

The Nerve

A Weekly Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa
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www.Rotarytuscaloosa.com
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Nerve Editor: Thomas Powe



Service above self



This Week — July 26th, 2016

John Merrill

Secretary of State, Alabama

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John Harold Merrill is the son of Horace and Mary Merrill of Heflin, Alabama (Cleburne County). He was born on November 12, 1963 in Wedowee, Alabama (Randolph County). He grew up in Heflin and is an Eagle Scout from Heflin Troop 206. He is a graduate of Cleburne County High School and The University of Alabama where he served as President of the Student Government Association in 1986-1987.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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While attending The University, John served as a Congressional Intern for Congressman Bill Nichols (1983) and Senator Howell Heflin (1984). After his term as SGA President, John became the governmental affairs intern at The Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama in 1987-88; National Advertising Account Executive and Manager for Randall Publishing Company (now Randall-Reilly); Assistant Director for the Tuscaloosa County Industrial Development Authority from 1990-93 where he assisted in the recruitment of Mercedes-Benz; Director of Business Development for The Chamber of Commerce of West



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

August 2nd
YMCA Downtown Visit
Ashley Waid, CEO

August 9th
Karen E. McElvy
Attorney, Rosen Harwood

Alabama in 1987-88; National Advertising Account Executive and Manager for Randall Publishing Company (now Randall-Reilly); Assistant Director for the Tuscaloosa County Industrial Development Authority from 1990-93 where he assisted in the recruitment of Mercedes-Benz; Director of Business Development for The Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama in 1993-94; and was the Director of Community Relations and Community Education for the Tuscaloosa County Board of Education from 1994-2010; and served as Business Development Officer for 1st Federal Bank in Tuscaloosa from 2011-2015.

John has been married to the former Cindy Benford of Phil Campbell for thirty years. She is a career educator and the former principal at Westwood Elementary School in Coker. The couple has two children, Brooks (25), is an Event Coordinator Manager for The University of South Florida Department of Athletics, and Allie Grace (22), who is an International Flight Attendant with American Airlines. Full Bio - <http://www.sos.alabama.gov/officeofsos/Biography.aspx>

Last Week — July 19th, 2016

Announcements:

- The club will have an off-site visit at Tuscaloosa's new YMCA August 2nd.
- Club Member Jack Warner will be 99 years old next week.

Speaker:

- Fellow Rotarian Steve Katsinas, Director of UA's Education Policy Center gave an overview of the future of higher education in an address to the Club this past Tuesday.
- Katsinas noted that the Special Education Trust Fund was not raided by legislators this year to balance the General Fund Budget.
- He said that in southern states 90% of those seeking a post-secondary education attend a public college or university.
- He said studies show that more dollars spent for education means a higher income.



Dr. Steve Katsinas speaking Tuesday to the Noon Rotary Club in Tuscaloosa.





Apples for Education last week at the University Mall. Rotarians, Caroline Williams and Lindsey Case, volunteered to help make this happen!

Volunteer Opportunity - 2016 Apples for Education

Tuscaloosa Backpack Coalition - 2016 Apples for Education, University Mall
Apples for Education is a campaign organized by Tuscaloosa Backpack Coalition to raise funds and collect school supplies for the students with the most need in the city and county schools. Volunteers will work in groups of two or more, for two hour time slots, to distribute apples at the Apples for Education table at the University Mall. The green apples signify a monetary donation of a dollar or more where as the red apples indicate a donation of a backpack filled with supplies for one student.
<https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/20f0b4fa8a92ca6fd0-2016>



At the head table

Invocation - Ken DeWitt, **Pledge of Allegiance** - Tina Jones, **Introduction of Guests** - Billy Kirkpatrick, **Introduction of Speaker** - Chris McCune

Guests

Johnathan Koh, Christian Sanford, David Miller, Claire Majore, Michael Malloy, Lucas Adams, and Undre Phillips - All Work at UA and are guests of Dr. Steve Katsinas.

Richard Self - Guest of Bud Baker, **Heather MacLeod** - Guest of Casey Johnson, and **Sarah McFarland** - Guest of Alison Phillips.

This Day in History - July 26th

1775 - A postal system was established by the 2nd Continental Congress of the United States. The first Postmaster General was Benjamin Franklin.

1788 - New York became the 11th state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

1881 - Thomas Edison and Patrick Kenny execute a patent application for a facsimile telegraph (U.S. Pat. 479,184).

1907 - The Chester was launched. It was the first turbine-propelled ship.

1945 - Winston Churchill resigned as Britain's prime minister.

1948 - Babe Ruth was seen by the public for the last time, when he attended the New York City premiere of the motion picture, "The Babe Ruth Story."

1948 - U.S. President Truman signed executive orders that prohibited discrimination in the U.S. armed forces and federal employment.

1971 - Apollo 15 was launched from Cape Kennedy, FL.

1998 - AT&T and British Telecommunications PLC announced they were forming a joint venture to combine international operations and develop a new Internet system.

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

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

