

# The Nerve



## This Week, February 28: Bradford Health Services and the Battle Against Addiction

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Michael Jackson, Amy Winehouse, Whitney Houston. The tragedies of addiction and substance abuse are all over the the news. And behind the tabloid news stories are the sobering statistics:

- Approximately 1 out of every 8 Americans is living with some form of addiction. And by every measure the rate is rising.
- Addiction to drugs and/or alcohol is a problem for approximately 30 million people in the United States alone.
- Approximately 15 percent of children under the age of 18 have admitted to experimenting with illegal drugs, and one-quarter of Eighth-grade students admit to smoking marijuana regularly.
- Approximately 70 percent of people who are using illegal drugs are employed.
- The average drug addict needs to come up with \$200 per day to support his or her addiction.
- One-quarter of all hospital admissions are related to alcoholism.

Behind every statistic are countless human stories of suffering and consequences: bankruptcy, divorce, prison, hospitals and death.

This week, Rotarians at the Tuscaloosa noon meeting will learn more about not only addiction and its costs, but about the solutions. Representatives of Bradford Health Services will speak to the Club about their many programs.

Bradford Health Services has been treating alcoholism and drug addiction in Alabama for more than 30 years. For more information visit [www.Bradfordhealth.com](http://www.Bradfordhealth.com).

## **Last Week, February 21: Tuscaloosa Rotarians Visit Federal Courthouse**

Recent legislation intended to beautify America's public buildings hasn't always worked as planned. By law ½ of 1% of all building costs in federal buildings must be spent on art and architecture. In some cases the money - our money—has paid for some odd projects, including a steel girder that was simply left to rust in the rain.

But the legislation has helped bring downtown Tuscaloosa to life. Last week Rotarians got a tour of the massive Greek Revival building on University Boulevard that is home to our new federal offices. The complex measures over 127,000 square feet, and was recently completed, under budget, at a cost of \$47.8 million.

The complex is home to several important new offices: U.S. District Court Judge Scott Coogler and Senator Richard Shelby, Social Security, the FBI, a federal bankruptcy court, and the U.S. Marshal's Office.

Rotarians eased through security and then enjoyed a boxed lunch from Newk's in a downstairs meeting room. U.S. Federal Judge Scott Coogler then welcomed Rotarians upstairs in his courtroom—or rather, as he emphasized, “your” courtroom. Coogler stressed that the building, and all of its work, belong to the people of the United States.

Coogler introduced Rotarians to some of his staff and to the general workings of his courtroom, as well as to the story surrounding the conceptualization of the need for and the design of the building. Coogler's own courtroom, in fact, was actually designed (and re-designed) with input from practicing attorneys.

Attention then turned to the culutral centerpiece of the building: The sixteen historical murals of Tuscaloosa by aritst Caleb O'Connor. Coogler and his senior clerk presented a detailed account of each mural, including how O'Connor chose his scenes, drafted his concepts, and executed his work. There was also discussion of how O'Connor often used models from the Tuscaloosa community for his subjects, including Coogler himself—and maybe even a few Rotarians....



## **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.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

March 6

Dr. Sue Parker,  
“Remnants  
of the  
Storm”

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March 13

Aileen  
Henderson,  
Alabama  
Author

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March 20

Rob  
Henrikson,  
Retired CEO  
of MetLife  
Insurance

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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



## Guests, February 21

Guests at last week's off-site meeting to the Federal Courthouse included Betty Shamblin, Jim Briggs and Pat Briggs, guests of Jim Shamblin; Rosemary Ingram, guest of Bobby Ingram; Lori Layden; Patsy Turner, guest of Ted Turner and Jerry Sanders, guest of Bob Helms.

### 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 AT  
[nancysjones@bellsouth.net](mailto:nancysjones@bellsouth.net)