



The Delta Council Review

Vol. 11, Issue No. 2 THE NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF DELTA COUNCIL May 2015

United States Senator Roger Wicker to Keynote the 80th Delta Council Annual Meeting



Wicker



Bryant

United States **Senator Roger Wicker** will be the Featured Guest and Keynote Speaker for the 80th Annual Meeting of Delta Council to be held on the Delta State University Campus at 10:30 am, Friday, May 29, 2015, at the Bologna Performing Arts Center in Cleveland.

Governor **Phil Bryant** will be on hand to provide the introduction of **Senator Wicker**.

Lt. Governor Tate Reeves to Keynote the 12th Annual Salute to Delta Honors Graduates



Reeves

Delta Council will honor more than 140 high school seniors as Delta Honor Graduates with the ceremony beginning at 9:00 a.m., located 'under the tent' next to the Bologna Performing Arts Center. Lt. Governor **Tate Reeves** will welcome the Honor Graduates, their families, and school officials,

to the Annual Meeting of Delta Council and present them with engraved certificates recognizing them as 2015 Honor Graduates. The top Honor Graduate will be selected by higher education officials and be presented a \$2,500 scholarship during the 10:30 a.m. business session.

2015 ANNUAL MEETING MAY 29, 2015

Bologna Performing Arts Center, Delta State University

9:00-10:00 a.m. DELTA 1000 EVENT "Red/Blue Review"
Featuring, Jere Nash and Andy Taggart, Political pundits and strategists

Location: McPherson Hall

9:00-10:15 a.m. 2015 SALUTE TO DELTA HONOR GRADUATES
The Honorable Tate Reeves, Lieutenant Governor State of Mississippi, Keynote

Dr. William Bynum, President, Mississippi Valley State University, Co-host

Location: "Under the Tent" on the East Side of Bologna Center

10:30 a.m. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS
Walton Gresham, President

INVOCATION
Reverend Guilianna Gray, Indianola, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

PRESENTATION OF COLORS
Boy Scout Troop 200, Greenwood

PATRIOTIC MUSIC
Bologna Performing Art Center Delta Youth Chorale, Directed by Whitney Cummins

BUSINESS SESSION
Recognition of Special Guests
Good Middling Recipient Recognition
Wear Cotton Recognition
Recognition of Honor Graduates, Scholarship Recipient
Introduction of New Officers

INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER
The Honorable Phil Bryant, Governor, State of Mississippi

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
The Honorable Roger Wicker, Senator, United States Senate

12:00 Noon CATFISH LUNCHEON
Location: Delta State University, Quadrangle Lawn

RECOGNITION OF 2015 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
The Honorable Phil Bryant, Governor, State of Mississippi

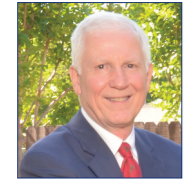
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Outlook News

Message from The President

As I pen my final message to the membership of Delta Council, I have the good fortune to reflect on a year that has been most rewarding. I have seen firsthand the things that can be accomplished by an organization of people that make sacrifices, set aside their personal agendas, and simply commit themselves to the mission of making our region a better place to live. I am sincerely grateful to so many of you who have reached out to help us this past year.



Gresham is privileged to extend the invitation to my contemporary and friend, **U.S. Senator Roger Wicker**, to keynote the 80th Annual Meeting of Delta Council, which will be held this month, on May 29. **Roger** has a very diverse background in public service and I am looking forward to

him sharing his perspective and outlook on the condition of our Country in matters such as national security, foreign relations, our Nation's fiscal policies, and other related fields where his career in public service has taken him.

In addition to **Senator Wicker's** keynote, we are pleased to announce that more than 140 Honor Graduates and their parents will join us at the 80th Annual Meeting to be recognized for their high school accomplishments and their anticipated leadership for our region in the future. Mississippi Valley State University **President Will Bynum** and **Lt. Governor Tate Reeves** will address the honor graduates as they receive their certificates of recognition at the 9:00 a.m. session "Under The Tent".

