



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

WEDNESDAY  
FEBRUARY 10, 2010

**Today**

Club No. 56  
Birmingham, Alabama  
Volume 98 Number 33  
4 Pages

Dwight M. Beeson Banquet Hall  
The Harbert Center

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

*Large Club Conference  
Meeting*



**JOE McINNES**  
Director  
Alabama Department of Transportation



**LINDA FIGG**  
President & CEO  
Figg Engineering Group

*Proposed Expansion Plan for Highway 280*

**Joe McInnes**

Joe McInnes comes to the Department of Transportation from the private sector. He worked for Blount International as Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer, Corporate Secretary and President of the Blount Foundation. He retired in 1999, after 25 years service, when Blount was sold to Lehman Brothers.

The Alabama native has a long history of civic and community involvement, with past service as President of the Montgomery United Way, President of the Tuckabatchee Area Council Boy Scouts of America, Director of the State Council on the Arts, Director of the Alabama Humanities Foundation and Trustee of the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, to name just a few of his accomplishments.

He is a 1965 graduate of the University of Alabama and received his Law Degree in 1974.

**Linda Figg**

Linda Figg, President and CEO of Figg Engineering Group (FIGG), presented the popular design for expanding Highway 280. FIGG is a family of companies that specializes in creating world-class, award-winning bridges. Linda is sharing the podium with Joe McInnes today explain her design.

Linda serves on the Board of Directors of the Construction Industry Round Table and the American Road & Transportation Builders Association, as well as the American Segmental Bridge Institute.

**FUTURE PROGRAMS AND EVENTS**

Feb 17 William Bell  
Mayor of Birmingham

Feb 23 Juan Williams  
Special meeting on Tuesday, Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Rotary Club of Birmingham hosts the Large Rotary Clubs of North America

Mar 3 Ola Kaellenius  
Managing Director  
Mercedes-Benz

## ADDRESSES OF RECENT SPEAKERS



**James McManus**  
Energen  
605 Richard Arrington, Jr. Boulevard North  
Birmingham, AL 35203

**Eleanor Griffin**  
*Southern Living* Magazine, Attn: Editorial Offices  
2100 Lakeshore Drive  
Birmingham, AL 35209

**Gene Hallman**  
100 Grandview Place  
Suite 110  
Birmingham, AL 35243

**Brandon Falls**, District Attorney  
Jefferson County, Birmingham Division  
801 Richard Arrington, Jr. Blvd North  
Birmingham, AL 35203

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

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### MEETING DAY:

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

[bhamrtry@bellsouth.net](mailto:bhamrtry@bellsouth.net)  
[www.bhmrotary.org](http://www.bhmrotary.org)

### OFFICERS & DIRECTORS 2009-10

*President:* Hatton C.V. Smith  
*Chairman of the Board:*  
Charles W. "Bill" Jones  
*President-Elect:*  
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Whitney "Whit" DeBardeleben  
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### DIRECTORS:

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David W. "Dave" Wood, 2007-2010  
James T. McManus, 2009-2011  
Alan Rogers, 2009-2011  
Sergio Stagno, 2009-2011

Membership: 557  
Honorary Members: 21

## ROTARY CLUB OF BIRMINGHAM IS HOSTING THE 2010 LARGE CLUB CONFERENCE AND NEEDS YOUR HELP

The RCB is delighted to be the host club to Executive Directors (E.D.s) and President Elects (P.E.s) of the large clubs (300 members plus) throughout North America. The conference was organized in 1959 by the large club executive directors to help prepare incoming presidents for their year of club leadership by sharing information and experiences with other large Rotary Clubs in a formal setting. Information regarding Rotary International and district relationships was frequently included in the agenda and, as of recent years, it has become a focus.

From Feb 21-24, 2010, 148 E.D.s and PE's from most of the nation's big cities as well as from Canada will be in town for the Large Club Conference. Their meeting time will be split between Ross Bridge and The Harbert Center. In addition to the formal meetings, conference participants will experience two of Birmingham's finest chefs (Frank Stitt and Chris Hastings) at Highlands Bar & Grill and at home-hospitality dinners on Crest Road plus a tour of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute.

The regular RCB weekly luncheon meeting that week has been changed to Tuesday so that all 140 guests can attend a meeting with RCB Rotarians. Guest speaker for that meeting, Juan Williams, was selected well in advance. The LCC Committee hopes that many Birmingham Rotarians will volunteer to help. We will need club members to be a table captain and facilitate conversation and Southern Hospitality on Tuesday, Feb 23 but the biggest need is the need to transport guests to/from the airport and Ross Bridge. Please email the Rotary office, [bhamrtry@bellsouth.net](mailto:bhamrtry@bellsouth.net)

## ALERT

### PLEASE NOTE BOTH MEETINGS BELOW

*On Monday, Feb 22 at the luncheon meeting planned for the Large Club Conference, the keynote speaker will be Dr. Kevin Elko, a well-known motivational speaker who came to us via John McMahon via Nick Saban. Kevin speaks to the corporate world and the sports world alike, inspiring all to achieve the highest level of personal effort. The Large Club Conference Committee is offering the extra fifty seats to the first fifty club members at \$15 per attendee. There are very few spaces left and reservations are a must. Please call or email the Rotary office if you can attend. 12:00 Noon, Ross Bridge. Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010*

*On Tuesday, Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Rotary Club of Birmingham will host the Large Club Conference participants in the Harbert Center. For this week only, the Rotary and Kiwanis have exchanged meeting days. Please mark this in your calendar. The guest speaker is Juan Williams, who is a marvelous communicator, knowledgeable journalist, popular panelist on political talk shows. This meeting will be extremely well attended and all 3<sup>rd</sup> floor rooms will be open for Rotary use. Because our guests that day are the 148 president-elects and executive directors from large clubs across North America, other guests will be difficult to seat. Please contact the Rotary office before inviting anyone as a guest to this meeting.*

