

The Next Stage

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 4

Newsletter of The Huntsville Division Alumni Association

NOVEMBER 15, 2023

Next Board Mtg:

(2nd Thu each quarter)
Jan 11, Apr 11, Jul
11, Oct 10, 2024.

2:30 pm Faith
Presbyterian Church,
SE corner of
Whitesburg/Airport,
5003 Whitesburg Dr.

Dates to Remember:

2023

Sat. 12/2: Christmas
Party...Mag Trace
Magnolia Rm.
Social Hr: 11 a.m.
Lunch: ~12 p.m.
Entertainment—
Strings of Pearl!
Don't miss them!

2024

Spring Brkfst: **TBD**
Summer Picnic: **TBD**
Fall Lunch: **TBD**
Christmas Party: **TBD**

Details of events
provided closer to
date of event!

Stay tuned!

Contact appropriate
person if interested in
attending one of
these gatherings!

1st Wed: Gibson's
will not be opening,
but Ladies Lunch-
eon can be held at
another location.

Email PattiKat5332
@gmail.com if in-
terested in resum-
ing this event.

3rd Wed: Lunch @
Logan's/Balmoral
Dr. Email Jim
Gasaway @
djgas@att.net if
interested!



CHRISTMAS PARTY AT MAGNOLIA TRACE

Our annual Christmas Party meeting will be held on Saturday, December 2, 2023, in the Magnolia Room of Magnolia Trace, 1 Clubhouse Avenue, Huntsville. Plan to arrive at ~11:00 a.m., with lunch being served ~12:00 Noon. The delicious plated meal (no buffet) will consist of: salad/dressing, roast turkey, cornbread dressing, mashed potatoes

with gravy, cranberry sauce, green bean casserole, Scrumptious Pumpkin Crème Brulee, and selected beverages. A great meal!

Your committee, Jan Kranert and Cecil Stokes have kept the cost to \$25 per person. Thanks to you both for another job well done!

Paid reservations should be in by Monday, 27 November so proper planning/preparation can be done. Mail checks to HDAA, P.O. Box 4185, Huntsville, AL 35815. Email Charlie Thomas at: beankntr@gmail.com.

Strings of Pearl Chamber Ensemble will be providing holiday music, contemporary/classic R&R, as well as music appealing to our aerospace audience! If you have (or haven't) heard them before, you won't want to miss them now. Exceptional!

***We look forward to seeing you in the Magnolia Room
December 2nd, ~11:00 a.m.!***

ENGINEERING LUNCHEON!

The engineering luncheon is ON....for Tuesday, December 12th, 11:00 a.m. at Logan's on Balmoral Drive in Huntsville.

If you plan on coming, please RSVP to Jim Gasaway by Text to 256-566-9522, or email to djgas@att.net.

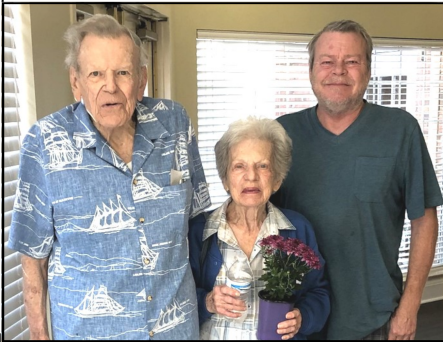
Please confirm your reservations with Jim by Tuesday, December 5 so Logan's has ample time to properly prepare for the luncheon. *See you there!*



IF
I COULD GIVE
YOU ANY GIFT,
I'D GIVE YOU
Love
AND
laughter
A PEACEFUL HEART,
A SPECIAL DREAM,
AND JOY
FOREVER AFTER.

Fall Breakfast Gallery

The Fall Breakfast was another heartwarming event. The crowd was smaller than usual, but it enabled good visiting with everyone. Food was delicious, camaraderie abundant, and everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy the event. *Thanks to Bill and Amma Barnes for another successful time!* (More photos on the HDAA FaceBook site!)