Concurrently, at 9:00 a.m., in the McPherson Room inside the Bologna Per-

forming Arts Center, the co-authors of the book on Mississippi Politics and television personalities of the weekly TV segment on Jackson area TV will address Delta 1000 members. **Andy Taggart**, the Chief of Staff for the late **Governor Kirk Fordice** and **Jere Nash**, the former Chief of Staff for then-**Governor Ray Mabus** will size up the political environment in Mississippi and what it has in store for the field of candidates in statewide, district, and local races, as well as the special election for the recently-vacated House Congressional seat which was held by the late **Alan Nunnelee**. And as our program states on the front page of this publication, the 10:30 session will begin with presentation of the colors by Greenwood Boy Scout Troop 200, coordinated by Scoutmaster **Floyd Melton, Jr.** The Bologna Performing Arts Center Delta Youth Chorale will kick the meeting

off with an anthem, and one of the Delta Honor Graduates will be recognized as the 2015 Delta Honor Graduate and be presented with a \$2500 scholarship check to be awarded to the school of his/her choice and credited to the Bursar's office in that student's name.

Governor Bryant will be on hand to provide the introduction of **Senator Wicker**, and following the Senator's address, we will retire to a noon catfish luncheon on the grounds of the Quadrangle on the Delta State campus.

Pull out your cotton suit and join us on May 29. With the elections being only months away, you will have the opportunity to meet and visit with many of the candidates that are scheduled to be on the ballot. I look forward to seeing you on May 29, at Delta State and thank you for supporting us the past year.

Fletcher Named 2015 Good Middling Recipient

Indianola resident **Adelaide Williams Fletcher** has been named the Good Middling Recipient for 2015. **Adelaide** is a retired high school Science and Home Economics teacher. Born in Osceola, AR, **Adelaide** has been a resident of the Mississippi Delta for over forty years.

She received her BS in Home Economics Education from Mississippi University for Women. The following year she married **Leslie R. Fletcher**. They have 3 sons — **Reid, Spence** and **Josh**. They also have 8 grandchildren — **Walker, Daniel, Blake, Critz, Martin, Anna, Trace**, and **Sara Katherine**.

Adelaide has been a member of the First United Methodist Church for more than 48 years. There she has served on many church-wide committees, such as Sunday School, bible school, chancel choir, youth counseling. In the community, she has served in many capacities including Girl Scout leader, Cub Scout leader, Chamber of Commerce Board, Twentieth Century Club member and past president, Henry M. Seymour Library Board of Directors for 20 years, Indianola Educational Foundation Board of Directors for 20 years, South Sunflower County Hospital Board of Trustees for

sixteen years, Mississippi University for Women Alumni Association past board member and past president, MUW Foundation Board, board member and past chairman, Chairman of the Inter-alumni Council for Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, and Mid-Delta Arts Association founding board member, performer, and past president.

"What an honor it is for me to present the Good Middling Recipients, award to **Adelaide**. She is one of the most capable people that I know. She has done so much for Indianola, Sunflower County, and every organization that is fortunate enough to get her to join. She is a born leader and effortlessly directs organizations to fulfill their tasks," says **Walton Gresham**, Delta Council president.

Fletcher will be recognized at the 80th Annual Delta Council Day on Friday, May 29, 2015 at Delta State University Bologna Performing Arts Center in Cleveland, MS. Coined after the term "good middling," the highest grade in quality cotton production, the Good Middling Award recognizes individuals who have sustained significant efforts to promote community and economic vitality in the Mississippi Delta.



Fletcher

"Red/Blue Review" to Address Members of Delta 1000 During Delta Council Day

Nash, Taggart to Discuss 2015 State Elections

Jere Nash and **Andy Taggart**, noted Mississippi political pundits and strategists, will address Delta 1000 members at the May 29 Delta Council Annual Meeting in Cleveland in a standing-room only crowd before the beginning of the Business Session.

