

The Nerve

A Weekly Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa
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Service above self



Be a gift to the world

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This Week — January 26, 2016

John Barfield

Entrepreneur and philanthropist



Tuscaloosa native John W. Barfield, 88, was born to a family of sharecroppers, moved north with his family as a child and, after serving in the U.S. Army, began working as a custodian at the University of Michigan, a job he, along with his wife, Betty, parlayed into a successful cleaning business.

Discovering he had a talent for entrepreneurship, Barfield would go on to establish several more companies providing a variety of products and services that have grown into a multi-billion-dollar operation.

Now retired, Barfield still lives in Ann Arbor with his wife and has written a memoir, "Starting From Scratch: The Humble Beginnings of a Two Billion-Dollar Enterprise," which he wants to use to raise money for those less fortunate. Barfield, who joined the Rotary Club of Ypsilanti in the 1960s, was struck by Rotary's initiative to eradicate polio and eventually challenged his club to raise enough money to immunize one million children in developing countries. They raised enough to vaccinate just under half that number.

Last year, he approached the Rotary Foundation with a proposal to help finish the challenge by donating \$15 from the sale of

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

FEBRUARY 2
Stephen Rushin

FEBRUARY 9
Rotary Away
Bryant Conference Center

FEBRUARY 16
DCH Cancer Center

each of his hardcover books to Rotary's PolioPlus program.

"I hope Rotarians will support it," he told *The Rotarian* magazine for a story in the December 2015 issue, "because if we can save another 500,000 children from polio, it would be a wonderful legacy to leave. That's my dream."

"The secret to a long and healthy life," he told the magazine, "is caring for people and doing as much as you possibly can for others, especially those less fortunate. That's what I'd like to be remembered for."



Last Week — January 19, 2016

Elizabeth Huntley, attorney, child advocate and author of "More Than a Bird," told the club a compelling account of how she overcame poverty and abuse as a child thanks to God, caring teachers and education. Many children in Alabama never experience the nurturing that her teachers gave to her, in pre-kindergarten and throughout her school career. She is where she is today because of the care and direction of her school teachers, she said, which is why she is such an advocate for education, especially pre-K.

At the head table

Stacie Kirkland — Pledge of Allegiance – JamisonMoneyFarmer

Stephen Katsinas — Invocation – University of Alabama

Nathan Dendy — Introduction of Guests – Keller Williams

Charles Nash — Introduction of Guest Speaker – University of Alabama System

Guests

Don Salls, guest of Diane Salls; **Natalie Thompson**, guest of Lindsey Case; **Mark Brandon** and **Yardley Bailey**, guests of Charles Nash; **Tom Jones**, **Shelly Jones** and **Gina Johnson**, guests of Susan Caples.



Members to be inducted soon

Charlie Durham — returning member (proposed by Mitchell Loper); **Ashley Waid** — new member (proposed by Patricia Powe).

Announcements

- We will have an off-site meeting on Feb. 9 about the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Alabama. The meeting will be held at the Bryant Conference Center. Parking passes will be available to those who need them.
- Our club has set a goal of \$30,000 for donations the Rotary International Foundation. Members will be receiving a letter in the mail isoon to update them on their Paul Harris Fellow status. Please keep your eye out for these letters and consider reevaluating your donations in order to help our club meet the \$30,000 goal.
- Our Adopt-a-School partner, Northside High, is looking for volunteers to help with Reality Check, a financial literacy simulation event that will be held from 7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. on Feb. 10. More than 100 students will participate. The goal is for the students to understand the cost of living, the significance of budgeting and the correlation among education, career, salary and lifestyle. Adult volunteers are needed to work tables where students will purchase housing, transportation, insurance, retirement plan, groceries, student loan repayments, child care and the unexpected. Optional stations include donations, mall shopping and entertainment. Some students may be forced to seek a second job. Materials for those running the tables are provided, including a script. Anyone interested in any of the events above should contact Jane Jordan at 205-750-2716 or jane.jordan@regions.com.

ABSENT? MAKING UP ATTENDANCE IS EASY

- Visit with the Morning Rotary Club every Thursday at 7 a.m. 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 committe meeting, social function, interactive event, etc.
- Make up at E-club online: www.rotaryclubone.org

Report all makeups to club secretary Caroline Williams at caroline.williams@bbva.com.



