

Upcoming Speakers

4/26 - **NO MEETING**, 29th Rotary Antique Quilt Show (Have You Signed Up Yet??)

5/3 - **Stacy Thomas**, Coordinator, Mustang Youth Service Center

5/10 - **Nichole Farley**, Executive Directory, Hope Unlimited Family Care Center

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Birthdays

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April 21

Desiree Owen

April 21

Susan P. Carr

April 21

Joseph David Bailey III

April 21

Roy Lowdenback

April 22

William F. Paxton III

GearTeeth

The Rotary Club of Paducah



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Update from US Congressman James Comer

April 19, 2017



James Comer, US Congressman for the 1st District, was introduced by Rotarian David Denton. Representative Comer is originally from Monroe County, a farmer, Western Kentucky University graduate and former commissioner of the KY Agriculture Department. He ran for Kentucky governor in 2015 and, after a spirited race, came up just 83 votes short of victory.

When Representative Ed Whitfield retired, Comer ran for his open seat and after winning by a convincing margin, he was sworn into office in November 14th, 2016. On that day he learned about 'seniority' in the House. He started in last place, number 435. As of today, and following the election of President Trump, he has

moved up 56 slots

In an effort to maintain communication with his constituents in his Kentucky district, he has conducted 13 town hall events so far, with more to come. Comer said that town halls are helpful. He gets input from citizens and business leaders that will help to avoid some of the unintended consequences of needed reforms.

Of all the issues that he is asked about, regulatory reform is at the top of the list. Employers say that burdensome regulations frequently stifle their ability to grow their business and expand their workforce. The coal industry and the financial services industry hope to feel the positive impacts of regulatory easing. The Trump administration is working with private industry to improve the regulatory environment, while maintaining appropriate safety and environmental concerns.

Healthcare is another top issue facing Congressional lawmakers. Representative Comer said that the individual health insurance marketplace has to be addressed. Currently Anthem is the only health insurance carrier in Kentucky for the individual market and premiums have increased to unaffordable levels. Allowing competition, reducing regulations, and a streamlined FDA approval process would help to drive premium prices down.

After the Affordable Care Act was passed, KYNECT was established. Through KYNECT, 80% of the people who signed up through KYNECT were on Medicaid. For the first 3 years, the federal government paid to support Kentucky's Medicaid program. In the fourth year, the state will have to start funding Medicaid, which serves approximately 1/3 of Kentucky citizens. Comer said that the Kentucky General Fund cannot sustain those

April 26
Nikki Coursey
April 30
Rebecca J Straley
May 01
Dan M. Tkach
May 03
Anthony Copeland
May 04
John R. Anderson III
May 06
Steven A. Bright
May 07
David F. Hutcheson
May 07
Johnny Horton
May 12
Tony A. Hamilton
May 12
Tom Grassham
May 14
Mardie R. Herndon
May 15

payments.

The next important issue that Representative Comer spoke about was tax reform. He wants to reduce the tax burden to get more money in workers pockets which will spur economic growth. But after reducing tax rates Congress will have to reduce spending, and any revenue increases will come through economic growth. Comer said that in order to setup lasting tax reform a new healthcare bill will have to pass.

Representative Comer closed with a humorous accounting of a day spent with President Trump. The day's events included a ride on Air Force One to and from Louisville, attending a rally in Louisville, private office meeting with the President on Air Force One, a ride to the Whitehouse aboard the Marine One helicopter, and a late night tour and meeting in the Oval Office. Rep Comer, honored by the friendly gesture by the President, surmised that it was in recognition of his support and the support of his district during the fall election.

You may visit Representative Comer's website at <https://comer.house.gov> to learn more about his positions on policy and legislation, and for his contact information.

Announcements

April 19, 2017

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. With less than a week to go before the start of the 2017 Rotary Antique Quilt Show, more volunteer slots remain to be filled. Slots are filled for Tuesday April 25th, but shifts need to be filled during the remaining four days. A full shift is 8 volunteers who do everything from collect money at the door to staffing the information booth. Operating with fewer than 8 per shift creates more work for your fellow Rotarians and, more importantly, lessens the experience for our guests who pay to support our REAP projects. Please, go immediately to <http://signup.com/go/crBssQ> and choose the shift(s) you can work at this year's Quilt Show.

If you do not plan to use or distribute your personal Quilt Show tickets, please return them to Denise to be used for show promotion the week of the show.

Charitable grant checks were presented to the Challenger Learning Center, accepted by Mellisa Duncan, and the Paducah Railroad Museum, accepted by Logan Blewett.

A reminder that the Rotary District 6710 annual Conference is scheduled for May 19-20 at the Downtown Marriott in Louisville. Fellow Rotarian and former local president Missy Eckenberg will take the gavel as the new District Governor for 2017-18 at the conference. For more information and to register, visit www.rotarydistrict6710.org.

Guests

April 19, 2017

David Simon and Evan Simon – guests of Deborah Simon
Tim Bates, Michael Crabtree and Jay Hall – guest of Mary Hammond
Donna Morse– guest of Ken Wheeler
Phil Morse – guest of Mike Resnick
Cindy Dobrzynski – guest of Jessica Toren
Troy Cortney – guest of Bill Holsapple
Sheila Johnston – guest of Den Johnston
Kierstin Dierker, Emma Keisling; Tanner Stallons and Weston Jones – guests of Mike Muscarella
Wayne Ezell – guest of Ken Knapp
Erin Byassee ad McKenzie Ellermann – student guests from McCracken County;
Ellie Vaughn – student guest from St. Mary