeted recruitment of retail businesses.

For more information on the TAH and its programs, visit www.tuscaloosahousing.org.



Off-Site Visit to Federal Courthouse February 21

A preliminary reminder to all Rotarians that our **February 21 meeting will not be at Indian Hills**. The meeting will instead take place at the new **Federal Courthouse**, 11:30-1 p.m. Two-hour parking is available on the streets around the court house. Free, unlimited parking is also available in the city's new three-deck lot one block away. All who attend will first go through security, then downstairs for lunch, followed by a courtroom power point presentation and a tour of the famous new murals. Rotarians are asked not to bring their cell phones (or their guns, knives or explosives...) in order to ease the process of getting through security. Any who have not signed up, and any who would like to bring a guest, or if you have any questions, contact **Bruce Burrows** at burr8200@bellsouth.net or 391-1910.



In Memoriam: **RI Past President and Birmingham Rotarian Glenn Estess, Sr.**

(Excerpts from the [article by Ryan Hyland](#), Rotary International News, February 8, 2012)



Glenn E. Estess Sr., who served as 2004-05 RI President during Rotary's centennial year, died on February 7. He was 84.

In 1993, Estess retired as chief executive officer of Glenn Estess Associates Inc., a sales and marketing personnel consulting firm, to devote himself full-time to Rotary.

Estess joined Rotary in 1960 and was a member of the Rotary Club of Shades Valley. In addition to his term as RI president, he served in numerous capacities, including Rotary Foundation trustee chair, RI vice president and director, president's aide, PolioPlus national coordinator, and district governor.

He was a recipient of the RI Service Above Self Award and The Rotary Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service and Distinguished Service Award. He was a Foundation Major Donor, a Paul Harris Fellow, and benefactor.

Through the RI theme *Celebrate Rotary*, Estess encouraged clubs to implement a Rotary centennial community project, form twin club relationships, and support the Every Rotarian, Every Year effort, which aims to achieve an annual US\$100 per capita contribution level for the Foundation's Annual Fund.

He is survived by his wife, Mary; son Glenn Estess Jr.; and daughters Elizabeth Wilson and Nancy Martin. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Glenn E. Estess Sr. Endowed Scholarship Fund at The Rotary Foundation, either online or through an RI international office. Contributions may also be directed to the Glenn E. Estess Sr. Endowed Scholarship Fund, under the Foundation's Permanent Fund.



Read Across America Day, March 2

Elisabeth Davis from the Tuscaloosa City Schools will be coming to our February 28 meeting and asking Rotarians to sign up to read books to students on **Read Across America Day**, which is March 2. Rotarians are asked to consider participation in this important event.



Guests, February 7

Guests at the February 7 meeting of the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa included **Calvin Brown** (guest of Pam Parker) and **Jackie Wuska Hurt** (guess of Kellee Reinhart).



At the Head Table, February 7

Rotarian Jordan Plaster is Senior Vice President and Wealth Management Advisor at Merrill Lynch. He is Past President of the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa, Chairman of the Tuscaloosa Rotary Honor Flight initiative and Chairman of the Public Affairs Council of the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama. He is an Elder at First Presbyterian Church and his son Harry is also a member of the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa. **Rotarian Bud Baker** is a Financial Consultant who is currently working with the Capital School, and who recently worked with Maude Whatley Health services. He is married and has three children in three states. Past Director of the DCH Cancer Center, he recently moved back to Tuscaloosa from Chattanooga. **Rotarian Sammy Watson**, a native of Tuscaloosa, worked in radio for twenty-five years. He served on the Tuscaloosa city council from 1985-1995, and served as Council President his last two years. He is currently Director of Community Relations for the DCH Health system, and is active in numerous charities and on numerous boards. He joined Rotary in 2006. **Rotarian Chuck Turner** has been a member of Rotary since 1986. He is a three-time Paul Harris fellow and Rotary board member. He Attended the University of Alabama, where he earned a degree in electrical engineering, and is now owner of Tennis Jackson Electric and Jackson Security Services. E has been married to Judy Culpepper for 45 years. They have two children, a daughter Meredith and a son Brad, as well as three grandsons.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

February 21

**Off-Site Meeting,
Federal Courthouse**

February 28

**Julie Holden
,Bradford Health Services**

“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 AT nancysjones@bellsouth.net