



ROTARYGRAM

The Weekly Newsletter for the
Rotary Club of Birmingham

THE FUTURE OF ROTARY IS IN
YOUR HANDS

Club No. 56
Birmingham, Alabama
Volume 98 Number 40
4 Pages

Dwight M. Beeson Banquet Hall
The Harbert Center

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

WEDNESDAY
APRIL 7, 2010

Today



THE HONORABLE MAYOR WILLIAM A. BELL, SR.
Mayor
City of Birmingham

New Member Introduction
Board Meeting

Honorable Mayor William A. Bell, Sr. was sworn in on Tuesday January 26, 2010 as the 33rd Mayor of the City of Birmingham.

Mayor Bell has had a long and exceptional career in the city of Birmingham, most recently serving as President Protem for the Jefferson County Commission.

During his tenure on the Commission, he was responsible for the Department of Health and Community Services. This department included the Jefferson Rehabilitation and Health Center, Cooper Green Hospital, Coroner, Central Laundry, Community Development, Economic Development Workforce Development.

Mayor William A. Bell, Sr. was a city councilman for District 5 for many years.

In 1985 during his third term, he was elected by his fellow council members to serve as the first African-American President of the Birmingham City Council. He was again chosen as Birmingham City Council President in 1987 and 1997. In 1999, he also served as Interim Mayor of Birmingham.

As one of the longest serving public officials in the City of Birmingham, Mayor Bell was instrumental in implementing the council consent agenda, which allowed the Council to approve with one vote any item that was non-controversial. With senior citizens in mind, he also assisted in funding a fitness track around Legion Field as well as a mini park. Mayor Bell is also responsible for the first Hope VI Project in downtown Birmingham that transformed a local inner city housing development into an affordable, mixed housing community.

He also had generated more than \$197 million dollars for Birmingham schools. The University of Alabama at Birmingham also received more than \$87 million for capital improvements during Mayor Bell's tenure.

Mayor Bell is a graduate of the University of Alabama at Birmingham where he received his Master's Degree in Psychology and Guidance Counseling. He also holds a Doctorate in Jurisprudence from Miles Law School, with extensive professional experience in community and economic development in both the public and private sectors.

Mayor Bell believes that he is first a servant of God and second a servant of the people. Dr. Bell has been married more than 32 years to Dr. Sharon Carson Bell and has 2 children, both graduates of Ramsay High School and the University of Alabama.

FUTURE PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Apr 14 Ola Kaellenius
Mercedes

Apr 21 Jeffrey Bayer
Bayer Properties

Apr 28 Woody Philips
CFO for the NRA

May 5 Dan Cathy
Chick-fil-A

ADDRESSES OF RECENT SPEAKERS



Bob Rathburn
 Sloss Furnace Museum
 20 32nd Street North
 Birmingham, AL 35222

Wendy Jackson
 Box 549071
 Birmingham-Southern College
 900 Arkadelphia Road
 Birmingham, AL 35254

District Governor Georgia Medori
 2079 Stone Brook Drive
 Birmingham, AL 35242

Warren Stephens
 Stephens, Inc.
 111 Center Street
 Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

****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

Rotary@bellsouth.net
www.bhmrotary.org

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Whitney "Whit" DeBardleben
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- Sergio Stagno, 2009-2011

Membership: 578
 Honorary Members: 21

IN MEMORIAM

WILLIAM MICAJAH SPENCER III

December 10, 1920 - March 28, 2010

Bill was a scholar, US Marine, entrepreneur, civic leader, farmer, philanthropist, metor and good friend to many.

Always modest and reluctant to talk about himself, Bill finally agreed to tell his WWII story as part of a special military program along with his lifelong best friend, Pete McGriff (also deceased), Bibby Smith and Reese Murray. That program will be remembered and treasured always. Bill joined the US Marine Corps in 1942 and shipped out to the Central Pacific as an artillery spotter. He participated in landings on the islands of Tarawa, Saipan, Tinian, Okinawa and the first occupation force in Nagasaki. He received the rank of Captain and earned a Bronze Star during his service. Following the war, he returned to Birmingham where he continued as a leader in business and community affairs.

