



THE BULLETIN

FLORENCE EXCHANGE CLUB
THE OLDEST SERVING SERVICE CLUB IN THE SHOALS BEGINNING JUNE 1921

2015-2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Adin Batson, *Pres*

Bert Bretherick

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Teresa Robertson,

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Board Members

One Year

Frank Eastland

Jenny Mitchell

Vance Persall

Two Year

Frank Hatchett

Joe Patterson

Doug Evans

Teresa Robertson introduced her guest, the infamous Bill Norvell. Bill graduated from Bradshaw High School in 1969 and went on to study at the University of Alabama. Bill spent 34 years serving his Florence customers at Crawford and Company prior to his retirement. (And yes, Bill is the son of Dr. SS “Tut” Norvell who kept so many families well during his 50 years of medical practice in the Shoals.)



Having retired, Bill found himself with the time to integrate himself in the community and develop an interest in social media. Many FEC members have witnessed Bill around town taking photos and introducing us to his friends at a variety of events, including First Fridays, Arts Alive, the WC Handy Festival, or at the local restaurant enjoying one of our town’s fine eateries. On one of those First Friday evenings, Bill was ‘people watching’ (as we all do sometimes) when he overheard a younger gentleman say “I’ve got to get out of this town. There’s no interesting people here.” It’s a good thing Bill was paying attention that night. With this young man’s comment running through Bill’s head, he was determined to prove this philosophy wrong. Having known and met thousands of interesting people in Florence, Bill knew what he had to do. He had to write a book about interesting people in Florence. Bill decided that he would have to be selective of the persons that he would interview for his book. He decided that he would interview 15 men and 15 women, and that each of their stories would be around 2,000 – 2,200 words. Knowing how many

interesting people were in Florence, it took Bill 4 months to decide which 30 would be interviewed for his first work. The goal: to find individuals in Florence whose stories would inspire, encourage and enlighten others. After 2 years of labor, the book is written and at the publisher. One by one, Bill Norvell is releasing the names of the 30 individuals who are interviewed in “Inspirations from Anytown, USA” in preparation for the book release and Bill wanted FEC members to be privy to knowing one named name. Our very own Mayor Bill Batson, the most senior individual featured in the book, has a special lesson to share.

Mayor Bill is known to many for his community service in many areas: accountant, public servant, philanthropic leader, father, and friend to name a few. Norvell recounts stories that Mayor Bill told of how his girlfriend was ‘getting along just fine without him’ that prompted his move to North Alabama; stories of his work with the Rosenbaum family; and stories of a 42-year tradition that involved baseball, hotdogs and best friends. Norvell noted that the lesson he learned from Mayor Bill is one that we all need to hear. “It is vitally important to make time in our lives for best friends.” It is apparent that Mayor Bill has made time in his life for many friends.

Others included in the book are Ms. Shirley Self, Norma Glasscock, Tripp Triplett, Ronnie Pannell and so many others. Norvell invited FEC Members to join him and the 30 individuals who are featured in “Inspiration from Anytown, USA” to a Book Release at the Florence Lauderdale Public Library on Sunday, September 6th from 2-4 pm.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**Sept 1
Parrish Riedel**

**Sept 8
Bill Sutherland**

**Board Meeting
September 14**

Board of Directors Report:

1 – Contract with Marriott has been renewed, no changes. Membership approved Board recommendation to renew.

2- The FEC Guest Policy will resume. Members are advised that this policy is in effect for current members to invite prospective members. Although family members are always welcome at Club meetings, the Guest Policy is orchestrated to build membership. A listing of members responsible for inviting prospective members as guest will begin mid-September.

3- The North Alabama State Fair is September 22-27. Adin reports that sign-up sheets for work schedules will be forthcoming. Members are encouraged to donate water or soft drinks if he or she is unable to work a slot during the Fair schedule.

4- September is Baby Safety Month. Andrea is working to schedule events during Sept Club meetings to support the health and well-being of babies in our community. Look for announcements to come concerning a “Diaper Shower” as one way the FEC will serve babies in our community.

5 – Adin reports that several good questions were raised concerning the Club’s participation in the Veteran’s Matter movement. Adin asked that members determine if he or she would be willing to form a committee to study the details of the Veteran’s Matter program and make a recommendation on how FEC may participate in this national movement. (*noted that ½ the members present at today’s meeting are, in fact, veterans. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!!)

6- Vance presented information concerning the Yellow Dot program as mentioned last week by Sheriff Singleton. Vance was kind enough to bring “Yellow Dot” program materials to FEC today so that each and every member can be provided quality emergency response in the event of an accident. Vance reminded all that this is a National program, thus any travel outside the state of Alabama would be included in allowing for emergency personnel to appropriately respond to FEC members.