"The 'Red/Blue Review' of **Jere Nash** and **Andy Taggart** is great political theater and insight when it comes to Mississippi politics," said Delta Council President **Walton Gresham** of Indianola. "There are a lot of interesting elections and stories during this 2015 election cycle and **Jere** and **Andy** will highlight them for members of Delta 1000."

Nash and **Taggart** are co-hosts of Red/Blue Review, a weekly program on Jackson television covering state and national politics, and they offer a lively discussion of politics that will include views & opinions from both sides of the political fence. **Nash** and **Taggart**

are both former chief of staffs to Governor **Ray Mabus** and Governor **Kirk Fordice**, respectively, and recognized strategists in their political parties.

As part of their presentation on the upcoming 2015 elections in Mississippi, **Nash** and **Taggart** will not only look at the horse races that are developing, but also some of the factors influencing the races. They will conclude their presentation with Delta Council and Atmos Energy's Audience Response System.

Delta 1000 is a program begun by Delta Council over 30 years ago to ask all of the members of Delta Council to pay \$100 above and beyond their regular membership dues. This support through the "Delta 1000" Program has helped Delta Council maintain one of the most effective area-wide economic development programs in the entire nation.



Nash and Taggart



BPAC's Delta Youth Chorale to perform patriotic music at The Annual Meeting

Front row (left to right): **Kenyatta Payne, Marianna Fulcher, Kayla Bristlin, Eliza Hardy, Justise Hawkins, Iris Xu**; Back row (left to right): **Whitney Cummins** (Director), **Kamryn Perkins, Miracle Williams, Madison Rigby, Sara Bess Morgan, Molly Mellen, Mary Lynn Stover** (Assistant Director), **Robin Webb** (accompanist)

ANNUAL MEETING SPONSORS



Sanders President
Charles Michell

Sanders, established in 1953 and acquired in 2012 by Pinnacle Agriculture Holdings, LLC, is multifaceted in its operations, which include seed production and sales, agricultural chemical distribution, bulk handling of fertilizer, precision agriculture services and general merchandise for the farming, livestock and wildlife industries.



Southern Ag Board Member
Emery Skelton



MS Land Bank Board Chairman
Abbott Myers

Mississippi Land Bank and Southern Ag Credit provide long term and short term financing solutions for land, operation capital, equipment and farm equity.



BankPlus Senior Executive Vice-President
Bryan Jones

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represent the farmer-funded research and market development efforts of the five major commodities produced in the Mississippi Delta — catfish, corn, cotton, rice and soybeans. These farmer funded programs work to invest in the future of agriculture, so that the ag part of our Delta Gross Domestic Product (GDP) continues to generate a positive cash flow on the farm and provide a major contribution to the State's economy.

- Catfish Farmers of Mississippi
- Cotton Incorporated
- Mississippi Corn Promotion Board
- Mississippi Rice Promotion Board
- Mississippi Soybean Promotion Board



Rice Board Chairman
Curtis Berry

Ronald Aguzzi, Cleveland
James Allison, Sarah
Curtis Berry, Robinsonville
Nolen Canon, Tunica
Gip Carter, Rolling Fork
Marvin Cochran, Avon
Gary Fioranelli, Cleveland
Donald Gant, Merigold
Tom Hollingsworth, Hollandale
Randy Howarth, Boyle
Doug Simmons, Hollandale
Gibb Steele, President, Hollandale



COTTON INCORPORATED



Cotton Inc. State Support Committee Chairman
Bernie Jordan

Buddy Allen, Tunica
Coley Bailey, Grenada
Kendall Garraway, Bolton
Thomas Hayes, Clarksdale
Bernard A. "Bernie" Jordan, Jr., Yazoo City
Lawrence Long, Indianola



Catfish Board Chairman
Louie Thompson

Bill Battle, Tunica
Larry Brown, Indianola
Andy Jones, Moorhead
Shorty Jones, Glen Allan
Marc Koehn, Macon
Chris McGlawn, Swiftown
Will Nobile, Moorhead
Joe Oglesby, Indianola
Ben Pentecost, Doddsville
Ed Pentecost, Cleveland
Louie Thompson, Tchula, Chairman



