



THE BULLETIN

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



Carole Coil Medley is a Republican and judge on the partisan Lauderdale County District Court in Alabama. She was appointed to the court by Gov. Bob Riley (R) in September 2008. She won election to a full term in office in 2010. This election made her the first Republican to hold the seat since the Civil War.

Judge Medley won re-election in the general election on November 8, 2016

She received her undergraduate degrees from Athens State University and the University of North Alabama and her master's degree in secondary education from the University of North Alabama. Medley earned her J.D. from the Jones School of Law.

Speaking to the Florence Exchange Club Tuesday, Judge Medley related that she deals with the crimes in the county. She said there are three circuit judges: Gil Self, Ben Graves and the newest member is Will Powell. "It is good to have a consistency in the judiciary system."

"Some of the challenges now facing the judiciary system is the \$3.4 million fall affecting the personnel such as bailiffs, juvenile clerk and law clerks," she said. "Still one judge short in Lauderdale County."

"Some 70% law suits are entered by businesses. But it is a slow procedure, maybe five to six months and it is expensive."

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

February 14
Valentine Party

February 21
Allen Moore

February 28
TBA

The retirement package has been modified recently, in that the new judges coming in 2016 their benefits will be lower.

Some good news though is that Alabama is the first state to have ethics in the judicial system.

Also due to Hal Heflin, we have a unified judicial system.

2016-2017

OFFICERS

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Vance Persall

Joe Patterson

Two Year

B. W. Gibbons

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“Many of the problems now would be the synthetic drugs. Our youth today can buy this stuff over the counter at gas stations. It is legal as it is packaged. The youngsters are mixing it with Red Bull and getting the “high”, she commented.



There is an high increase of the use of heroin. She mention one recent case of the father and mother found dead in a car due to heroin overdose, and with a small baby in the back seat.

“It is a dangerous epidemic.”

Another drug problem is the prescription drugs stolen from parents medicine. In recent years, there has been a dramatic increase in prescription drug misuse or abuse. This increase has led to a corresponding increase in ER visits because of accidental overdoses as well as admissions to drug treatment programs for drug addictions. Misuse of Oxycodone and naloxone, Fentanyl, Methadone, from opioid pain relievers such as OxyContin to ADHD drugs such as Ritalin.

“Meth is a white rural problem,” she added. Much of it is made by using certain chemical and cooking it, but the fumes are just as deadly. The use of marijuana is the gateway to stronger drugs. Most people smoke the plant's dried leaves, flowers, stems, and seeds. But marijuana can also be mixed into food (like brownies, cookies, and lollipops), brewed as a tea, or inhaled with a vaporizer. No matter how it gets into your system, it affects almost every organ in your body, and your nervous system and immune system, too. When you smoke pot, your body absorbs THC right away. “I will be against the legalizing marijuana in Alabama,” she said.

“Another big problem we face is the breakdown of the family unit,” Judge Medley said. “Single mothers caring for 2 or 3 children and some times in trouble with the law or on drugs.” DHR is trying to help but it is a never ending problem. She described an incident of a family living in a local home having two children but no food in the home, no eating utensils. In the discussion with the children, they said they took turns of eating every other day.

“The human trafficking of young white girls 14 to 16 years old is at an all time high. I-20 is the pipeline through which much of this is happening. In cities like Nashville, Birmingham, Chattanooga these predators are luring the runaways into prostitution.”

“There are so many great people working in Lauderdale County to help with many of these problems,” she added. She mentioned CASA, Safe Place, Cramer, DHR, Room at the Inn, Drug Court, One Place of the Shoals which with dedicated staff and volunteers are helping solve many of the problems.

Ben Franklin said, "Your net worth to the world is usually determined by what remains after your bad habits are subtracted from your good ones."



On Valentine's Day we are planning a meeting with music, laughter and celebrating brotherly (and sisterly) love and friendship. Your role in this is to bring a valentine card signed by you-- not addressed to anyone. We will mix up the cards and pass them out. Feel free to invite a guest for lunch and fun. We'll have a sign up sheet for guest next Tuesday. Hope we can have everyone there on the 14th.

If anyone has a unique Valentine story please let Peggy know.

President Bert is reminding all that March 7 is Youth in Government Day. We will meet in the Florence Coliseum for presentations and lunch with the youth and city officials.

There is a scheduled Board of Directors meeting Monday, February 13, in the Public Library at NOON.

The next **FUN-RAISER** will be the annual Red Beans and Rice sale on March 27. This will be at the First Presbyterian Church. Tickets and more information will be ready soon.

Teresa Robertson says letters are now out announcing the **FOOD RUN** to be held in late April.

Our star PEECAN salesman, Vance, contracted with Marriott Shoals chef to purchase seven cases of pecans. This leaves about 9 or 10 cases remaining at Teresa's office.



Congratulations to
Bill and Jean Bowen
on their
60th
wedding anniversary

***Nomination Form for the Florence Exchange Club
FY 2017-2018***

Vice President _____

Two Year Board Member

Secretary _____

Treasurer _____

There is a need for three 2-year Board Members and one 1-year Board member.

One Year Board Member

Making a new member a long-term Exchangite

When a new member is recruited into your Exchange Club, it is important to make them feel a part of your club as soon as possible. The new member's mentor (sponsor, long-term member or past club president) should convey to them the great importance of your Exchange Club through subjects such as your club's range of activities and the satisfaction and value both personally and throughout the community and nation that the club provides. The new member should also understand that they are not only part of a club to help their community, they are also part of a much larger organization helping communities across the country.

- The club president should recognize and welcome the new member within their first 3 to 5 days through a variety of ways.
- The new member should receive an e-mail or telephone call welcoming them to the club.
- The club president should mail a formal welcome letter and recognize the new member and sponsor at the next club meeting. The new member should be thanked for taking an active role in making their community a better place to live through our programs of service.
- Warmly welcomed and informed members are more likely to become active Exchange members. The club president or other officer should hold a new member orientation within the first month of the new member's trial period. Refer to the "Orientation Guide" included in the Club Monthly Planner.
- Be sure to fill out and mail the "New Member Activation Form" (also included in the planner) to national headquarters for each new member as soon as possible.
- The new member's mentor should maintain an active relationship with the new member.
- The mentor should contact or meet with the new member on a weekly basis to learn more about their interests, hobbies, activities, goals and plans on achieving them.
- The mentor needs to establish a connection with the new member and introduce them to other Exchangites that share their interests, as well as other members in the club. Exchange members should encourage the new member to share their interests, hobbies, activities and goals. This type of communication will open friendship and bonding opportunities for the active and new members.
- The mentor needs to work with the new member to identify those topics of community service that appeal to them and actively work to involve them in activities that fit their interests.
- Exchange members should approach the new members at each event and meeting to engage in follow-up conversations and get to know the new member. You should also identify how your club is doing in terms of insuring this individual becomes a long-term member. Your club should involve your new members in a simple club event or project that is of interest to them as soon as possible.

Be sure to orientate new members as soon as possible. The sooner they are oriented and become involved in your club, the greater the chance they will stay around for a long time. Assign each trial member a mentor of assist in their involvement with the club. The mentor may be the sponsor, a long-time member or past club president.