

The Nerve



A Weekly Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa

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

Volume 96 — Issue 5—August 6, 2013

Nerve Editor: Ryan Stallings

This Week, August 6, 2013 Lauren Ballard with Angel Flight

Officers, 2013-14

Karen Baldwin
President

Chuck Turner
President-Elect

Nancy Jones
Secretary

Joe May
Treasurer

Frank Deaver
Executive Director

Bruce Burrows
Sergeant-At-Arms

Directors, 2013-14

Susan Caples
Membership

Larry O'Neal
Programs

Ryan Stallings
Communications

Liz Obradovich
Vocational

Mitchell Loper
Community Service

Margaret King
International

J. G. Brazil
RI Foundation

James Leitner
Past President

Jim Shamblin
*Tuscaloosa Memorial
Foundation*



Lauren Ballard is the Alabama Branch Director for Angel Flight. She happily accepted this position in April of 2012, and has loved every minute of it. In December of 2010, she graduated from the University of Alabama with a Bachelors of Science degree in Health Education. 25 years and counting, she was born and raised in Tuscaloosa, and currently resides in Northport with her husband, Andrew.

Angel Flight is a non-profit organization that coordinates free non-emergency medical flights for patients going to and from treatments. They serve the areas of Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee, North Carolina, and South Carolina. The Alabama branch office opened in 2010 in the Tuscaloosa Regional Airport. Last year (2012), we were able to coordinate 189 missions for patients living in Alabama and hope to exceed that number this year.

Last Week, July 30th

Eddie Conyers

For roughly a 20-year span in the 1960s and 70s, Conyers officiated Alabama football practices Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, local high school games Thursdays and Fridays and Gulf South Conference College games on Saturdays.

Mr. Conyers started out by telling us that some people are accident prone, but he is "things" prone – as in "Things happen to him". He told stories about "things" like his horn getting stuck during a funeral procession, Making a wrong turn into the parking lot of an AA meeting, a confusion with the repair man who was coming to fix a toilet – and he thought he was there to fix the microwave and lastly his resurrection from a casket story. He had the whole room in stitches!

Mr. Conyers said he could not remember a better time for the University of Alabama – Academics, Athletics or Administration-wise. It is indeed a great time to be at the University and in Tuscaloosa!

He told stories about officiating practices for Bear Bryant beginning 51 – 52 years ago. He told of the "Bear's" attitude about winning and how he believed he was not good at winning – but he was good at getting people to win. He told of a player that Bear Bryant drove hard to get the boy to see what he could do. He was hard – but actually hugged the boy like a child once he accomplished the goal and that showed his heart.

He recommended the book Omega Trends to our group. He said the trend is that the Country is moving from North to South, and we need to envision and tap into the internal resources we have. We have abilities we don't even know about!

He talked about Coach Saban and how regimented he was – with zero tolerance for mistakes and no wasted moments. He said it is not the plays that Saban calls – it is the players he has chosen that has made UA Football National Champions.

When asked what his favorite Alabama team to be around was – he said probably the 1971 team with Johnny Musso and all those guys – and the 2012 team because they had no weaknesses. He said the best player of all time was Ozzie Newsom because he could play any position and play it well.

He ended by thanking the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa for the Honor Flights that we have done. What it means to the Veterans is unimaginable.



Announcements

- **REMINDER:** Our first off-site meeting will be next week August 13th at 11:30 at the Bryant Conference Center. This will be a combination meeting with the United Way of West Alabama's Campaign Kickoff. Signup sheets will be on the tables during the meetings prior to the off-site. All Rotarians that are planning to attend will need to sign up so that we can have an accurate head count of who will be attending
- J.G. Brazil reminded everyone to please pick up their Paul Harris Fellow donation summary if you have not done so already and consider donations to facilitate moving up into this designation while making a significant change in the World.
- If any Rotarian has had a change in their e-mail address please let Nancy Jones know. Her e-mail is nancyjones@bellsouthnet.
- There is now a Rotary Leadership Institute for Rotarians aspiring to hold an office within the organization. RLI is a grassroots coalition of Rotary districts implementing a leadership development program for "potential" leaders of Rotary Clubs. Established in 1992, RLI has become a worldwide organization with divisions in every Continent of the world. While it is an unofficial program of Rotary International, it has substantial support of a number of past Rotary International Presidents and current, past and incoming R.I. Directors. The R.I. Board has adopted a resolution recommending RLI or similar programs to the districts and the Council on Legislation has recommended RLI to the Board. RLI believes that excellent Club leadership (all types of club leaders) is essential to the future of Rotary in a complex and fast changing world. Most Rotarians have not been exposed to the great scope of Rotary around the world and have not considered what leadership skills are necessary to move Rotary forward. RLI strongly believes that a good Rotary Club leader must know the evolution of Rotary, its current status and activities in the world and have a vision for what Rotary can be in the future. Therefore, RLI provides a three day non-consecutive basic course in both Rotary knowledge and leadership