Mississippi Soybean Promotion Board



Soybean Board Chairman
Tim Clements

Tim Clements, Greenville
Paul Dees, Leland
Jan DeRegt, Hollandale, President
Wayne Dulaney, Clarksdale
Mike Guedon, Natchez
Jeremy Jack, Belzoni
Keith Morton, Falkner
C.D. "Bubba" Simmons, Hollandale
Jerry Slocum, Coldwater
Jimmy Sneed, Hernando
Billy Tabb, Cleveland
David Wansley, Valley Park

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS FOR 2015 ANNUAL MEETING



OUTSTANDING RICE PRODUCER:
Buddy Allen
Tunica, MS



OUTSTANDING SOYBEAN PRODUCER:
Clark Carter
Rolling Fork, MS



OUTSTANDING COTTON GINNER:
Mike Lamensdorf
Cary, MS

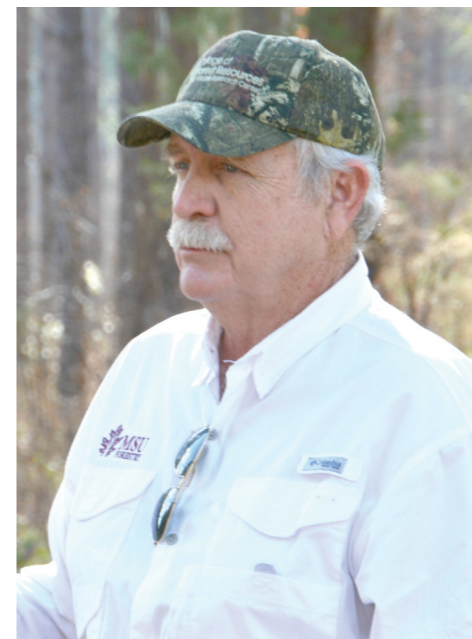


CONSERVATION FARMER:
Rob Coker
Yazoo City, MS



Corn Board Chairman
Mike Pannell

Rob Coker, Yazoo City
Phillip Good, Macon
Jan Hill, Meridian
Larry Killebrew, Lexington
Will Long, Indianola
Bobby Mashburn, Bolton
Turner Massey, Rich
Mike Pannell, New Albany
Charlie Pilkinton, Columbus
Pepper Roberts, Belzoni
Walker Sturdivant, Glendora
Todd Williams, Olive Branch



OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO HARDWOOD FORESTRY:
Dr. Andrew Ezell
Mississippi State, MS



OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO AQUACULTURE:
Austin Jones
Moorhead, MS



RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR:
Dr. Randy Luttrell
Stoneville, MS



MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN:
John Murry Greenlee
Yazoo City, MS



1946 Annual Meeting Luncheon — First meeting after World War II.



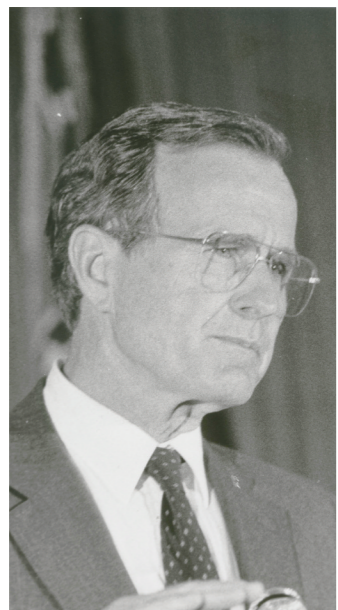
1961 Annual Meeting - (L to R) Congressman **Harold Cooley**, Chairman of the House Ag Committee Congressman **Frank Smith**.



