

Kiwanian

Mark Berte

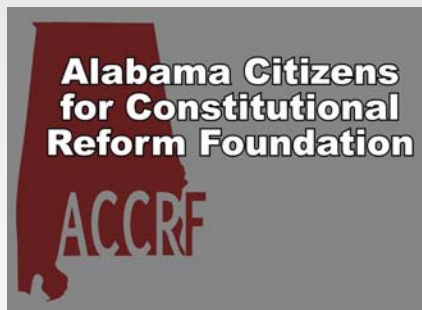
Grassroots Education Director
Alabama Citizens for Constitutional
Reform Foundation

Mark Berte is the Grassroots Education Director for the Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform (ACCR) Foundation, a non-partisan education organization dedicated to help Alabamians understand our 1901 Constitution and the needs and opportunities to reform it.

Prior to serving at the ACCR Foundation, Mark was the Director of the statewide Constitutional Reform Education Campaign at Greater Birmingham Ministries.

Mark received his Bachelors degree at Birmingham Southern College and his Master's degree from the Lyndon Baines Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas. Currently, he is a member of the Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama Roundtable, is a graduate of the 2006 class of Leadership Mobile and 2007 class of Leadership Alabama.

Mark and his wife, Leigh Ann, who is an English professor at Spring Hill College, attend Dauphin Way United Methodist Church in Mobile. They have a seven year old daughter named Julianne and a two year old daughter named Linden Elizabeth.



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BOARD ACTION

The following new members were approved for publication at the April board of directors meeting. All questions and comments should be received in the Kiwanis club office by Tuesday May 12, 2009.

Judge U. W. Clemon

Position: Shareholder/Attorney - White Arnold & Dowd
Sponsors: Ralph Cook, Jim North and Neal Berte

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Position: CFO - Robins & Morton
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Position: VP of Development - Alabama Public Television
Sponsors: Ann McMillan, Tom Scarritt and Beth Floyd

Our club celebrated its 39th Youth of the Year awards during last week's meeting. The awards were established by the club to honor local high school seniors who excel in scholarship, leadership, citizenship and service. In the early days, winning students were given a certificate. Today, the award purse stands at \$12,000 in scholarship funds. Committee members determine how many students "win" and determine how much scholarship money to award each student.

This year the committee reviewed a number of applications and narrowed them down to the top ten. Ten students were invited to the Kiwanis Club offices and were interviewed by committee members over two days. During the interview process committee members enjoyed visiting with each student in a casual setting. Questions ran the gamut from serious discussion about community service and scholarship to more relaxed discussion about life, politics, dreams and expectations for the future.

Committee members were consistently impressed and somewhat awed by the accomplishments of this year's interviewees and award winners. All agreed that it was refreshing and encouraging to see young people with the will and determination required to make a difference in their own lives and in the world in which they live.

This year we had all female finalist. The five winners were presented a check for \$2,000 each with an additional \$2,000 check given to the student the committee felt was truly the Youth of the Year. The YOY honor was awarded to Miss Leandra Barnes from Hoover High School. Leandra plans to pursue a career in medicine. She will be the Valedictorian of her senior class with a grade point average of 4.58.

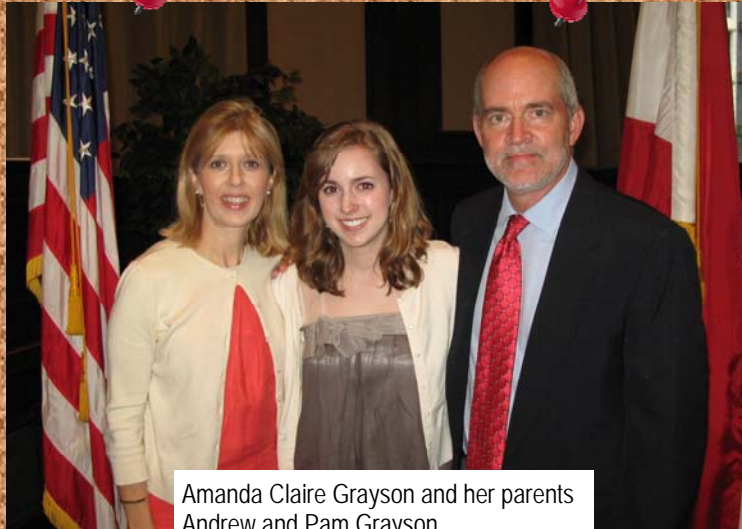
The five winners in the photo below (L-R) were Misses RaiNesha Miller from The Altamont School, Leandra Barnes from Hoover High School, Jalissa Hunter from P.D. Jackson Olin High School, Lauren Theiss from Vestavia Hills High School and Amanda Claire Grayson from Mountain Brook High School. Congratulations ladies!

Thanks to all the YOY committee members who participated in the lengthy interview process and to this year's committee co-chairs Jay Patton and Dave Nebergall. This was one of the best programs yet.





Left - YOY Committee Co-Chair Dave Nebergall and the 2009 Youth of the Year, Miss Leandra Barnes from Hoover High School. At right Leandra is shown with her parents Lloyd and Angela Barnes.



Amanda Claire Grayson and her parents Andrew and Pam Grayson



Lauren Theiss with her mother (R) Susan Theiss and her (L) Soccer Coach Brigid Littleton.



RaiNesha Miller with her mother Katherine Miller, Terry Stalker, Mentor (far L) and The Altamont School Principal Sarah Whiteside (R).

2008-2009 Officers

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Eli Capilouto

Provost / University of Alabama at B'ham

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President / EGS Commercial Real Estate

Secretary

Leigh B. Hood

Partner / Symmetry Partners, LLC

Immediate Past Secretary

Robert B. Aland

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Next Tuesday's Program April 28, 2009 12:00 Noon

Mark Berte

Grassroots Education Director



Upcoming Programs

May 5

Edwin Marty

Executive Director

Jones Valley Urban Farm

Wednesday

May 13

Joint Meeting
with Rotary

General Charles Campbell

Commanding General

U.S. Army Forces Command

May 19

Athletics

Awards Program

Special Guest Speaker:

John Croyle

Founder and Executive Director

Big Oak Ranch, Inc.

KIWANIAN on the web www.kcob.org

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PERIODICAL
POSTAGE PAID
AT BIRMINGHAM
ALABAMA