skills, especially for voluntary organizations. In addition to the specific leadership skills sessions, all the RLI sessions have a leadership component. To complement the basic three day course, RLI holds in-depth seminars on important Rotary subjects, including leadership, for the "graduates" of the basic course. The 2013-14 schedule for participant sessions is as follows: Parts I & II - Saturday, August 10 at the Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church in Vestavia Hills Parts I, II, and III Saturday, November 16 at a site TBD

And if adequate demand, another date in the spring of 2014 will be scheduled for all parts! Please contact Karen Baldwin with any questions.

- Chuck Turner introduced our Rotarian of the Week, Susan Caples who told the story of tripping and having a plate of spaghetti land in a fan while dining at another family's house as a child. Her father ended up having to paint their dining room! As we say in the South "Bless her heart"!!



Friendship – an Endless Supply

By Frank Deaver

"There are two kinds of friends: those we have met, and those we have not met." Nowhere is this generalization more true than in Rotary friendship. Centennial RI President Glenn Estess said that in Rotary he feels "a sense of belonging." Even when he visited Rotary clubs in other countries, he added, "I feel as though I'm among friends."

A story in Rotarian magazine began with the following: "There aren't very many places in the world where you can show up unannounced, knowing no one, and be the guest of honor. But that's often the case when you make up a Rotary club meeting on the road. And with more than 32,000 clubs worldwide, you'll rarely find yourself stranded."

In a world of instant coffee and tea, instant soup and oatmeal, Rotarians have access to the ultimate instant – instant friendship. And in a world in which people tend to treat each other with some distance, if not suspicion, Rotarians who meet Rotarians instantly break down those barriers. Rotary offers instant friendship and instant fellowship that spans languages and cultures worldwide.

Instant Rotary friendship brings together individuals who otherwise would continue to be strangers. And through new-found friendships, additional opportunities for fellowship and service are opened. Rotary friendship is truly

a valuable commodity, although it can neither be bought nor sold. It has no price, but its value is immeasurable.

In the rural south of the Caribbean island of Trinidad, near the little town of La Brea, is a lake – of sorts – that is proudly described by locals as one of the wonders of the world. Pitch Lake is a black mass of imperceptibly churning natural asphalt, slowly bubbling upward from a sandstone fault line 250 feet below the surface. People may safely walk on the air-hardened black surface, but heavy objects slowly sink from sight. Sometimes they reappear months, even years, later – as the black semi-solid slowly swirls upward.

The material is regularly hauled away to be used throughout the island country as asphalt paving material and mastic for roofing. A Rotarian told visitors, "No matter how much you take out, come back next day and you can't miss it. There's apparently a perpetual supply."

Like the pitch in Pitch Lake, friendship is similarly in perpetual supply, an endless human commodity. Enlarging one's circle of friendship does not diminish the potential supply, for friendship can be constantly replenished. Through Rotary we have boundless opportunities to both give and receive friendship. Of the 1.2 million Rotarians worldwide, the vast majority are "friends we have not met," but they are Rotary friends nonetheless.



News from the Rotary International Foundation **By J.G. Brazil**

Congratulations to our newest Paul Harris Fellows;

MITCHELL LOPER – Mitchell is a financial advisor for Raymond James. Mitchell has been a Rotarian since June, 2008.

KATHERINE ANN BEDINGFIELD – Katherine Ann was named a Paul Harris Fellow by her husband, Joe. Joe's attendance record sets an example for all of us. He has 39 years of perfect attendance.



At the Head Table July 30th

Debbi Besant (Invocation), **Karis Lamb Wilson** (Pledge), **Anthony Holliman** (guest intro), **Jordan Plaster** (speaker intro).

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

August 13th
United Way
Campaign Kick-off
Off-site meeting at
Bryant Conference
Center

August 20th
Ronnie Bruno
Bruno Event Team
Manager of fan
logistics

August 27th
Young Boozar
Alabama State
Treasurer

“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



Guests July 30th

Katherine Ann Bedingfield, guest of Joe Bedingfield; **Ashley Alverson**, guest of Don Alverson; **Betty Shamblin**, (Psychologist) guest of Jim Shamblin Besant; **John Chapman**, (Morgan Stanley), guest of Scott McClanahan; **Gary Ward**, guest of Alan Hartley; **Elke Hoymesser**, (ITSC), guest of Tina Jones.

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