1964 Annual Meeting - (L to R) **General A.G. Paxton**, Mississippi Senator **John Stennis**, and **G. C. Cortright**.



1971 Annual Meeting - Keynote Speaker **Admiral Alan B. Shepard**



United States Vice-President **George Bush** giving Keynote Speech at the 1984 Annual Meeting



U. S. Secretary of Agriculture **Mike Espy** speaking at the 1994 Annual Meeting.



2001 Annual Meeting - Keynote Speaker **Ann Veneman**, Secretary of Ag



WM Kethley first president of Delta Council at Delta Council Annual Meeting



Delta State University President **Dr. John Hilpert** presents a Delta Honor Graduate certificate during the 2004 Delta Council Annual Meeting.



2004 Delta Council Annual Meeting - (L to R) **Bryan Jones** and **Bill Allen** exchange at the Round Table Discussion on Farm Policy



2002 Annual Meeting - (Front row L to R) U. S. Senator **Thad Cochran** and **Ben Lamensdorf** (Second row L to R) **Frank Sibley** and **Huey Townsend** on the way to Catfish Luncheon.



1953 Annual Meeting — Winner of Cotton Clothing Contest Presentation.

2015 DELTA HONOR GRADUATES

Bolivar

Erin Bridgett, Broad Street High
Rickeya Brown, Cleveland High
April Cobb, Cleveland High
LaKeisha Cotton, East Side High
Cordarius Curry, Shaw High
Hannah Davis, Bayou Academy
Miracle Hurns, East Side High
Anthony Jackson, John F Kennedy High
Alyssa Johnson, Shaw High
Syderrick Maiten, Ray Brooks
Charkydra McNeal, West Bolivar High
Faith Nix, West Bolivar High
Andrew Rogers, Bayou Academy
Porshia Shelton, John F Kennedy High
Starr Smith, Ray Brooks
Aletha Wells, Broad Street High

Carroll

Adiva Herndon, J.Z. George High
Sarah Mumme, Carroll Academy
Jean Marie Ramsey, Carroll Academy
Sergio Rodriguez, J.Z. George High

Coahoma

Michelle Basha, Lee Academy
Sara Citchens, Coahoma County Agricultural High
Mikel Cotton, Clarksdale High
Daeisha Gipson, Coahoma County High
Shamia Hopper, Clarksdale High
Bailey Matthews, Lee Academy
Jutavian Readus, Coahoma County High
Vera Young, Coahoma County Agricultural High

Desoto

Samuel "Kyle" Brassell, Northpoint Christian School
Caitlynn Casey, Lewisburg High
Catrina Curtis, Desoto Central High
Cyman Davis, Horn Lake High
Hallie Earwood, Desoto Central High
John Ross Graham, Hernando High
Brandi Hellums, Center Hill High
Alexandria Lewis, Lake Cormorant High
Brandon McDaniel, Hernando High
Carson McKinney, Olive Branch High
Lauren Brooke Mims, Desoto County Academy
Shelby Oliver, Horn Lake High
Ashleigh Ricketts, Olive Branch High
Hayden Marshall Roberts, Desoto County Academy
Kayla Savage, Lewisburg High
Benjamin Schreck, Southaven High
Darian Smith, Center Hill High
Andrea Sparkman, Northpoint Christian School
Bethany Starkey, Southaven High
Carly Wells, Lake Cormorant High

Holmes

Jessica Brownlow, Holmes County Central High School
Kayla Greer, Durant High
Natavia Hunt, Durant High
Brandon Landfair, Holmes County Central High School
Payton Netherland, Central Holmes Christian School
Lane Spell, Central Holmes Christian School

Humphreys

Jalen Harper, Humphreys Co. High
Charmaine Kelly, Humphreys Co. High
Justin Smallwood, Humphreys Academy

Leflore

Emilee Bolden, Pillow Academy
Kassaedy Bolden, Leflore County High
Melvin Cook, III, Greenwood High
Alphonso Ford, Jr., Amanda Elzy High
Khyla Grant, North New Summit School
Katherine Gregory, Pillow Academy
Patrice Otero, Greenwood High
Staige Roberts, North New Summit School
Desire Stanley, Leflore County High
Candace Wright, Amanda Elzy High

