



**THE FUTURE OF ROTARY
IS IN YOUR HANDS**

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

Today



DAVID M. "DAVE" WALKER

Comeback America: Addressing Our Nation's Fiscal Sustainability Challenges

Club No. 56
Birmingham, Alabama
Volume 98 Number 14
4 Pages

Dwight M. Beeson Banquet Hall
The Harbert Center

Lunch - 11:45
Bell - 12:20
Adjournment - 1:15

*Mini-Presentation
Edgar Marx, VP International
Service*

FUTURE PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

- Oct 7 Brian Kuehl
Political and Environmental
Consultant
- Oct 14 Off-site meeting at Sloss
Furnace with ASO
- Oct 21 Healthcare program
- Oct 28 Bob Donaldson
Russian expert
University of Tulsa
American Committee on Foreign
Relations

When Dave Walker spoke to this club as the speaker to kickoff calendar year 2008, his predictions regarding the national economy were straightforward and frightening. His predictions became reality ten months later. Last week, NPR quoted Dave regarding the economics of healthcare. And, an interview with Dave Walker was printed in the September 5 Weekend Edition of the *Wall Street Journal*. That interview will substitute as a bio for today's guest speaker:

Warning: The Deficits Are Coming!

The former head of the Government Accountability Office is on a crusade to alert taxpayers to their true obligations.

By JOHN FUND
Washington, D.C.

David Walker sounds like a modern-day Paul Revere as he warns about the country's perilous future. "We suffer from a fiscal cancer," he tells a meeting of the National Taxpayers Union, the nation's oldest anti-tax lobby. "Our off balance sheet obligations associated with Social Security and Medicare put us in a \$56 trillion financial hole—and that's before the recession was officially declared last year. America now owes more than Americans are worth—and the gap is growing!"

His audience sits in rapt attention. A few years ago these antitax activists would have been polite but a tad restless listening to the former head of the Government Accountability Office, the nation's auditor-in-chief. Higher taxes is what hikes their blood pressure the most, but the profligate spending of the Bush and Obama administrations has put them in a mood to listen to this green-eyeshade Cassandra. "He's so unlike most politicians," says Sharron Angle, a former state legislator from Nevada, "his message is clear, detailed and with no varnish."

Mr. Walker, a 57-year-old accountant, didn't set out to be a fiscal truth-teller. He rose to be a partner and global managing director of Arthur Anderson, before being named assistant secretary of labor for pensions and benefits during the Reagan administration. Under the first President Bush, he served as a trustee for Social Security and Medicare, an experience that convinced him both programs are looming train wrecks that could bankrupt the country. In 1998 he was appointed by President Bill Clinton to head the GAO, where he spent the next decade issuing reports trying to stem waste, fraud and abuse in government.

****Continued on Page 2****

TODAY (continued)

ROTARYGRAMS (USPS 064-770)
Published weekly by
ROTARY CLUB OF BIRMINGHAM
The Harbert Center
2019 4th Ave. N.
Birmingham, AL 35203.

Subscription rates: \$15 per year.

MEETING DAY:

Every Wednesday, 12:15 p.m.
TELEPHONE: (205)251-1995
FAX: (205)226-8825

BHAMRTRY@BELLSOUTH.NET

WWW.BHMROTARY.ORG

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS 2009-10

President: Hatton C.V. Smith
Chairman of the Board:
Charles W. "Bill" Jones
President-Elect:
Charles D. "Charlie" Perry, Jr.
Secretary: Henry Panion, III
Treasurer: Edmund C. Doss
Sergeant-at-Arms: Carl Duncan Hulsey
VP, Club Service:
Charles A. "Charlie" Collat, Jr.
VP, Communications:
Richard B. Yielding
VP, Community Service:
Elizabeth Broughton
VP, International Service:
Edgar B. Marx
VP, Programs:
Whitney "Whit" DeBardeleben
VP, Vocational Service: Brenda M. Hackney
Executive Director: Susan Jackson

DIRECTORS:

Hubert W. Goings, Jr., 2007-2010
W.T. Goodloe Rutland, 2007-2010
David W. "Dave" Wood, 2007-2010
James T. McManus, 2009-2012
Alan Rogers, 2009-2012
Sergio Stagno, 2009-2012

Membership: 557

Honorary Members: 21

Despite many successes, he was able to make only limited progress in reforming Washington's tangled bookkeeping. When he arrived he was told the Pentagon was nearly a decade away from having a clean audit, or clear evidence that its financial statements were accurate. When he left in 2008, he was told the Pentagon was still a decade away from that goal. "If the federal government was a private corporation, its stock would plummet and shareholders would bring in new management and directors," he said as he retired from the GAO.

Although he found the work fulfilling, Mr. Walker said he decided to leave last year with a third of his 15-year term left because "there are practical limits on what one can—and cannot—do in that job." He became president and CEO of the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, a group seeking to educate the public and policy makers on the need for fiscal prudence. Although it accepts private donations, its own future is secure given that Mr. Peterson, a former head of the Blackstone private equity firm and secretary of commerce under Richard Nixon, has endowed it with a \$1 billion gift.

