

Upcoming Speakers

2/28 - **Dr. Jeffrey R. Seay** - Associate Professor, Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering, UK College of Engineering - Paducah Extended Campus

3/7 - **Dr. Ross Jones**, Gastroenterologist and **Dr. Shane Hendon**, Gastroenterologist - Lourdes Hospitas

3/14 - **Allyson Cox Taylor**, Executive Director, Child Abuse and Exploitation Division - Office of the Attorney General

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GearTeeth

The Rotary Club of Paducah



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Dr. Wayne Lewis: Crime Fighter Turned Educator

February 21, 2018



Speaker: Dr. Wayne D. Lewis, Jr., Executive Director: Education & Policy Programs, Kentucky Education & Workforce Development Cabinet Dr. Lewis was introduced by Rotarian Dr. Anton Reece in the second of his "Trailblazer" series of guests during Black History Month.

Topic: Goals for Education in Kentucky from an Economic Development Perspective

Takeaways for Rotarians:

-In addition to his role with the KY Education & Workforce Cabinet, Dr. Lewis serves on the faculty at the University of Kentucky. At UK, he is Associate Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership Studies. Dr. Lewis is an affiliated faculty member with the African American and Africana Studies Program.

-Originally from New Orleans, LA, Dr. Lewis worked through college as a sheriff's deputy and "just knew he was destined for a career in criminal justice." At the age of 23, however, he followed in his parents' footsteps and became an educator starting as a 9th grade algebra teacher in inner-city New Orleans. Citing how he observed large numbers of students who were "simply not prepared", that experience, he said, inspired him to do the work he does today.

-His toughest "lesson in reality" came as a teacher when he realized that, "indeed, not every kid can do whatever they want to do if they work hard...despite what we may tell them. There are plenty of kids, he said, who are in situations where they simply won't succeed because of any number of reasons.

-Dr. Lewis outlined three goals the Cabinet has identified for improving "workforce readiness" in Kentucky. The first is to eliminate the achievement gap between students of color and socio-economic status. Dr. Lewis cited the gap as "astronomical" also saying it has by far not improved at the same rate as other education gaps.

-The second goal is to reform Kentucky's high schools. The goal, he said, is to bring more post-secondary opportunities to the state's high schools. He added that preparing students for their post-high school experiences is also vital to improving education. Revising and updating the state's "KEES" (Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship) program to help it match current college expectations.

Nancy Bridges

Scott Taylor

Shawn Turner

Birthdays

James R. Brown

February 27

Jan R. Keen

March 03

David W. Jones

March 05

Wendy Kester

March 08

Troy Courtney

March 08

Geraldine B. Montgomery

March 11

Phyllis B. Russell

March 12

Lewis Carr

March 14

Anita Akin Lentz

March 18

Betty Higdon

March 19

Kyle P Katterjohn

March 22

Lanny King

March 23

Bruce Akin

March 26

Victoria E. Caldwell

March 28

-The third goal is to improve Kentucky's Workforce Participation. Kentucky, he said, ranks 47th of 51 state education systems with people active in the workforce. The emphasis will be on providing students with Work Ready Certificates for no tuition or fees.

Announcements

February 21, 2018

-Membership Drive. In conjunction with a District-wide membership promotion, our club is currently emphasizing a push for new members. In recent weeks, we've heard excellent presentations on membership from Membership Committee Members Joe Framptom (chair), Barry Smith, Gayle Martin, and Dee Dee Whitaker. The presentations stressed: WE, as a club, are responsible for the growth of our club and need to work toward attracting new members; the more you are involved, the more personal satisfaction you will receive from being a Rotarian; and, that founder Paul Harris "could not imagine what a large and diverse organization Rotary would be those 113 years ago!" We've also heard videos featuring various Rotarians offering their testimonials about Rotary membership. There are more in store in the coming weeks and the overall message is simple, make a conscious effort to reach out to someone you think would make a great Rotarian...they may just be waiting on an invitation!

-Rotarian Betsy Burkeen gave an update on **World Rotary Day** which involves club members visiting local schools to read a book to students. Betsy will have an update Wednesday.

-Charitable donations were awarded to Paducah Cooperative Ministry, the Girl Scouts, and the Oscar Cross Boys and Girls Club

-Computer Needed - Our Rotary office needs a computer! As you'll remember, Vickie Anderson is working part-time in our office and we only have one computer for Denise and her. During the course of yet another banner year for club projects and involvement, it's more important than ever for us to have the tools for maximum efficiency. If you, or anyone or company you know, can donate a new or in-great-condition used computer, please contact President Melanie as soon as possible!