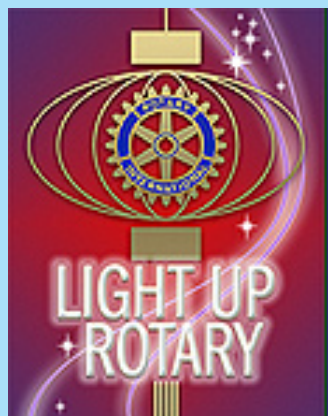


# The Nerve

A Weekly Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa  
P.O. Box 2403, Tuscaloosa, AL 35403  
www.Rotarytuscaloosa.com  
Volume 97 — Issue 15 — October 7, 2014  
Nerve Editor: Michael James



*Service above self*



## OFFICERS

**Chuck Turner**

President

**Susan Caples**

VP/President-Elect

**Nancy Jones**

Secretary

**Patricia Parnell**

Treasurer

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Jim Drake**

Membership

**Elizabeth Hartley**

Communication

**Larry O'Neal**

Programs

**Mitchell Loper**

Community/Finance

**John Snider**

Projects

**Karen Baldwin**

Past President

**Frank Deaver**

Executive Director

*This Week — October 7, 2014*

## Jessica Davis

*Executive Director, Tuscaloosa Symphony Orchestra*



Jessica Davis Tagg, executive director of the Tuscaloosa Symphony Orchestra, has more than a decade of arts administration experience, having worked with groups such as the Illinois Symphony Orchestra, the Hot Springs Music Festival and the Tanglewood Festival.

She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in violin performance from the University of Georgia and Louisiana State University, respectively, and completed doctoral coursework in musicology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

She has since become a certified music librarian and has focused much of her career on implementing and developing ways to help people deeply understand and enjoy orchestra concerts via community outreach and development.

Tagg was named executive director of the TSO in July 2013.



## *This Week in History*

The Great Chicago Fire started on Oct. 8, 1871, and burned for nearly two days, destroying more than 3 square miles and killing more than 300 people; Spiro Agnew resigned as vice president on Oct. 10, 1973, after pleading no contest to income tax fraud.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

OCTOBER 14

**Rick Bragg**

Author, writing professor at the University of Alabama

OCTOBER 21

**Steve Davis**

Historian, Alabama Department of Mental Health

OCTOBER 28

**Ken Gaddy**

Director, Paul W. Bryant Museum

## Last Week — September 30, 2014

Tuscaloosa Rotary President Chuck Turner led a Club Assembly, updating members on the club's finances. Club directors also gave brief reports on their respective responsibilities.

### *Paul Harris Fellows*

**Anthony Holloman** was recognized as the club's newest Paul Harris Fellow and **Mike Chambers** was presented a certificate and pin recognizing him as a member of the Paul Harris Society. Sue Mitchell, Rotarian in the Decatur Daybreak club and chair of the District Paul Harris Society committee, made the presentation. The Society recognizes those who commit to long-term support of The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International by annual contributions of \$1,000 or more.



### *Members to be inducted soon*

**Bill Bomar** — Executive Director, University of Alabama Museums (proposed by Steve Katsinas)

**Bob Brooks** — Retired, Vice President of Operations, Stein Mart Inc. (proposed by Joe Beddingfield)

**Kirk Cornelius** — Vice President, West Alabama Bank (proposed by Mitchell Loper)

**Alan Spencer** — Vice President for Economic Development and Public Policy, Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama (proposed by Chuck Turner)

**Alan Taylor** — Retired, Fine Furniture Retailer (proposed by Jordan Plaster)

### *Announcements*

- The Tuscaloosa Rotary board of directors will meet Wednesday, Oct. 8, at noon at Indian Hills Country Club.

## *Honor Flight*



Photo by James Shirley

**Tuscaloosa area World War II and Korean War veterans salute after assembling at the World War II Memorial during the fifth Tuscaloosa Rotary Honor Flight on Wednesday, Oct. 1.**

The fifth Tuscaloosa Rotary Honor Flight was a huge success, with 80 area World War II and Korean War veterans making the one-day trip to Washington, D.C., on Wednesday, Oct. 1, to visit the WWII, Korean, Vietnam, Iwo Jima, Lincoln and FDR memorials and Arlington National Cemetery.

“From my perspective, it was a perfect day, with true Rotary teamwork to make a dream come true for our heroes,” said Honor Flight Committee chairman Jordan Plaster. “It was an honor to witness hundreds of people thanking our Honor Flight veterans for their service to our country.”

A record crowd also turned out at the Tuscaloosa airport Wednesday night to welcome the veterans home, said Plaster, who thanked committee members, Rotary Club guardians and other club members whose efforts made the Honor Flight possible.

Following is a letter -- one of many received thanking Rotary for the trip -- that summed up what the day meant to one veteran and his daughter:

To the Tuscaloosa Rotary Honor Flight Committee:

On behalf of my father Charles Bonner and myself, I would like to thank you for the honor and privilege of being a part of the Tuscaloosa Rotary Honor Flight.

I can only describe it as a day that will forever own a piece of my heart and soul. The attention and respect given to the planning and execution of this trip was astounding. It was clear to see that even the smallest of details were decided with consideration and honor for our veterans.

To visit the memorials is an honor all its own. To visit them with veterans brings about a spirit of emotion that is extremely humbling and rewarding.

While touring Arlington Cemetery you could see on the faces of our veterans that they understood and felt the meaning of each and every one of the lives that had been lost. During the silence of the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, you knew you were surrounded by men and women that had made sacrifices of their own without hesitation or forethought of what it might cost them in their own lives.

To be able to openly pray and sing with these veterans was a privilege. As the tears rolled down my face

while singing God Bless America, I knew in my heart it would never sound more beautiful than at that moment. Thank you again for this honor.

God Bless You  
God Bless our Veterans and  
God Bless America

Sincerely,  
Charles W Bonner  
Jeannie Bonner Brashier

## **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 committee meeting, social function, interactive event, etc.
- Make up at E-club online: [www.rotaryclubone.org](http://www.rotaryclubone.org).

*Report all makeups to club secretary Nancy Jones.*