Always first on the scene coming Or going, and first in the chow line: Charlie, Anna, and Chuck Thomas. *It's just a good thing we have you to keep us all straight!*



Above, L-R: Jan Kranert, Carole/Tom Bryant. *Isn't it amazing how some folks just Never seen to change!*

Right: Sue and Herb Burton. *We need to see y'all more often!* 😊



L-R Bill/Amma Barnes, Betty Willis enjoying conversation during breakfast. *Thanks to Bill and Amma Barnes for their diligent work that resulted in yet Another wonderful Fall Breakfast! It takes a lot of people in the right place, at the right time to make such an event come to fruition. Amazingly, the chairpersons of All our events always seem to do it effortlessly and flawlessly.*

If you haven't been coming, don't miss out!

Friends In The News...



Sam Vance and his attentive care giver enjoying a brief break in their dining.

Need to see more of Both of you, Sam! 😊
Join us more often.

VETERANS DAY PARADE

In case you were unable to attend the parade, here are a few photos to enjoy. It was said to be the longest in Huntsville parade history. What a wonderful way to honor All our noble heroes: military, first responders of Every arena, and frontline health care workers—each and Every one who puts their lives on the line every day for total strangers. We owe them all a debt beyond measure. *Thanks to you All for your service to our community and beyond!*



SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

SLATE OF OFFICERS AND BOARD NOMINATED FOR 2024

(Highlighted names only to be voted upon at the annual Christmas Business Meeting; others are carry-overs.)

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer/Membership

Ray Zimmerman
Wayne McCain
Cecil Stokes
Charlie Thomas

Directors ('24): Jan Kranert
 Gerald Roberts
 Patti Wilson

Directors ('25): Tom Bryant
Jim Gasaway
Hermann Miskelly

Directors (26): Bill Barnes
Ron Clements
Nominee TBD

Ex Officio: (Vacant)/Historian
 Cecil Stokes/WebMaster

Retiring from Board: Benny Pitsinger, Glenn Webb. All others agreed to serve again. Nominations may be accepted from the floor.

A nominee will be requested from the floor for the open position, to serve from '24-'26. If none are solicited, a request to approve a deviation from the by-laws to proceed with an 8-member Board will be sought from the membership at this meeting.

A Special THANKS to all who volunteer repeatedly. We appreciate you all!

Thanks to the Nominating Committee (Ray Zimmerman, Bill Barnes, and Tom Bryant) for doing such a great job! It's getting more and more difficult to recruit new members to the Board. We can elect additional directors (Board members) at the annual Christmas meeting; and, anyone else willing to serve should let that be known prior to the 12/2 party by contacting a Board Member. **Surviving spouses of former HD employees are just as much members as their late spouses were (and, thus, can hold office).** We would appreciate your willingness to serve! It's only 4 meetings/year, very casual, and fun (might even get a dinner out 🍷 afterwards).

If you can't make the Christmas meeting, ballots may be emailed to Charlie Thomas: beankntr@gmail.com or mailed to HDAA, P.O. Box 4185, Huntsville, AL 35815-4185. If coming to the meeting, your vote will be counted at the annual meeting, usually by a vocal vote of Aye or Nay, and/or a raise of hands.

It's hoped you'll join us for this festive, important Christmas Party!

Keep Your Mind Sharp As You Age!

WORK—Stay active doing something you enjoy, peaking your interest in being alive! Make full use of your talents.

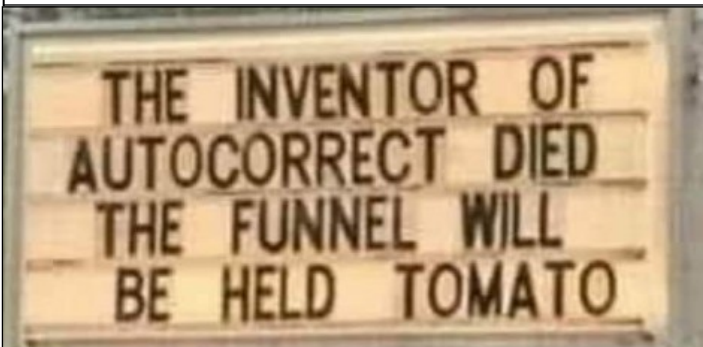
CONNECT—Stay in touch with those you love. It's very positive to love and be loved: friends, relatives, family. Listen to their stories, backgrounds. Things to remember! Sharing your stories strengthens those special bonds.

LEARN—Never stop learning: read, learn more about art, audit a class at a local college. Be less self-absorbed and learn as much about others as possible. It's exciting!

