

Thursdays at noon  
Indian Hills Country Club

#### 2014-2015 Officers

Laura Gregory, President  
Chris Kyle, Jr., President-Elect  
Bev Leigh III, Vice President  
Ardis Hancock, Secretary  
David Jones, Treasurer  
James Zeanah, Past President  
Curtis Baggett, Past President

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Betsy Jamigan, 2017  
Michael Quinn, 2017  
Candice Burge, 2016  
Robert Morgan, 2016  
Bill Goodwin, 2015  
Finis Prendergast, 2015

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Eric Baklanoff\*  
Bill Barton  
James Brown\*  
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Martha Cook  
J. Sydney Cook III  
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James Cowden\*  
Henry DeVasher\*  
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Dexter Hancock  
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Tennis Jackson  
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Bev Leigh, Jr.\*  
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William Lipsey\*  
Harmon Looney\*  
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Buck Medley  
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Lee Rearden\*  
David Reynolds  
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Wright Ross, Jr.\*  
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Munny Sokol\*  
Russell Stockman\*  
William Tate  
Andy Tucker  
Walt Vornbrock\*  
Beasor Walker\*  
Ernest Williams\*  
Hoyt Winslett\*  
George Wright  
Jim Zeanah \* deceased



# The Unitor

Exchange Club of Tuscaloosa

Chartered February 9, 1923 • Affiliated with the National Exchange Club

[www.tuscaloosaexchangeclub.org](http://www.tuscaloosaexchangeclub.org)

In service to community, state, and nation, for exchange of ideas among business and professional men and women...

January 22, 2015

## Today: Othni Lathram, Director Alabama Law Institute



Othni Lathram is the director of the Alabama Law Institute. The Alabama Law Institute, created by an act of the Legislature in 1967, is a legislative agency that operates with volunteers. Its purpose is to clarify and simplify the laws of Alabama, to revise laws that are out-of-date and to fill in gaps in the law where there exists legal confusion. Its diverse membership includes members of the Alabama State Bar Association; the judges of the Alabama Supreme Court, courts of appeals, and circuit courts; federal judges domiciled in Alabama; full-time law faculty; members of law schools; and lawyer members of the Legislature.

Prior to joining the Alabama Law Institute, Othni practiced in Birmingham with a focus on complex litigation. Othni received his B.S. in Economics from Auburn University and his J.D. from The University of Alabama. He is an elected member of the American Law Institute, serves on the executive committee of the Legal Services Staff Section of the National Conference of State Legislatures, and serves on the Alabama Supreme Court's Standing Committees on the Rules of Civil Procedure and Criminal Pattern Jury Instructions. He is the co-author of *Alabama Civil Procedure: a LexisNexis Practice Guide*. Othni is a member of the bar in Alabama and Texas and is admitted to practice before federal and circuit courts around the country.



Glen Smith (right) with 2014 winning chili cook team, *Pirates of the Chili Bean*, talks about how the Cookoff provides both fun and good works for the community. See page 2.



This year's Chili Cookoff sponsors include:

#### Ring of Fire

- Bryant Conference Center • NUCOR Steel

#### Habanero

- Bank of Tuscaloosa • Alabama Power

#### Red Hot

- Banks Quarles • McAbee Construction  
• Morgan Stanley • Regions Bank  
• Rosen Harwood • Saluting Our Military

#### Eat Mor Heat

- Bryant Bank • Capstone Bank • Rhoda Smith

#### Jalapeno

- Award Company of America • Buffalo Rock  
• Firefighters Local 403 • First Federal Bank  
• Fitts Agency • Harrison Construction • Sysco  
• Jamison Money Farmer • LoanLinc • Pass Family  
• Raymond James [Brock Jones, Brandon Stough]  
• Robertson Bank • Sanford Restaurant Equipment

#### Chiliheads

- BamaStuff • 1st National Bank of Central Alabama  
• Mike Echols & Associates • Remmert & Company • Sydney Cook & Associates

**Chili Chompers** [Dr. Jamie D. Johnson, Dr. Ron McIlwain, Dr. Jim Mills, and Dr. Bill Wright]

#### Chili Lovers

- Larry O'Neal • Renasant Bank • Townsend Ford  
• Reynolds, Reynold, & Little, LLC  
• Tuscaloosa Police Chief Steven Anderson

#### Sweet Peppers

- Alcove International Tavern  
• Bev & Nancy Leigh • Lucille Leigh-Griender  
• Ray and Candace Leigh

## The Unitor

Weekly Newsletter of the  
Exchange Club of Tuscaloosa

Linda Jackson, Editor  
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COUNTDOWN to Cookoff: 3 weeks