Teresa Robertson reported that her nephew, Sheriff Deputy Austin Hill, continues to recover from a recent automobile accident. According to Teresa, Austin remains in critical condition and has many broken bones, but he is young and his spirits are high. Austin is surrounded by family and friends to help him during his recovery – and all prayers are appreciated.

In lieu of a regular program last Tuesday, President Adin held a business meeting. (Our friend Dr. Sandra reported that Congressman Mo Brooks had to postpone his trip to Florence, hopefully rescheduling his speaking tour at a later date.) Bert Bretherick introduced as his guest Mike Province who is an agent in his office.

Frank Eastland celebrated 51st wedded bliss to spouse Carolyn. And Sandra Sockwell announced that she and spouse Hubert celebrated 50 years of marriage.

Dr. Wells reported that Barry Morris voted against the landscaping on E. Tennessee. Joe Flippen said the Freedom Shrine Committee was working to dedicate the plaques at Lexington High School sometime in September. Doug Evans and Brian Maples reported the plans for the Lawman and Fireman of the Year events to be held in October.

President Adin will be working with local VFW and the American Legion officials regarding the Veterans Matter Project.



Congressman Mo Brooks



Andrea Holt announced that the speaker, John Croyle, is confirmed for the **One Nation Under God Luncheon** on November 10. More information as to the ticket price, menu and guest invitations will be announced soon.

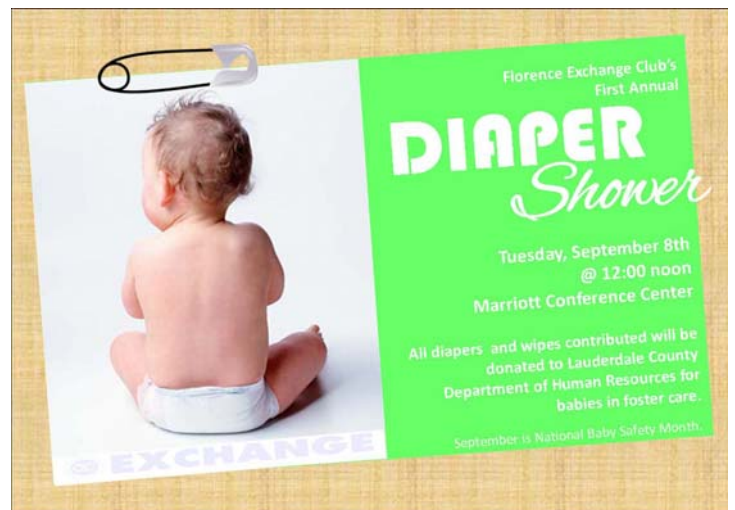
**One Nation Under God Event
Committee Meeting:
Tuesday, Sept 8; 11:20 AM**
@ Marriott Conference Center
(in the meeting room for regular FEC Meeting)
Discussion topics: Menu selection;
entertainment; ticket sales;
advertisements; decorations.

She also has asked for the ONUG committee meet next week just before the regular FEC meeting.



One more item from Andrea and Teresa:

All members are ask to support the **DIAPER DRIVE**. They are asking members to bring in diapers (all sizes) and baby wipes to the next meeting (Sept. 8). These will be donated to the Lauderdale County Department of Human Resources as a Baby Safety Month.



Andrea, Howard and Jenny huddle at the State Fair FEC Soft Drink tent.

See page 4 for the sign up sheet for this year. **Notice we need**



District Officers held a DIAPER DRIVE last February to assist the Montgomery DHR.

There are NO birthdays to celebrate in September. However, we recognize our members for their years of service:

Carl Madewell 47 years
Harold Parker 38 years
Joe Patterson 16 years
Teresa Robertson 17 years

STATE FAIR DRINK SALES SCHEDULE SEPT 22 to 27 2015

(Please PRINT name)

TUESDAY SEPT 22 5 PM TO 10 PM

Andrea Holt Bill Sutherland

Laura Williams Frank Hatchett

WEDNESDAY SEPT 23 5 PM TO 10 PM

Andrea Holt Jim McLean

Robert Beasley Joe Flippen

THURSDAY SEPT 24 5 PM TO 10 PM

Bert Bretherick

Jimmy Hall

Bill Bowen

Carl Madewell

FRIDAY SEPT 25 5 PM TO 10 PM

Teresa Robertson

Joe Patterson

Frank Eastland

Doug Evans

SATURDAY SEPT 26 12 NOON TO 6 PM

Doug Evans

Brian Maples

Joe Patterson

Frank Eastland

Mike Doyle

6 PM TO CLOSE

Howard Tinsley

SUNDAY SEPT 27 12 NOON TO 6 PM

Bill Cadenhead

Dr. Jim Wells

Howard Tinsley