Panola

LaQuaisha Gross, North Panola High
Skylyn Irby, South Panola High
Tanisha Leland, North Panola High
Schaefer Llana, North Delta School
Colby Province, North Delta School
Lindsey Simmerman, South Panola High

Quitman

Tracy Bledsoe, Madison S. Palmer High
Jakedria Jones, Madison S. Palmer High
Greyson Young, Delta Academy

Sharkey/Issaquena

Marlee Anderson, Sharkey-Issaquena Academy
Madyson Clark, Sharkey-Issaquena Academy
Ja'Kyah Green, South Delta High
James Holmes, South Delta High

Sunflower

Erianna Ball, Gentry High
Zoe Beckworth, Gentry High
Nyisha Jones, Ruleville Central High
Steven Marshall, Indianola Academy
Tashyra Morgan, Ruleville Central High
Taylor Morris, North Sunflower Academy
Rivers Robinson, Indianola Academy
Anna Tullos, North Sunflower Academy

Tallahatchie

Kentrel Hooper, West Tallahatchie High
LeeAnn Melton, Strider Academy
Anfernee Reed, Charleston High
Hannah Simmons, Strider Academy
Jaronica Williams, West Tallahatchie High
Christopher Winford, Charleston High

Tate

Anna Payton Davis, Magnolia Heights School
Abbey Gordon, Senatobia High
Bayli Greene, Magnolia Heights School
Bethany Marie Maxey, Independence High
Arizona Morgan, Strayhorn High
Elvontay Newson, Coldwater Attendance Center
Falyn Ruby, Senatobia High
Jacob Allen Scott, Independence High
Dylan Stephens, Strayhorn High
Marquisha Watson, Coldwater Attendance Center



Dr. William Bynum, President, Mississippi Valley State University, to co-host Salute to Delta Honor Graduates

Tunica

Keiandra Bedford, Rosa Fort High
Mari-Oakley Hartsfield, Tunica Academy
Damien Jackson, Rosa Fort High
McKenzie Murdock, Tunica Academy

Warren

Sarah Davis, Warren Central High
Amy Dixon, Vicksburg High
Samantha Hawn, Porter's Chapel Academy
Jordan Locke, Porter's Chapel Academy
Laura Jacklyn Phillips, St Aloysius High School
Maggie Victoria Thomas, St Aloysius High School
Austin Warren, Vicksburg High
Kennedy Whitmore, Warren Central High

Washington

Sarah Ballinger, Deer Creek School
Katherine Bell, Washington School
Hayden W. Burford, Greenville Christian School
Jeron Collins, Greenville Weston High
Kelsie Downs, Leland High
Kathleen Flanagan, Riverside High
Mallory Fontenot, Washington School
Perrionna Gibson, O'Bannon High
Brannon Hardison, Leland High
Tamashia Jenkins, Simmons High
Jazlyn Johnson, O'Bannon High
Emily Mansour, St Joseph High School
Megan Partain, Riverside High
TaMiya Phillips, Greenville Weston High
Ro'Myrus Preston, Simmons High
Lindsay Rexrode, Deer Creek School
Katherine Anne Terracina, St Joseph High School
Connate Williams, Greenville Christian School

Yazoo

William Clark, Yazoo County High
Mary Menger Jones, Benton Academy
Le-Dra Luce, Yazoo City High
Seward Montgomery Perry, Manchester Academy
Marshal Alexander Salley, Manchester Academy
Olivia Shelton, Benton Academy
Whitley Stiff, Yazoo County High
Adrienna Williams, Yazoo City High

Delta Council

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OUTGOING 2014-2015 OFFICERS



Walton Gresham,
President,
Indianola

John Bush, VP,
Schlater

Glenn Donald,
VP, Moorhead

**Stephanie
Patton,**
VP, Leland

**Darrington
Seward,**
VP, Louise

Charles Walker,
VP, Marks

David Wansley,
VP, Valley Park

John Pittman,
Treasurer,
Greenwood

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