



PRESS RELEASE

1100 Ireland Way · Suite 101 · Birmingham, Alabama 35205-7001 · (205) 558-3980 · Fax (205) 558-3981

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Contact: Jennifer Dome
Public Relations and Publications Manager
(205) 558-3991, (205) 558-3981 FAX
Email: jdome@ahf.net

ALABAMA HUMANITIES FOUNDATION ELECTS SIX NEW BOARD OFFICERS

The Alabama Humanities Foundation (AHF) is pleased to announce the election of its new board officers for 2011: **Jim Noles of Birmingham, chair**; John Rochester of Ashland, vice chair; Danny Patterson of Mobile, treasurer; **Lisa Narrell-Mead of Birmingham, secretary**; Nancy Sanford of Sheffield, executive committee; and Reggie Hamner of Montgomery, executive committee.

Noles is a partner with Balch & Bingham LLP in Birmingham, where he is a member of the firm's natural resources and environment law section. Noles earned his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law and his undergraduate degree from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. Prior to attending law school, he served as an officer in the U.S. Army, during which he flew a UH-1H helicopter and filled a variety of leadership and staff positions. Although the law is his vocation, writing is his avocation. His recently published books include *A Pocketful of History: Four Hundred Years of America-One State Quarter at a Time* and *Mighty by Sacrifice: The Destruction of an American Bomber Squadron, August 29, 1944*.

Narrell-Mead is executive vice president of Corporate Associate Relations and Employment Counsel for Regions Financial Corporation. Narrell-Mead joined Regions in 1998 as counsel and in 2002 became assistant general counsel. She previously served as a partner of Constangy, Brooks & Smith. Narrell-Mead has a bachelor's degree in political science from Birmingham-Southern College, as well as a J.D. from Emory University. She currently serves on the board of the Red Mountain Theatre Company and the board of judicial ethics by appointment of the Alabama Supreme Court and is past president of the junior board of the YWCA. She is past chair of the Labor and Employment Section of the Alabama State Bar Association.

Although the Alabama Humanities Foundation pursues a statewide mission for exploring, experiencing and enhancing the enjoyment and study of the humanities throughout Alabama, the Birmingham area has recently enjoyed a number of AHF-supported events and programs. In 2010, the AHF-hosted Road Scholars Speakers Bureau offered presentations in various venues in Jefferson County on topics ranging from collecting oral histories to *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Last spring, AHF celebrated the 50th anniversary of *To Kill a Mockingbird* in Birmingham with a panel discussion at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, followed by the "TKAM 2010: *To Kill a Mockingbird*—Awakening America's Conscience" art exhibit at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. This summer, AHF will host a SUPER (School and University Partners for Education Renewal) institute for teachers at the University of Alabama Birmingham titled

“Transcendentalism Light and Dark: Strategies for Teaching the Writings of Emerson, Thoreau, Poe, Dickinson and Whitman” and lead by Gale Temple, Ph.D., of UAB.

Other officers' bios:

Rochester recently retired as the Presiding Circuit Judge for Alabama's 40th Judicial Circuit. As a judge, he became known as an innovator in the area of alternative sentencing by using the humanities as a part of his sentencing orders. He served as a panelist in the Alabama Judicial College/Yale Sentencing Project. He was selected as a delegate to represent America in the former Soviet Union as a member of the American Council of Young Political Leaders. He also represented Alabama as a member of the Alabama National Guard's Security Cooperation Trip to Romania for three years. He is the former chair of the Clay County Healthcare Authority, past president of the Ashland Rotary Club, a former member of the Cheaha Mental Health Board, and a former member of Friends of the Alabama Archives Board. He is currently the chair of the State of Alabama Health Coordinating Council, the Secretary of Voices for Alabama's Children, president of the White Foundation, president of the Justice Hugo Black Memorial, and he serves on the Governmental Relations Committee of the Southeastern Council of Foundations. He belongs to the American Judges Association, the Alabama Judges Association, and the American and Alabama Bar Associations. Rochester received a bachelor's degree from Auburn University, a J.D. from Cumberland School of Law at Samford University, and a Master of Laws from New York University.

Patterson retired from the IBM Corporation after 30 years of service and is currently the director of Community Economic Development at the Community Foundation of South Alabama, located in Mobile. His focus at the foundation is to help advance the economic and social development to address community-based needs that lead to an improved quality of life. Patterson is also active on several community organizations in South Alabama and statewide, including the Lighthouse Community Development Corporation, Ronald McDonald House Charities, Mobile Rotary Club, Mobile United, South Alabama Workforce Development Council Region 9, and the Alabama State Service Commission, the Alabama Association of CDCs and the Alabama Asset Building Coalition. He has also chaired the Alabama Commission on Higher Education.

Sanford has served as executive director of the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library since 2004, which serves a county population of 88,000 and the entire northwest Alabama Shoals Region. She is a graduate of the University of North Alabama in dramatic arts and speech. Prior to joining the library, Nancy held administrative, public relations and teaching positions at Sheffield City Schools and Helen Keller Hospital. She has served most recently as president of the Shoals Branch of the Association of University Women, as well as president of the Sheffield Rotary Club, Tennessee Valley Art Association and Colbert County Red Cross. Nancy works closely with the Music Preservation Society.

Hamner is a retired attorney who most recently served as the court project coordinator for the United States District Court, Middle District of Alabama. In that position, he coordinated the building of the new United States Courthouse in Montgomery, as well as the renovation of the historic Frank M. Johnson Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse. He has served on the AHF Board of Directors since 2004. He retired as the executive director of the Alabama State Bar after 25 years of service. Prior to working for the bar, he was the director of Legal and Legislative Affairs for the Medical Association of the State of Alabama. He is a graduate of both the United States Air Force's Air Command and Staff College and Air War College. He is a native of Northport, Alabama, and holds both a bachelor's and law degree from the University of Alabama. He was president of the university's National Alumni Association in 1989-90 and was named its Distinguished Alumnus in 2004.

Other board members include: Lynne Berry, Huntsville; Calvin Brown, Decatur; Malik Browne, Eutaw; Rick Cook, Auburn; Cathy Crenshaw, Birmingham; David Donaldson, Birmingham; Kathleen W. Dotts, Huntsville; Janice Hawkins, Troy; Kay Kimbrough, Mobile; John Knapp, Birmingham; Robert Olin, Tuscaloosa; Carolyn Reed, Birmingham; Guin Robinson, Birmingham; Lee Sentell, Montgomery; Dafina Ward, Birmingham; Wyatt Wells, Montgomery; Bob Whetstone, Birmingham; and Billie Jean Young, Pennington.

About the Alabama Humanities Foundation

The purpose of the Alabama Humanities Foundation is to create and foster opportunities to explore human values and meanings through the humanities. AHF is a nonprofit organization funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (of which AHF is the state affiliate), as well as by corporate and individual donors. AHF conducts its own statewide programs, such as the Road Scholars Speakers Bureau, SUPER teacher institutes and SUPER Emerging Scholars for students, and awards grants, on a competitive basis, to nonprofit organizations for humanities projects. For more information on AHF and its programs, please visit **ahf.net** or call (205) 558-3980.

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