Sat., Feb. 14, 2015 at Bryant Conference Center

Sponsored by: PNC Bank



- William (Bill) Pool* January 15
- Matthew Hood* January 24
- Mark Sullivan* January 27
- Milton Collier* January 27
- Barry Burns* January 30
- Malcolm G. Smith* January 30

**Member News**

**Sam Gambrell** is now in his tenth year as a DCH volunteer. He visits and interviews patients in his assigned caseload about their care in the hospital and relays their concerns, compliments, and complaints to the management of the hospital. This is only one of his many activities, including his work with Veterans Memorial Park. He also volunteers with the Chili Cookoff every year. And so can you! Just ask Glen what you can do to help...Glen Smith at [glenrho@comcast.net](mailto:glenrho@comcast.net)

**Ken Swindle** shares this email he got from **Tennis**, commenting "funny, but probably the truth":

Due to the cost, I have torn out my home security system and resigned from the *Neighborhood Watch* Program.

I have installed a Syrian flag on my front porch, an Iranian flag next to my flower bed, and the black flag of ISIS waves from my roof-top.

The state police, city police, sheriff, FBI, CIA, and Homeland Security are all watching my house 24/7.

I've never felt safer.

**A man has reached middle age when he is cautioned to slow down by his doctor instead of by the police.**

There are no unrealistic dreams, just unrealistic timelines.

**Buenos Dias, Chiliheads:**

The Exchange Club's 9th Annual Great Tuscaloosa Chili Cookoff will be Saturday, February 14, 2015, at Bryant Conference Center on the UA campus. I'll chair the Cookoff in 2015 for the fifth consecutive year. When I retired from the US Army Dental Corps in 1991 after 22 years of service and moved to Tuscaloosa, I never envisioned being active in a civic club, much less chairing a fundraiser. Being the chairman has been immensely satisfying and rewarding. I'm blessed with an outstanding, veteran committee of devoted professionals, who make my duty as Leader of the Chiliheads a pure joy.

In the last 2 years, we've raised a total of \$44,000, and our combined net gain over 8 years has exceeded \$124,000. We use the proceeds to fund our work in Tuscaloosa and the region for Child Abuse Prevention, Community Service, Youth Development, and Honoring America.

In addition, \$6000 of the 2012 Cookoff money was given to the Exchange Club Foundation which provides grants to local charities and non-profits. And \$5,000 in 2013 Cookoff money was given to the local Police Athletic League. Several years ago, Cookoff money has also paid for the fence at the Miracle League Park [\$10,000]; contributed toward the American Legion's purchase of a van to transport its Honor Guard to military funerals; and been donated to the Tuscaloosa Veterans Memorial Park on several occasions, which has distinguished the Exchange Club of Tuscaloosa as a Silver Circle donor to the Park's endowment. We feel we are good stewards of the money generated by the Cookoff and get the most bang for the buck in terms of caring for our fellow citizens with genuine needs.

In February, our Foundation awarded \$6000 worth of grants to Turning Point (for

abused women), the Children's Center, and the West Alabama Food Bank. A total of \$7300 in grants was awarded by the Foundation in December to Tuscaloosa Children's Center, Kid One Transport, and Child Abuse Prevention Services.

Our Cookoff, as I see it, is a very affordable, enjoyable and warmhearted dead-of-winter event for the community that is not only great fun, but also serves a most worthy and serious cause -- making Tuscaloosa a better place for all of its citizens. Attendance ranges from 800 and up, giving sponsors and participants good exposure to the general public.

Many chili lovers attend free of charge, having been given tickets purchased by Exchange Club members. Otherwise, tickets are cheap; beverages are inexpensive; ice cream and cheese biscuits are complimentary. There is live and recorded music, children's activities, and a continuously recycling big screen video paying tribute to our loyal sponsors and showing images of past Cookoffs and drawing prizes. Our drawing offers valuable prizes such as a large flat screen HDTV, Coach Saban-autographed Bama gear, a set of tires, ipods, jewelry, UA football and basketball tickets, and countless gift certificates to area restaurants.

**And the Chili?** Well, the Chili is splendid --some more splendid than others--and there will be 35 or so varieties to sample. The competition among the Chili Teams - for money, trophies, and glory - is intense, sets a high standard, and results in an abundance of incomparable Chili.

Mucho Gracias to Committee members, Exchange Club members, Sponsors, Chili Cook Teams, judges, and volunteers for the time, energy and good work you have dedicated to make our Chili Cookoff a Tuscaloosa tradition to treasure.

*-Glen Smith, Chili Cookoff Chairman*