

The Nerve



A Weekly Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa

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Nerve Editor: Ryan Stallings

This Week, September 4, 2012 Secretary of State Beth Chapman

Officers, 2012-13

James Leitner
President

Karen Baldwin
President-Elect

Nancy Jones
Secretary

Joe May
Treasurer

Frank Deaver
Executive Director

Bruce Burrows
Sergeant-At-Arms

Directors, 2012-13

Clark Swail
Membership

Lowell Davis
Programs

Ryan Stallings
Communications

Mitchell Loper
Vocational

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Community Service

Margaret King
International

J. G. Brazil
Foundation

Warner Johnson
Past President

Jerry Shepherd
Assistant District Governor



Secretary of State Beth Chapman was elected Alabama's 51st Secretary of State in November of 2006 after being elected and serving four years as State Auditor.

Secretary Chapman received her B.S. Degree from the University of Montevallo, and her Master's Degree, Magna Cum Laude, from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She also completed post-graduate work with a perfect 4.0.

Secretary Chapman was the first woman in Alabama's history to serve as a Cabinet Member in the capacity of Appointments Secretary for a Governor and later as Press Secretary for a Lt. Governor. In addition, she and her family have owned a successful business for more than a decade.

Under Chapman's leadership the number of Alabama voter's increased by approximately 200,000 and she and her staff successfully conducted the largest Presidential Election in Alabama's history.

Secretary Chapman has received numerous military commendations for her advancement of the patriotic spirit in America: the Seven Seals Award by the Employer Support for the Guard and Reserves (ESGR), three appointments by Alabama's Governor and Adjutant General to participate in the Partnership for Peace Program - representing Alabama in Romania, Belgium and Germany. Secretary Chapman was honored by the United States Selective Service Board, received an award of support from the Alabama National Guard, and was chosen to represent Alabama at the National Security Forum at the nationally-renowned Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base. She has been invited to speak and represent Alabama at numerous military events throughout the United States.

She is the author of three books. One, *The Power of Patriotism*, received a national award, the distinguished George Washington Honor Medal from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge. She has also written two patriotic speeches, which have been entered into the Congressional Record by Senator Jeff Sessions and Congressman Jo Bonner respectively.

Last Week, August 28

Last week Rotarians welcomed **Tuscaloosa Rotary's own Sheriff Ted Sexton**. Sheriff Sexton is running for Probate Judge of Tuscaloosa County, and expressed some of his concerns that face the County. A few of his concerns were the unemployment rate, industrial development, judicial reform, and new roads in 59 subdivisions, just to name a few.

Sheriff Sexton believes that partnering with the Universities in Tuscaloosa will help keep the best and brightest here in Tuscaloosa. Sexton believes that the momentum just isn't where it should be for the growth and development of Tuscaloosa County. Sheriff Sexton will take part in a debate against current Probate Judge Hardy McCollum at the October 9th meeting of the club.



Rotary is Opportunity

by Frank Deaver

Have you ever been asked, "What is Rotary?" Reduced to a single word, Rotary is **Opportunity**. RI President (1978-79) Clem Renouf said, "Rotary takes ordinary men [*and women*], and gives them extra-ordinary opportunities." Of course Rotary is many things, but summed up in opportunity.

Rotary is opportunity for **acquaintance**. Without Rotary, members' local acquaintance would be limited perhaps to neighborhood and workplace. Through Rotary classification, acquaintance is spread across the community, including most local businesses and professions.

Rotary is opportunity for **networking**. Paul Harris initially brought friends together for social contacts, but one of their first decisions was to target their business relations primarily with one another. Rotarians are confident they can trust each other for professional or business needs.

Rotary is opportunity for **personal growth**. A member may become a committee member or director, rising to the job's expectations, gaining self-confidence, poise, and increased leadership ability.

Rotary is opportunity for **better citizenship**. In their weekly programs, Rotarians gain understanding of government, business, and society. Through participation in community projects, they gain appreciation for local needs, and their ability to meet some of those needs.

Rotary is opportunity for **mentoring**. Through sponsorship of Interact and Rotaract clubs, through school projects or literacy programs, members have opportunity to share their expertise with future leaders.

Rotary is opportunity for **ethical awareness**. The Four-Way Test defines high standards of personal integrity. Rotarians are expected to practice and encourage ethical behavior in the workplace and the community.

Rotary is opportunity for **world understanding**. Meeting with foreign guests and students, members gain a multi-cultural awareness, and insight into the world society.

Rotary is opportunity for **fellowship and service**. But isn't that included in all of the other opportunities mentioned? The central fact remains: **Rotary is Opportunity**



Guests, August 28

Guests at the August 28 meeting of the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa included: **Beth Springer**, guest of Brad Springer; **Brandt Montgomery** (Priest-Canterbury), guest of Rufus Lewis; Ron **Abernathy** (Chief Deputy Tuscaloosa County Sheriffs Office), guest of Ted Sexton.



