

# 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

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## This Week, September 25, 2012 Jim Williams, Executive Director of (PARCA)



Jim Williams is Executive Director of the Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama (PARCA), a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization formed in 1988 to provide factual, objective research that will help to improve state and local government in Alabama.

Over the last 23 years, PARCA has published dozens of research reports covering various topics related to cities, counties, school systems, postsecondary education, and state government. At the local level, the PARCA staff is active in working with governments interested in planning, performance management, and other kinds of operating improvements. Under Jim's direction, the PARCA staff has won nine national awards for research excellence.

Jim has provided research support for a number of statewide commissions on tax reform, education reform, and economic development. He was instrumental in the initiation of the state's "SMART Governing" initiative and worked with the Finance Department thereafter to implement the program. In addition, he has worked with various state agencies on their planning structures and processes.

PARCA also works with local governments seeking improvements. Currently the staff is working with the cities of Montgomery, Mobile, and Decatur to implement its "Smart Budgeting" methodology, which incorporates techniques of performance management. PARCA analyzes school performance and publishes statewide test results annually. Using these data, the staff consults with local school systems and local education foundations. In recent months, presentations have been made in Montgomery, Birmingham, Dothan, Mobile, and Huntsville.

Before coming to Alabama in 1988, Jim worked for 16 years in nonprofit governmental research agencies located in Texas and Michigan. He is a past president of the Governmental Research Association of the United States, a professional organization of individuals in the governmental research field. He is a native of Mineola, Texas, and holds a bachelor's degree from Baylor University and a master's degree from the University of Michigan, both in political science.

## Last Week, September 18

Last week Rotarians welcomed **District 6860 Governor Phil Williams**. He spoke about these areas of emphasis:

- The M&M's of Rotary (Membership and Means)
- A New Generation
- Public Relations

For the first: We are to represent a cross section of the community, gaining experience & knowledge from one another's diversity. We should refer to our classification guide to see vacancies in certain vocations and then look in the yellow pages to target new people.

Wear our Rotary pin when traveling and have a "Rotary Speech" ready! When asked about Rotary invite guests! Ask them to join! Accept them into the family of Rotary. How about our guest speakers? Ask if they are interested in joining. It is not about the numbers though – it is about their knowledge and placing more hands on projects that make a difference around the world!

Secondly: Focus on younger people! Look to the upcoming movers and shakers in our community to bring into the Rotary family. These are people with new visions and ideas based on the world today! Dr. Williams reported that our Interact clubs are doing an excellent job at supporting fellow students by offering scholarships to summer school for struggling students. They are learning service above self and how it affects our future.

Our projects are how we separate ourselves from other service organizations. All funds we contribute go toward our projects. The annual fund is held in trust for three years and then divided/distributed. ONLY interest is used for supporting the Rotary Foundation. Global receives 50% and then 50% is distributed to Districts designated for Polio, Annual fund and Permanent Fund.

In 1984 there were 5,000 cases of polio reported every day. Today – the latest report was 379 total cases in 2011 and so far in 2012 only 136! India has been removed from the list and is considered polio free! Last year there were 30,000 stations that vaccinated 160 million children in a single day!

We need to remember in the US that polio is only a plane ride away. This is why it is so important to eradicate polio in the world. Nigeria, Pakistan and Afghanistan are still affected. Pakistan and Afghanistan are still very reluctant to vaccinate.

Lastly, plan projects with Public Relations in mind! We want people to see what Rotary is doing in our communities so that more people will be attracted to Rotary. This brings people into Rotary that already share the vision!



## Announcements

For the highly anticipated forum between Hardy McCollum and Ted Sexton, we are seeking questions from members of our club. If you would like for your question to be included in the forum, please e-mail them to Lowell Davis at [lowell.k.davis@ua.edu](mailto:lowell.k.davis@ua.edu) by Friday, September 28, 2012. Teri Brewer of WVUA serves as the moderator for this forum.

A new member has been proposed: The Reverend Brandt Montgomery has been proposed for membership into the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa. He is the Assistant Chaplain at Canterbury Episcopal Chapel and Student Center at UA.

Friday October 5, 2012 at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville AL Rotary International President Sakugi Tanaka will be speaking if anyone wishes to attend please RSVP immediately.

George Hamner, one of our most esteemed Rotarians is having a very tough time health wise. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.



## At the Head Table, September 18

**Jerry Shepard** (speaker intro), **Randall Huffaker** (guest intro), **Rob Moore** (pledge), **Pam Parker** (Invocation).



## News from the Rotary International Foundation

The October, 2012, issue of THE ROTARIAN is in your mailbox. The article "POLIO'S END GAME" Page 42 is a *must* read. In the article three leaders of the eradication effort discuss what it's going to take to end polio now. Of particular note is the timeline of major events and progress from 1985 when Rotary launches PolioPlus until 2012. This year India has been removed from the list of polio endemic countries after a full year without any cases of polio. India must now go two more years without another case in order to be certified polio-free. Polio remains in Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan. The global investment in ending polio exceeds \$9 billion with Rotary club members having raised more than \$1 billion in support of polio eradication. Rotary and its partners in this effort are so very close to the finish line. But we are not there yet. As District Governor Phil Williams reminded us last week, PolioPlus, along with the Annual Program Fund and the Permanent Fund are three funds within the Foundation deserving of our consideration. Contributions to PolioPlus receive Paul Harris Credit. A question to test your Rotary knowledge- What is the definition of "PLUS" in PolioPlus?



## Rotarian of the Week: Mitchell Loper

Last week Rotarian **Randall Huffaker** took part in the Club's new program of interviewing Club members to help Tuscaloosa Rotarians get to know everyone a little better. The ninth Rotarian to be interviewed was **Mitchell Loper**. Mitchell has been a Rotarian since 2008 and is a 4<sup>th</sup> generation Rotarian. Mitchell grew up in Tuscaloosa until high school. He attended boarding school in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. Upon graduation, Mitchell attended Birmingham-Southern and graduated with a degree in Business Administration. He currently works as a Financial Advisor for Raymond James/ Morgan Keegan. Mitchell was married this past year to Rachel Stinson from South Alabama. Mitchell met Rachel while in college at a Flash Dance Party. Mitchell enjoys anything having to do with Colorado, skiing, traveling, hunting, his family's farm in Greene County, attending concerts, and just hanging out with his friends. The top 5 albums are songs Mitchell like are Vacation- Widespread Panic, Cinnamon Girl – Neil Young, So Begins the Task- Stephen Stills, Wes

## **UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

**October 2**

**David Blair**

**Director of Military  
and Veterans  
affairs on Campus**

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**October 9**

**McCollum/Sexton  
Probate Judge  
Debate**

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**October 16**

**Coach Pat Murphy  
UA Softball Head  
Coach**

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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 of character which results in the doing of things.”

— Paul Harris

LA Fadeaway- Grateful Dead, and Lawyers, Guns, and Money- Warren Zevon. Mitchell was asked what he would do if appointed dictator for a day, and his response was to make everyone settle down for a day and do something they love.

## **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**