



Rotaract Review

THE ROTARACT CLUB OF BIRMINGHAM

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October 2007

A Note From the President

2003 was a very important election year for Birmingham. In 2003, over 24 million people cast their votes and elected our own Ruben Studdard as the nation's second American Idol. The citizens of Birmingham were proud to have Birmingham representation in this popular televised singing competition and made a strong effort during the final vote to push Ruben to victory.



This was not the only election in 2003 that directly impacted the city of Birmingham, however. There was another election that received a lot less hype and publicity, and only managed to attract 44,806 voters. Based on these numbers, you would think that this second election must have been fairly unimportant. I guess that depends on whether you think voting for the person who serves as the CEO of our city government, who proposes a budget, executes the day-to-day operations of Birmingham, manages crime prevention and is responsible for economic development within our city is unimportant. My guess is that most of you think that the mayoral election for the City of Birmingham does not exactly fit into this "unimportant" category.

So why does American Idol seem to draw more interest from the citizens of Birmingham than our own mayoral race. Granted, I do recognize that AI was a national election and would therefore attract more voters. This does not explain the ridiculously low voter turnout for the mayoral race, however. The two candidates who advanced to a run-off in 2003 received only 14,442 votes and 10,185 votes, respectively.

There is no reason why we should continue to have low voter turnout in Birmingham. We will have the opportunity this month to vote for the mayor of Birmingham again. If you live in Birmingham and are eligible to vote, I encourage you to educate yourself on the candidates and hit the polls on October 9th. If you cannot vote in Birmingham, please encourage your friends and family that are eligible to go to the polls and vote. Effective leadership is critical to Birmingham's progress and bad officials are elected by good citizens that do not vote.

Part of the mission of Rotaract is to develop great leaders who in turn make a great community. Therefore, we have a responsibility to educate ourselves on individuals who are running for office and vote.

Warm regards,

April

Look Inside for ...

PROGRAMS

LUNCHEON

October 16th

SOCIAL

October 25th

**VENTURE CLUB
SOCIAL**

November 8th

**MAYORAL
ELECTION**

October 9th

R2R UPDATE

**MEMBER
SPOTLIGHT**

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

**Matthew Deason
Trey Ferguson**

Rotaract Vision

Be the premier civic club whose members, alumni, and sponsors lead the organizations that comprise a world-class community.

Rotaract Mission

Rotaract provides an opportunity for Birmingham's young professional leaders to promote responsible citizenship, develop professional skills, and employ effective leadership by offering venues to learn from proven leaders, network with committed young professionals and serve the needs of the community.

Future Events

Mayoral Election, Tuesday, October 9th

**UPCOMING
SCHEDULE
OF EVENTS**

**October 9th
Mayoral Election**

**October 16th
Luncheon
Speaker TBA**

**October 25th
Social on the Roof-
top of Innovation
Depot**

**October 28th
Mayoral Run-Off
Debate sponsored
by Rotaract**

**November 8th
Social with the
Venture Club of
Birmingham**

Tuesday, October 9th is Election Day

This club was founded on the idea that better leaders make a better community, so thank you for participating in the 2007 Birmingham Mayoral Election!

Why Should You Vote?

- Only 4% of the Metro population voted in the last Birmingham Mayoral Election
- The two candidates who advanced to a run-off received only 14,442 votes and 10,185 votes respectively. An estimated 50,000 young people (workers and students) live in Birmingham, most of whom do **not** vote.

Candidates (in alphabetical order):

- Valerie Abbott (City Counselor)
- William Bell (City Councilor)
- Raymond Brooks (Retired Fire Chief)
- Patrick Cooper (Attorney)
- Willis H. "Buddy" Hendrix
- Bernard Kincaid (Incumbent)
- Larry Langford (County Commissioner)
- Darryl W. Perry
- Carole Smitherman (City Councilor)
- Barry L. Taylor

VOTE!!

Ready 2 Read Update



2 Times the Excitement for Ready 2 Read!

Richard Davis was grinning ear-to-ear as he faced the semi-circle of Sun Valley Elementary second graders sitting before him. He read aloud; "Do Kangaroos have Mothers just like me and you!?" then turning the book so the children

could read along; "YES!" they cheerfully shouted, "KANGAROOS HAVE MOTHERS TOO!!"

