

# The Nerve



A Weekly Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa

P.O. Box 2403, Tuscaloosa, AL 35403 — [www.Rotarytuscaloosa.com](http://www.Rotarytuscaloosa.com)

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Nerve Editor: Ryan Stallings

## This Week, April 22, 2014 State Representative Bill Poole

### Officers, 2013-14

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*President-Elect*

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*Treasurer*

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Margaret King  
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J. G. Brazil  
*RI Foundation*

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*Tuscaloosa Memorial  
Foundation*



### A Legislative Update on the 2014 Alabama Legislative Session.

Ala. House District #63 Representative Bill Poole is the speaker on April 22. He has been a member of the Ala House since 2010. He chairs the powerful House Way and Means Education Committee, and is a member of three other committees. He has been the primary sponsor of 272 bills since his election.

He is a native of Marengo Co, and holds two degrees from the University of Alabama. Since 2004 Bill has been a practicing attorney in Tuscaloosa. He is married to Niccole and they have two children, Sally and Bill. They attend the First United Methodist Church of Tuscaloosa.

## Last Week April 15, 2014

### Mark D. Bartlett

Steve Katsinas introduced Mark D. Bartlett, P.E., Division Administrator for the Alabama Division Federal Highway Administration. Mr. Bartlett talked about the most pressing issues for the administration at present which are the Northern Beltline, Montgomery Outer Loop and Central Business District Project. He said one of the major concerns of citizens in Alabama is the lack of good highways.

With access to good means of travel in today's world with gas saving automobiles and good roads, people can live outside the city in rural areas and still work, shop, dine, and play in the city. Freight can be delivered via our highways, providing goods to us that would not be available without the highway system (I.e. Fresh fruits and vegetables year round).

The Federal Highway Administration is part of the Department of Transportation. It does not own or operate the roads, as many think. All roads are owned by the State, or County they are in. The Administration just helps with the maintenance. Their first mission is to provide technical assistance to local governments for building and maintaining roads.

In 1921, 200K miles were designated for the Federal Highway System via "routes" - like Hwy. 82 that runs through Tuscaloosa; all across the country. In 1932 the first gas tax was implemented at one cent per gallon. In 1951 it went to two cents per gallon. In 1956 Eisenhower signed an act putting the Interstate System in place. This system allowed citizens to drive unimpeded – anywhere in the US. Interstate 90 is the longest at 3,020 miles and Interstate 95 crosses the most states – 15.

The Interstate program is funded by the Federal Government, and administered by the State. Each state and city has their own Department of Transportation that they support. The Administration helps coordinate between each States Department of Transportation on projects. \$755 Million comes to Alabama and is matched at an 80% Federal/20% State ratio). The State governments are responsible for selecting the projects for their respective State.

The Administration employs 3,000 people nationally, with Headquarters which provides policy development and program implementation, and 52 divisions (one in every State Capitol plus Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia).

This keeps the Administration in the loop on each States individual laws. The Administration is also responsible for bridge and tunnel inspection.

Projects affecting Tuscaloosa at this time are the widening of I-20/59 and resurfacing on I-359. The Administration also helps with projects – like the River Walk and the renovation of the Queen City Bathhouse. They support the Scenic Byways program and give financial assistance to Interpretive Centers, and road improvements in historic areas where many tourists will be – like around the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, etc. They assist with recreational trails where non-motorized activity takes place and provide funding for Emergency Relief Programs – like putting roads back together after hurricanes and tornadoes. They also work on safety projects in high accident areas.

The revenue comes from gas tax, currently at 18.4 cents per gallon and 24 cents per gallon on diesel. Truck tires used on 18 wheelers are also taxed (Heavy Use Tax) because they have more of an impact in the roads than passenger vehicles. States collect gas tax also. Alabama gets 16 cents per gallon on gas and 19 cents per gallon on diesel. This generates approximately \$138 for the Federal Government and \$120 for the State for an average of 15K miles traveled annually per vehicle. These tax monies go into a trust fund that cannot be used for anything other than roadways. The revenue stream is challenged by people driving less, and driving more fuel efficient cars.



### **Announcements:**

- From the District 6860 Annual Conference, J.G. Brazil reported that the *Promoting Literacy in West Alabama Project*, spearheaded by Mitchell Loper won the Community Award, Tuscaloosa Rotary Club also was noted for sponsoring more Interact clubs and sending more students to RYLA Conference than in any other district (even over Birmingham, pointed out by Chuck Turner) District 6860's largest club! Tuscaloosa was represented at a booth by fellow Rotarian Tina Jones with the Tuscaloosa Tourism & Sports Commission as the site for the 2015 District 6860 Conference
- Diane Salls has an infected joint and will be out indefinitely, please keep her in your prayers.
- New member induction: Arlene Broux by Steve Katsinas: Dr. N.K. Murtha by Dr. Omar Smith

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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April 29<sup>th</sup>

Reg Hyde UA  
Cyber Executive  
Director  
CIA

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May 6<sup>th</sup>

Brian Kindred  
CEO DCH Health  
System

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May 13<sup>th</sup>  
Offsite

“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



## At the Head Table April 15, 2014

Steve Katsinas (speaker intro), Kim McMurray (Invocation), Jonathan Guin (guest intro), Nancy Jones (Pledge).

### 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