

The Nerve



A Weekly Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa
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This Week, February 7: Jim Page, Director of the West Alabama Chamber of Commerce



West Alabama has long been blessed with excellent civic and business leadership, and the region's Chamber of Commerce is an important part of that tradition. This Tuesday Rotarians will hear more about the Chamber and the business outlook in our region from **Jim Page**, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama. Jim also serves as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Chamber's Foundation.

The CCWA is an umbrella organization for more than 1,000 businesses. Its mission is to provide the leadership and vision to secure the best economic prosperity, business climate, and quality of life for our community.

Prior to his tenure in Tuscaloosa, Jim served nine years as Vice President of Public Policy and Business Development for the Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce in Decatur, Alabama. Jim also led the highly successful retail recruitment and development efforts of the City of Decatur through a partnership between the Chamber and Decatur City Council.

Jim earned a degree in Political Science and Marketing from the University of North Alabama, where he was elected President of the Student Government Association. He and his wife, Sara, are the proud parents of a three year old daughter, Elly.

For more on Page, and on the Chamber and its activities, visit www.tuscaloosachamber.com.

Last Week, January 31: Tuscaloosa Housing Authority Working to Rebuild

This past Tuesday, Rotarians heard from **Chris Hall**, Director of Development for the Tuscaloosa Housing Authority, on all of the recent work his office has done for renewal of public housing in our city.

Rotarian Steve Katsinas introduced the speaker.



The THA is a quasi-governmental agency which provides affordable housing opportunities to eligible lower-income residents. They manage or administer more than 2,000 affordable housing units in Tuscaloosa, and maintain a waiting list with more than 2,000 families.

That kind of job is a challenge in any environment, and the THA seeks funding, Hall said, through a combination of government funds, tax credits and grants. In 2004, the THA applied for and received a \$20 million HOPE VI Grant from HUD to revitalize McKenzie Court. McKenzie was completed in the fall of 2010 (pictured left) and is now one of the premiere affordable housing developments in the entire state.

Hall said the THA has long worked to revitalize Rosedale as well. On April 27, 2011, out of pure coincidence, the tornado completely destroyed a part of Rosedale that was proposed for renewal. In June THA was then awarded \$13.6 million in tax credits for Rosedale revitalization.

The City has now identified the 10th Avenue corridor as one of the “strategic gateways” in the Tuscaloosa Forward Plan. Rosedale is the centerpiece of the corridor, which connects Interstate 20/59 almost directly to Bryant Denny Stadium and the University of Alabama. THA’s aim is to make Tuscaloosa proud of Rosedale and that part of town, while also providing quality affordable housing to our lower-income citizens. For more information on the THA and its programs, visit www.tuscaloosahousing.org.



Tuscaloosa Students Excel at RYLA Conference

The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) conference took place in Huntsville on January 26-28. Our Club was proud to sponsor five students from Northside High School and Tuscaloosa Academy. The RYLA director was impressed, and said that ours was the best group of scholars we have had! Our students completed and presented an impressive project to the group. During the three days, the students heard nine speakers on leadership, took part in a group project, attended a mini-space camp, and graduated from RYLA on the last day. Congratulations to our students for their success – and out thanks to **Rotarian Laura Crissey** for her leadership with RYLA!



Rotarian Jerry Shepherd Elected District Governor for 2014-15

Congratulations to our own Jerry Shepherd, who has been chosen as district governor for RI District 6860 in 2014-15! The district covers the northern half of Alabama and has 3846 members in 56 clubs. Jerry will be the official representative of Rotary International for our Club during that year. He is the 12th District governor from our club, one more than the Rotary Club of Birmingham (but who's counting, right?). For a list of our district governors through the years, visit the news feed on our website: www.rotarytuscaloosa.com.



Sweetheart's Night February 14!



It's time once again for Rotarians to join together with their sweethearts to celebrate Valentine's Day! Rotarian Diane Salls announced signups for **Sweetheart's Night 2012**, to be held (appropriately) on February 14. The event will feature music by the Lamplighters. Be sure to sign up at the next meeting!

February Birthdays

Norman Crow (2/2), Randy Skagen (2/4), Bruce Baughman (2/8), John Gillis (2/13), Terri May (2/14), Greg Holt (2/16), Harry Shumaker (2/16), Jeanette VanderMeer (2/21), Kenneth DeWitt (2/25), Howard Garrison (2/26), Butch Grimes (2/26), Janet Griffith (2/27), Charlie Durham (2/27)



Guests, February 31

Guests at last Tuesday's meeting included **Chris Hydrick** (UA Student), guest of Margaret King; **Lyn Moore** (Pritchett Moore and THA), guest of Lee Henderson; **Will Kelly** and **Debra Lott** (Frontier Enterprises), guest of Mike Chambers; and **Ford Williams** (Retired), guest of Jack Warner.



At the Head Table, February 31

Rotarian Randall Huffaker is originally from Huntsville, Alabama. He graduated from the University of Alabama where he met his wife Anne. They have three children. Randall has been in advertising and marketing for twenty years. He has won numerous advertising awards for ad campaigns, television and web work. Four years ago he started his own company, Alchemist Branding, which focuses on merging digital and traditional marketing. **Rotarian Laura Aaron** is an Executive Vice President of Banking with over 15 years of experience. She is a founding Board Member of the Literacy Council of West Alabama and former President and Treasurer of Big Brothers/Big Sisters. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2010 Defining Woman Award. She currently serves Tuscaloosa Rotary as Treasurer, has served on the Honor Flight Committee and has been a GSE host. **Rotarian Steve Katsinas** is director of the Education Policy Center and Professor of Higher Education at the University of Alabama. He is also a Consulting Scholar to the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. In April, 2011 he received the Senior Scholar Award from the Council for the Study of Community Colleges.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

February 14

Sweethear's Night!

February 28

**Vicki Johnson,
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