## RCB CONTRIBUTIONS FOR HAITI RELIEF

President Hatton, RCB Foundation Chairman Jim Hughey and the club foundation board designated a \$5,000 contribution from this club's foundation be sent to The Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund (administered by The Rotary Foundation). Any member wishing to make a contribution may send a check to the club office to pool with the \$5,000. For this cause, a credit card may also be used. The club sent \$6,470 to the Donor Advised Fund set up by The Rotary Foundation. The DAF is designated for longer term needs and is overseen by Rotarians listed below. Two on the list are directly involved in immediate relief and have been from day one. Their insights will be valuable in determining where the money can be most helpful.

As of last week, an additional pool of contributions is accumulating. As of now, the total of "new" Haiti funds exceeds \$1,000. If you wish to add your personal contribution to this pool, you are welcome to do so by Friday, Feb 12. By that date, Jim and President Hatton can review the growing list of ways to make a difference in the immediate.

More information about the fund started by The Rotary Foundation:

### HAITI EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FUND

The Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund, a donor advised fund within The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International, has been established to streamline the flow of contributions from Rotarians looking to assist victims of the earthquake in Haiti. The fund will be directed by the account holders listed below. The account holders will work with local Rotary clubs and districts, as well as emergency relief agencies, to meet the most pressing needs of people in affected areas. Account holders will make grant recommendations after consulting with District 7020 Governor Errol Alberga or his designee. Funds will be used in the relief effort and for projects providing longer-term support and development (e.g. funding for Rotary Foundation Matching Grant projects).

#### *Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund Account Holders*

Eric E. Adamson, Vice President, RI (from Zones 33-34)

Barry Rassin, Past Rotary International Director (Zones 33-34)

John Smarge, Director Elect (from Zones 33-34)

Robert Stuart, Jr, Past Rotary International Director

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## ROTARIANS FOCUS ON HAITI RELIEF

By Ryan Hyland

*Rotary International News 22 January 2010*

Rotary clubs and districts worldwide are mobilizing resources to deliver urgently needed relief to the millions affected by Haiti's devastating earthquake.

District 7020, which includes Haiti, has flown in 70 planes filled with more than 60,000 pounds of medical equipment and supplies into the cities of Pignon and Port-de-Paix to bypass logistical problems in the hard-hit capital of Port-au-Prince.

The United Nations estimates that more than half of the buildings in the capital have collapsed. About 200,000 people are dead and millions more homeless.

"Rotary had an incredible infrastructure established before the quake, which has made our relief efforts very effective," says Dick McCombe, past district governor and Haiti liaison chair. "We're flying in supplies through backdoor channels and doing things a lot of agencies can't do."

The district's Haiti Task Force, set up two years ago to administer all financial aid to the nation, is working with local clubs to deliver aid to Port-au-Prince and those who have taken refuge in the countryside.

McCombe says Rotary was in a good position to help in Haiti, with 33 projects already underway to provide water, sanitation, medical care, and education.

"We changed from teaching children how to read to saving their lives," says McCombe.

See HAITI RELIEF on Page 4

## HAITI RELIEF (from Page 3)

Clubs in the district have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for short- and long-term recovery.

"Rotarians are incredibly generous and are doing what needs to be done," says McCombe. "We are setting aside some of these contributions for long-term recovery."

Rotarian Claude Surena, head of the Haiti Task Force and president of the Haitian Medical Association, is sheltering more than 100 injured people in his damaged home in Port-au-Prince. His house has become a makeshift hospital and medical distribution center.

Within the next two weeks, McCombe says, a barge will be hired to transport 20 to 30 tons of clothes, blankets, folding beds, and other items to Haiti from Nassau, Bahamas.

### ShelterBox responds

[ShelterBox](#) has already delivered more than 3,300 containers to Haiti, with another 1,000 or more scheduled to be deployed.

"This is the largest, quickest, and most complex deployment in our history," says John Leach, head of operations for ShelterBox. "We organized across four countries to get ShelterBoxes to the people of Haiti quickly."

Each box contains a tent that houses 10 people as well as a stove, blankets, and other essential items.

Doctors have been using supplies from the containers to treat the injured. Hospitals in the capital city are using the tents to provide emergency shelter for postoperative patients.

"There's hundreds of thousands of people that are injured. The walking wounded are everywhere," says Mark Pearson, one of three ShelterBox response team members in Haiti. "People are getting taken to hospital now, eight, nine days later."

The Rotary Foundation has established the [Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund, a donor advised fund primarily](#) for U.S. Rotarians who want to donate toward recovery efforts. The fund has raised more than \$285,000 so far.

Around the world, Rotary clubs, districts, and Interact and Rotaract clubs have donated directly to ShelterBox. Other Rotarian relief efforts in Haiti include:

- The Rotary Club of Tocoa, Colón, Honduras, has chartered three flights to send 25,000 to 30,000 pounds of food to Haiti.
- A six-person team from the Rotary clubs of Inwood, Manhattan, and New York is working with Comprehensive and Response Service to establish a staging area in the Dominican Republic for bringing medical supplies into Port-au-Prince.
- Past District Governor Alfonso Leppes launched a campaign asking each of the more than 4,500 Rotarians in Chile to donate \$50 to the Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund.
- Five Rotarian doctors from Venezuela are in Haiti as part of a search-and-rescue team established by their government.