APPRECIATE—We can't all have Everything...when you have the important things in life, you have to realize it.

As we age, we all slow down, ailments may complicate things and that can be depressing. Don't dwell on the negative, focus on the positive things in your life (past And present) and make the Most of what you have Now. It's Really worth the effort. Keep a good disposition, knowing how fortunate we have All been throughout our lives!

(Excerpt from article on-line on Aging in Place.)



CHOOSING A HOME CARE AGENCY

Below are important questions to ask a potential home care provider, and is meant to assist you in your evaluation process.

- Has the company been responsive/informative/professional (available 24/7 as a resource for you/your family)?
- Are the caregivers screened, bonded, insured, background checks done on all applicants?
- Does the company employ its caregivers, taking care of taxes, withholding and workers' compensation?
- Does the company conduct any caregiver training, such as the Balanced Care Method™ (emphasizing healthy body, mind and spirit)?
- Does the company guarantee a personality match and offer caregiver interviews? Many companies rotate between several caregivers, making it more difficult to truly know all the specific idiosyncrasies of your care recipient.
- Does the company offer back-up caregivers in case of emergency?
- Is the care manager available on-call 24/7, including nights and weekends?
- Does the company perform regular quality assurance visits, client satisfaction reviews, caregiver evaluations?
- Does the company offer a satisfaction guarantee without any long-term contracts or commitments?
- Is the company a recognized leader in the senior care industry with published books on senior wellness/caregiving?

(Information from Home Care Assistance, www.homecareassistance.com)

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The Huntsville Division Alumni Association
P.O. Box 4185
Huntsville, AL 35815-4185

Place
Stamp
Here

REMINDER: \$12 DUES FOR 2023 WERE DUE 1/1/23.

*IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY SUBMITTED, PLEASE CONSIDER
DOING SO, PERHAPS WITH YOUR CHRISTMAS PARTY
RESERVATIONS. THANKS!.*



*Thanksgiving—11/23
Pearl Harbor Day—12/7
Hanukkah—12/7
Bill of Rights Day—12/15
Christmas—12/25*

*May your Thanksgiving
fill your hearts with
gratitude.*

*May your Christmas
spirit last all year long!*

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The Next Stage is the quarterly newsletter publication of the Huntsville Division Alumni Association, Inc. Distribution: approximately 80. Editor: Patti Wilson. Its address is POB 4185; Huntsville, AL; 35815-4185.

The 2023 HDAA Board consists of :
President/Ray Zimmerman, VP/Bill Barnes, Secretary/Cecil Stokes, Treasurer -Membership/Charlie Thomas. Directors: (23) Benny Pitsinger, (23) Ron Clements, (23) Glenn Webb; (24) Jan Kranert, (24) Gerald Roberts, (24) Patti Wilson; (25) Tom Bryant, (25) Ron Clements, (25) Ray Zimmerman.

Ex-officio members of the Board: Historian (vacant) and Cecil Stokes/WebMaster.

Contact Cecil for details about the HDAA FB page (Friend to receive notices) and how to view more photos in color!

***Don't forget to join us at Magnolia Trace
12/2/23, at 11 a.m.!***

***Entertainment by Strings of Pearl
Chamber Ensemble of Huntsville.***

In Fond Memory...

We join the families in mourning the loss of family, friends and prior coworkers:

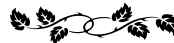
Gloria Blackwell: Wife of Buddy Blackwell, who worked in Production Engineering.

Myrna Joyce Brown: Wife of John D. Brown, who worked in Operations, Large Motor Loading.

Tom Owens: Who worked in Engineering, Rocket Engineering Library.

Arthur "Mike" Ogram: Who worked in Engineering in 1960, and later as Martin's Program Manager for Patriot propulsion.

William D "Bill" Stephens: Who worked in R&D, Research Section.



They will be sorely missed by us all, since they truly touched our lives.

The holidays can be a difficult to those who may be suffering in some way, so try to reach out to them and let them know they are never alone.

*How cool is it that the same God who created mountains and oceans and galaxies looked at you and thought the world needed one of you, too.
I believe in the sun even when it's not shining. I believe in love even when I'm alone. I believe in God even when he is silent.
The love always remains with the memories of fun times shared.*