On the opposite side of town, at Wilson Elementary, the pressure to perform increased for a second Ready 2 Read team when they saw the CBS van pull into the school's parking lot. The team executed flawlessly and their efforts were showcased during the five o'clock news.

September 20th was a monumental day for Ready 2 Read when teams rolled the program out to two schools not only on the same day, but also at

the exact same time. Holly Brown coordinated the activities at Sun Valley, Ginny DeBardeleben coordinated Wilson. Richard Davis demonstrated outstanding leadership with the Reading Buddy Program, Blair Badham oversaw all delivery logistics, and Rachael Diliberto expertly captured the events on film for the project's Promotional Materials. No less than six other Rotaractors volunteered to assist with delivery and classroom reading.

Four of six teachers have submitted their feedback forms; the responses have been extremely positive. Through the month of October, Chris Strong will continue working with project leads to finalize the full rollout plan. With the confidence of being able to role out 2 schools at one time, Chris and company are assessing the feasibility of rolling out 3, 4 or... too to be continued...



Membership Spotlight on Holly Brown

Name: Holly Brown
Company: Harbert Realty Services
Hometown: Birmingham, AL



looking for a way to give back to the community and also broaden my group of friends.

What has been the most memorable moment during your time with Rotaract?

I have not been a member that long, but have been working a lot with the Ready to Read program. We recently went to Sun Valley elementary to donate books and read to the children. I was surprised at how rewarding it really was.

Most Embarrassing moment or a nickname:

I actually have quite a few nicknames and respond to almost anything, but my most unusual nickname is Hollypond.

Briefly describe a typical day in your life as a young professional:

I run a department for a commercial realty company that handles the leased and owned property real estate portfolios for large national/international companies. There really is no typical day for me in this business which is quite nice; I spend most of my time ensuring that my clients are happy, traveling to different company headquarters and pitching potential new clients.

How did you come to join Rotaract?

I heard about Rotaract from my brother who has several friends in the organization. I was

What do you like to do in your free time?

These days I spend most of my free time working on my house (a true fixer upper). I also love to travel and now that it is fall, I watch a lot of football.

What's the best vacation you've ever taken?

I spent a few months backpacking through Europe after college and a trip like that can really show you what you are made of.

Tell us one thing most others wouldn't know about you.

Think I'm going to skip this one.

Rotaract Club of Birmingham Board of Directors

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Jason Goggins
Service Director
Anthony Oni
Social Director
Sarah Peinhardt

November Social, November 8th

Venture Club Party

Hosts: Venture Club and Rotaract Club of Birmingham
Where: Innovation Depot
When: Thursday, November 8
Time: 5:30-8:30
Band: Birmingham Heritage Band

Food Catered by The Culinar, including full stock bar

Business Casual dress

Happy Birthday to our October Birthdays



- Holly Brown – Oct 3rd
- Angie Segars – Oct 5th
- Karen McCoy – Oct 13th
- Leslie Wood – Oct 13th
- DJ Hampton – Oct 13th
- Brian Boehm – Oct 16th
- Heather Hansen – Oct 16th
- Andrea West – Oct 21st
- Roger Haughton – Oct 23rd
- Elizabeth Dotts – Oct 25th
- Adrienne Cleveland – Oct 26th
- Rachael Diliberto – Oct 30th

OCTOBER SOCIAL EVENT
MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Join Rotaract for its October social event – a rooftop spirits tasting. Atop Innovation Depot, members and guests will learn the secrets of mixology. Learn how long to keep that bottle around once it has been opened. We will discuss perfect pairings and what simple mix of standard and specialty liquors can create the perfect home bar.



COCKTAIL TASTING

OCTOBER 25
SIX O'CLOCK

JOIN US ON THE ROOF AS WE
EXPLORE THE SECRETS OF MIXOLOGY

LEARN ABOUT PERFECT PAIRINGS AND WHAT
SIMPLE MIX OF STANDARD AND SPECIALTY
LIQUORS CAN CREATE THE PERFECT HOME BAR

ROTARACT

THE ROOFTOP OF
1500 FIRST AVENUE NORTH
INNOVATION DEPOT