At the Head Table, August 28

Jordan Plaster (speaker intro), **Debbi Besant** (guest intro), **Randall Huffaker** (pledge), **Mike Hardin** (Invocation). President- Elect **Karen Baldwin** led the meeting in the absence of President **James Leitner**



News from the Rotary International Foundation

This week our club kicks off its Every Rotarian, Every Year campaign. Every Rotarian is encouraged to make an annual contribution of some amount to the Rotary International Foundation. Indeed our club goal is 100 percent. The easiest method of making a contribution in our club is the addition of a specific contribution amount added to the individual Rotarian's quarterly billing. A large number of Rotarians choose this option now. Also, those wishing to make a contribution by check may do so. The Rotary International Foundation is the only charitable organization funded by contributions from Rotarians, for programs and projects identified by Rotarians, and administered by Rotarians at the project site. Quoting Rotarian Luis Zea, Rotary club of Godoy Cruz, Mendoza, Argentina, "If world understanding and peace is the philosophy that motivates the existence of Rotary, and The Rotary Foundation is the means which makes this possible, what Rotarian would not want to support our Foundation?"



News from the Tuscaloosa Rotary Memorial Foundation: By Jim Shamblin

Historically the RC of T did not do large projects as a club. The civic leaders of Tuscaloosa were members and we supported their projects, but we did so as individuals. In fact, in the late '60s, Ed Christopher, a former club president, long time Ex. Secretary of the club and PDG, who was the Boy Scout Executive, asked the club to donate \$3000 to improve the kitchen facilities at the Scout camp and the club declined.

About 1970, some of the club leadership started talking about having a significant club project. For many years, Stan Bloom's father, Bill, who was a former club president, had entertained foreign students at the UA. Stan, who had served in Germany during WW II, and had helped his father with the

students, had many contacts at the University and he talked with the University President David Matthews about the possibility of us doing something there. They came up with the idea of taking an old fraternity house scheduled for demolition and turning it into a place where foreign and American students could live together and learn more about other countries. A meeting was held among our leadership and the proposal was adopted and a goal was set to raise \$50,000 from the membership and move forward with the building of the Tuscaloosa Rotary International House. Actually about \$65,000 was raised and Lloyd Wood did the renovation and furnishings at his cost of \$50,000. The House was dedicated in Stan's year as president, 1973-74, and William C. Carter, the RI President from England, attended and spoke.

Current club members who were founding members of the TRMF include Bob Amason, Bruce Baughman, Stan Bloom, Frank Deaver, John Duckworth, Joe Brown Duckworth, Gary Fitts, Howard Garrison, Jim Hughey, Jim Shamblin, Bill Jessup, who served as treasurer for many years and John Owens, who served as President also for a number of years.

A list of the projects of the TRMF can be found at the back of the club pictorial directory. With the payment of \$100,000 to Caring Days, we have given over \$800,000 to our community. I want to thank the two outstanding chairs for the Caring Days drive, Pam Parker and John Owens.

We normally have club projects every three years and ask people to give a three year pledge to attain our goal. We will finish the Caring Days pledges in June 2013 and then it will be time to select another project. All of our projects are club projects and we need your input. The TRMF board will start interviewing potential recipients in Jan. and will present a new project to the club in late spring for its approval. Please get your suggestions to one of the board members by Nov.1.

The TRMF Board members are:

To serve until June 30, 2013- Rufus Lewis, John Snider, Alan Hartley

To serve until June 30, 2014- Charles Nash, Diane Salls, Joe Wheeler

To serve until June 30, 2015- Pam Parker, Frank Deaver, Jim Shamblin

The TRMF Board has decided to start recognizing major donors beginning with the Caring Days campaign. The certificates will be given when the pledge is completely paid and the first ones will be awarded at the club meeting on Sept. 11. If you plan to complete your pledge soon, please do, so that you will be included.



Rotarian of the Week: Dr. Steven “Rodney” Landreth

Last week Rotarian **Jack Evans** took part in the Club’s new program for getting to know Tuscaloosa Rotarians better by interviewing them. The eighth Rotarian to be interviewed was **Rodney Landreth**. A native of Pleasant Grove, Alabama, he is the son of the late Charles Landreth, Jr., a retired U.S. Steelworker and Harriett Cormack a Dental Hygienist.

Prior to his graduation from Ramsay High School in Southside Birmingham, Rodney enlisted in the U.S. Nuclear Navy in 1987 with the Delayed Entry Program at age 17. While serving in the U.S. Navy he graduated from the Naval Nuclear Power School in Orlando, FL. He then continued his training in upstate New York at the GE/Westinghouse Nuclear Power Prototype Training Facility. He was then stationed at Alameda, California Naval Air Station on the aircraft carrier the USS Carl Vinson. The USS Carl Vinson is also the ship where Bin Laden was laid to rest in the Arabic Ocean.

Dr. Landreth received his Bachelor of Science and MBA from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and his Doctor of Optometry from the University Of Alabama School Of Optometry at Birmingham. Dr. Landreth is currently the CEO and Medical Director for the Tuscaloosa, Pickens, Greene, and Hale County EyeCare Centers.

He is a member of the American Optometric Association, Alabama Optometric Association, and currently serves as President of the West Central Alabama Optometric Association. He serves on the Boards of Vision America of Birmingham and the Boys and Girls Club of West Central Alabama. He is past president of the Reform Rotary Club, member of the Northport Lions Club, and the Chamber of Commerce.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

September 11
Mal Moore

September 18
Phil Williams
District Governor

September 25

James Williams
PARCA Samford
University

“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

Dr. Landreth has two sons, Blake and Grant who attend Tuscaloosa Academy. He enjoys boating and spending time with his family. He attends North River Church.

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