NEW CLUB ROSTER

Please expect a fellow Rotarian to contact you regarding your roster profile soon. Whether by email, fax or US Mail, please respond quickly as this is the final effort to publish information the way you want it in the next roster.

BE SURE TO RETURN YOUR INITIALED PAGE regardless of whether it is correct or you have made changes.

ADDRESSES OF RECENT SPEAKERS

Ambassador Klaus Scharioth Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany 4645 Reservoir Road NW Washington, DC 20007-1998	Charles Caldwell 2607 Crest Road Birmingham, AL 35223
Lilly Ledbetter PO Box 742 Jacksonville, FL 36265	Linda Viviani 2800 Jefferson Street Napa, CA 94558

**Meetings are recorded. Tapes are available for \$3.50 each, which may be added to Rotary invoices.

FLU SHOTS

October 7, 2009

Roll up your sleeves - fall is here and time to protect yourselves against flu! On Wednesday, October 7, 2009, the Alabama Center for Occupational Medicine (Alabama Comp) is scheduled to be in the atrium of the Harbert Center administering the seasonal flu vaccine. The cost of the shot is \$25 and will be added to your next club invoice. Please sign both papers - the waiver necessary for Alabama Comp to give the shot and the Rotary sign up sheet, which is the accounting part. Shots begin at 11:00 a.m. and continue until 2:00 p.m.

SPECIAL CONCERT OPPORTUNITY
**ITZHAK PERLMAN JOINS NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC
IN CONCERT TO END POLIO**



Rotary International is teaming up with violin virtuoso Itzhak Perlman and the world-renowned New York Philharmonic to present the Concert to End Polio, a benefit performance supporting the global effort to eradicate this disabling, sometimes fatal, childhood disease.

The concert will be held on 2 December at 7:30 p.m. in Avery Fisher Hall at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City.

The polio eradication effort resonates strongly with Perlman, who contracted the disease at age four and overcame serious physical challenges to become one of the world's most celebrated musicians. In this special one-night-only performance, his first with the New York Philharmonic in four years, Perlman will help Rotary in its effort to raise \$200 million to match \$355 million in challenge grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

"We are honored that an artist of Mr. Perlman's stature and a cultural institution as revered as the New York Philharmonic are supporting Rotary in our effort to achieve a polio-free world," says RI President John Kenny. "Their participation demonstrates the importance of this unprecedented global health initiative. It will be our lasting gift to the world's children."

"The fact that polio is still around is ridiculous," says Perlman, winner of 15 Grammy Awards, plus a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008. "There is absolutely no excuse for anyone to get polio. This is an issue that has to be dealt with immediately."

Tickets to the concert are priced between \$70 and \$200. A private reception with Perlman will follow the concert. A premium concert seat and admission to the reception will be offered at a package price of \$500. Music program information will be announced at a later date.

Buy tickets individually with the information below or call the Rotary office, 251-1995

Buy tickets by calling the Philharmonic box office at 212-875-5656

Mention that you're a Rotarian so you can access the block of tickets reserved for Rotarians until 1 November. The box office is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

Tickets are priced between \$70 and \$200, depending on stage proximity. A premium concert seat and admission to the reception will be offered at a package price of \$500.

Tickets are expected to sell quickly. All proceeds go to Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge.

Buy online

Tickets can also be purchased online through the Philharmonic, but they are not part of the Rotary ticket block.

Buy in person

Tickets may also be purchased at the Avery Fisher Hall Box Office or the Alice Tully Hall Box Office at Lincoln Center, Broadway at 65th Street. The box office is open from 10 a.m. Monday through Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. On performance evenings, the box office closes one-half hour after performance time; other evenings it closes at 6 p.m.

CONSIDER THE HARBERT CENTER

For your company's next social or corporate event, why not consider the most versatile facility in Birmingham? Built and maintained by you to serve the needs of corporate and non-profit organizations, this building transforms into many other backdrops - elegant, whimsical, wedding, classrooms, prom, fun, serious -just name it. The menu of food is very different (and excellent) from what Rotarians experience every week. Please call Chandrel, Jessica or Leslie to help you make your next arrangements. Receptionist, Kathy Alexis, will be happy to guide you to any of the three sales people, 226-8800.

IN ROTARY'S PAST



Sidney E. Hiller

1915 - Sidney E. Hiller was a very early member of the Birmingham Rotary Club. He and his father were managers of the Alabama Marble Company, a marble mining operation at Gantt's Quarry in "The Marble City", Sylacauga, Alabama. Marble from that facility supplied marble for the Washington Monument. The Rotary Club took a field trip to Gantt's Quarry in 1915. Our own, Thomas S. (Tommy) McGahey's family had been involved with the marble industry at Moretti-Harrah Company, in Sylacauga from the early 1930's through 1986. Moretti-Harrah supplied marble for the United States Supreme Court Building.

