

Rotary



Rotary Club of Homewood
P.O. Box 19333 • Birmingham, AL 35219

Keynotes

Meeting: Thursdays, 12 Noon, Homewood Library

September 22, 2016

Website: www.homewoodrotaryal.com



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM: Presentation of Paul Harris Fellows Rotary International Foundation Program Update on Namibia Water Well Project



SEPTEMBER IS BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY MONTH Literacy in Alabama - from the Literacy Council of West Alabama Website

According to a study, 90 million Americans read at basic and below basic levels. There's a national focus this month on improving literacy among all ages.

In Alabama, the realm of literacy extends far beyond the ability to read in the classroom. It encompasses a broad range of issues such as being able to read instructions for a prescription drug, use a computer, navigate a website, and manage one's financial information. Illiteracy has a significant negative impact on the economy; it contributes to increased rates of incarceration, teen pregnancy, high-school dropouts, and unemployment. Featured in this section are some informative statistics about illiteracy and its impact—in Alabama and beyond.

11 million adults are functionally illiterate; 1 in 4 Alabamians is functionally illiterate. Functional illiteracy is the inability to read, write, or use basic math skills and technology in everyday life. It is linked with numerous social problems including crime, increased high school dropout rate, poverty, teen pregnancy and poor emotional health. Functional illiteracy prevents an individual from reaching his or her full potential as a parent, employee and community member.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, more than 60% of K-12 school children read below the level needed to proficiently process the written materials used in their grade levels. Learning to read begins long before a child enters school. It begins when parents read to their children, buy their children books and encourage their children to read. According to the National Adult Literacy Survey, children who have not developed some basic literacy skills by the time they enter school are 3 to 4 times more likely to drop out in later years. However, it is never too late to improve one's reading skills. Programs are available for Pre-K children and K-12 adolescents.

There are 774 million adults around the world who are illiterate in their native languages, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. According to ProLiteracy, 42 million adults can't read at all in the U.S.; 50 million are unable to read at a higher level that is expected of a fourth or fifth grader.

In Alabama, 3.4 million or 15% of Alabama residents are illiterate, according to 2003 statistics from the National Center for Education Statistics. More specifically, in West Alabama, an average 35% of residents are illiterate. Literacy is necessary for an individual to communicate, understand information and function in today's society. Literacy is essential if we are to reduce poverty, reduce crime and end the cycle of illiteracy. Without literacy skills—the abilities to read, to write, to do math, to solve problems, and to access and use technology—today's adults will struggle to take part in the world around them and fail to reach their full potential as parents, community members and employees.

40% of fourth graders do not read at grade level, and this same number of students will not graduate from high school. The impact of illiteracy on society extends far beyond the inability to read. High rates of illiteracy correlate with increased crime rates, poverty, teen pregnancy, unemployment and an increased high school dropout rate.

What should highly motivated Rotary clubs do to promote and celebrate Literacy?

- * Recognize that there are literacy needs in our local communities and in communities across the world.
- * Every Rotary year plan to undertake at least one literacy project at home or internationally.
- * Create Awareness within the club and within the local community by means of speakers, community awards to children, adults, and Rotarians.
- * Qualify for a District or Zone Literacy Award - details available on RI website.
- * Participate in Homewood Rotary's Dictionary 4Life grant program.
- * Each of the FOUR AVENUES OF SERVICE offer literacy project opportunities – Club Service, Community Service, Vocational Service, Youth Opportunities and International Service literacy projects.

September 15 Meeting
Photos by Walter Mathis

THE ROTARY WAY



The Object of Rotary

THE OBJECT of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

FIRST The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

SECOND High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

THIRD The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

FOURTH The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

Rotarian Code of Conduct

The following code of conduct has been adopted for the use of Rotarians: **AS A ROTARIAN**, I will:

- 1) Act with integrity and high ethical standards in my personal and professional life.
- 2) Deal fairly with others and treat them and their occupations with respect.
- 3) Use my professional skills through Rotary to: mentor young people, help those with special needs, and improve people's quality of life in my community and in the world.
- 4) Avoid behavior that reflects adversely on Rotary or other Rotarians.

The Four-Way Test

OF THE THINGS we think, say or do:

- 1) Is it the **TRUTH**?
- 2) Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- 3) Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- 4) Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?



SEC DRAWING/TICKET SALES AND PRIZE WATCH

- TOP PRIZE - SEC Game Package/Bufalo Rock
- \$100 Nabeel's Gift Card/John Krontiras
- Overnight Stay - Town Place, 2 bedroom suite/Mike Johnson
- Overnight Stay - Town Place studio/Mike Johnson
- 2 tickets Boo at the Zoo/Iberia Bank-Debbie Roberson
- 4 tickets - Red Mountain Park Zip Line/Damon Holditch-Red Mtn Park
- 2 passes - Breakout Birmingham/Damon Holditch-Breakout Bham
- 6 mo. membership Lakeshore Fitness/Damian Veazey-LakeshoreFoundation
- Grundig Weather Radio, Emergency flash light, Kindle Paperwhite with case, Swiss camping tool, large umbrella/Janice and Paul Scholl

**WE NEED MORE! YOUR PARTICIPATION IS IMPORTANT.
DONATE A PRIZE. SELL A TICKET. HELP A STUDENT!**

NEXT BOARD MEETING

September 28, 2016

12 Noon

Homewood Library

Rotary



Basic Education and
Literacy Month

SEPTEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 SPEAKER: James Spann, Chief Meteorologist, ABC 33/40	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 SPEAKER: David G. Dionne, Exec. Director, Red Mountain Park	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 SPEAKER: David Allen Jr Iberia Bank Wealth Advisors	16	17
18	19	20 BOARD MEETING 12 Noon Homewood Library	21	22 SPEAKER: Paul Harris Fellows and Rotary Int'l Foundation Program	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 SPEAKER: Valerie Boyd, Director, Alzheimer Prog. Canterbury Methodist	30	

Board of Directors: Carol Chesnutt, Janice Scholl, John Krontiras, Robert Sprain, Debbie Roberson, Sandy Nelson, Merrick Wilson, Damon Holditch, Melody Salter, Debbie Fout, Mike Hathorne, Bo Duke - Ex-Officio

ROSTER - HOMEWOOD ROTARY CLUB

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*Indicates Paul Harris Fellow

+ Indicates Foundation Sustaining Member