IN ROTARY'S PAST



Charles Headley

1942-1943 - Charles Headley served as vice-president of Rotary in 1942-1943 with president Frank E. Spain. Headley was born in Brooklyn, New York, and would become divisional manager of Linde Air Division of Union Carbide. Headley was instrumental in starting the trend of locating offices for companies in the suburbs when the Union Carbide building was built high on the hill in Mountain Brook Village. He would later serve as a member and manager of the newly opened Relay House high atop the Bank for Savings Building in 1963. The Relay house sat at or near the original location of the Relay House of 1871, Birmingham's first hotel of note.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LOCAL PRINCIPALS

The Rotary Club of Birmingham Principal of the Year program began in 2004 as a means to recognize outstanding Birmingham City School principals. The program annually honors school principals who have succeeded in providing high-quality learning opportunities for students as well as demonstrating exemplary contributions to the profession.

Selection Process

The Birmingham City School Board identified ten qualified nominees for this award, and those nominees were then asked to complete in-depth applications providing their educational experience, their professional growth experiences, with examples of any awards or honors they've received, what they perceive to be their greatest triumph as a principal, a description of an exemplary program, idea, strategy, or event at their school that best exemplifies the spirit of this award, and finally, letters of support.

VP of Vocational Service Brenda Hackney and the Rotarian judges received applications from eight very impressive nominees. Serving as judges this year were: Ethel Hall, Debra Lewis and David Pollick.

The 2010 Rotary Club of Birmingham Principal of the Year was selected from among the finalists and received a \$5,000 grant. The seven finalists receive a \$500 grant.

Recognition

The Rotary Club of Birmingham honored all Principals at last week's luncheon meeting. President Hatton Smith and Brenda Hackney named the finalists and the winner at the school board meeting on Tuesday, March 30. The club not only salutes the principalship but also provides a forum for the Principal of the Year to share something about the school and the intended use of the grant.

THE 2010 FINALISTS:

Donnetta Brown	Wilson Elementary
Sherene Carpenter	Martha Gaskins Middle School
Elaine Cooper-Young	Price Elementary
Ethel Knight	Huffman High School
Eleanor Stokes	EPIC Elementary
Cynthia Ward	Princeton Elementary
Jesse Watts	North Birmingham Elementary

SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS TO STEVE BROWN, COUNCILL ELEMENTARY, THE 2010 ROTARY CLUB OF BIRMINGHAM PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR!

THANK YOU NOTES

President Hatton, Richard Yeilding, Susan Jackson and others have received many notes and other expressions of appreciation for the Large Club Conference. As the conference was a group effort and all these thank you's are extended to all who volunteered, some of these notes will be reprinted in this and following RotaryGrams. The notes below are from the President Elect of the Salt Lake City Rotary Club (Colleen Malouf).



March 25, 2010

661 South 200 East
Salt Lake City, UT 84111
801-524-2020
Outside Salt Lake 800-675-LOOK
Fax 801-322-3647
email: 2020@for-sight.com
www.friendsforsight.org

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Check the box FRIENDS for SIGHT on your Vehicle Registration Drivers License and License Plate Tag



Mr. Hatton Smith
c/o Rotary Club of Birmingham
2018 Fourth Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35203

Dear Hatton:

WOW!!! what a fabulous Conference. I apologize Sara Kimball and I have been delinquent in thanking you. We hoped to have your personal address.

That was my first Large Club Conference. Your agenda was terrific, the guests were great, and your hospitality was complete in every way. You showed off Birmingham to its finest, but a highlight was hearing about all the fabulous things that happen in communities with Rotary Clubs.

The Harbert Center became the envy of every Rotarian at the Conference. In fact, I am hoping to establish a Rotary Center in Salt Lake. It would be a fitting recognition for our Centennial Year in 2011. We have begun with a few inquiries here. I hope you don't mind if we copy you.

Thank you for hosting us at **The Club**. It was the perfect welcome to Birmingham. The dining experiences you planned for us were among the best meals I've ever had. I was raving about the wonderful conference and when your generous "Goody Pack" arrived, it proved your southern hospitality has no limits. We've loved everything from the coffee to the grits and especially the signed cookbook. You will be a tough act to follow - it'll never happen.

Thank you for showing us the fellowship that makes Rotary the envy of every organization in the world. If you're ever in Salt Lake, please let us attempt to reciprocate your hospitality.

Peace, love, lights and laughter to you. Be safe.

Cordially,

Colleen Malouf
President and CEO

