

Upcoming Speakers

3/1 - **Donnie Holland**, Commissioner - Kentucky State Parks

3/8 - **Mary Hammond**, Paducah CVB Executive Director

3/15 - **Gary Sigler**, Vietnam Veteran and 6 Year POW Survivor, "Perseverance"

Club Leaders



Glen Anderson
President



Melanie W. McNeill
President-Elect



Shawn Turner
Secretary



Thomas Scott Taylor
Treasurer

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Rotary Foundation Chair

Don Barger
Sergeant-at-Arms



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iPast President

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Club Executive Secretary

Board of Directors Currently Serving

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Bruce Akin

Clay Howerton

David Hutcheson

Dee Dee Whittaker

Don Barger

Frank Bennett

John Williams, Jr.

Lewis Carr

Maurie McGarvey

Melanie McNeill

Randy Bridges

Scott Taylor

Shawn Turner

Susan Carr

Terry Reeves

Birthdays

Thomas Scott Taylor

February 25

Basil Drossos

February 25

James R. Brown

February 27

Jan R. Keen

March 03

David W. Jones

March 05

Wendy Kester



GearTeeth

The Rotary Club of Paducah

Website: www.paducahrotary.org

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West Kentucky Alliance for a Vibrant Economy (WAVE)

February 22, 2017

Speaker(s): Jim LeFevre and Jerry Pace, Co-Directors of WAVE (West Kentucky Alliance for a Vibrant Economy)

Topic: The mission and recent history of the WAVE organization.

Top Ten Takeaways for Rotarians:

-WAVE was founded in the spring of 2016 by the Judge Executives and Economic Development Directors of the four Mississippi River counties of We4stern Kentucky, Ballard, Carlisle, Hickman and Fulton. The group had its first public event in October 2016. The "Confluence" meeting introduced its leadership to local, and state and federal officials through workshops, educational sessions, and tours of the region.



-When the announcement came about the closing of the Verso Paper Mill in Wickliffe in 2015, local leaders began developing a plan to mitigate the estimated \$300 million local economic impact. LeFevre noted that every county in the Purchase region would feel some impact from the closing. He said the initial meetings focused on the choices facing the group...to "kick the can down the road" for future leaders; to ignore it; or to tackle the problem...and chose the latter.

-LeFevre cited examples in Covington, Kentucky and Columbus, Mississippi as success stories that our region could replicate "if we work together."

-He said one statistical trend the group reviewed is the percentage of the population expected to be lost through 2040. He said the percentage of population loss for both McCracken and Ballard Counties were parallel. "This could have a devastating impact on economic development if we can't reverse that trend," LeFevre said.

-LeFevre said the group hopes to lead initiatives that would promote two major strengths of the region, tourism and agriculture. The agriculture initiative, he said, was boosted recently with the announcement of a 5,000-acre test crop of hemp. The test crops will be coordinated by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture in Hickman and Fulton Counties.

-The River Industry is another focus of the group. Pace said the cooperation of riverports all the way from Fulton County to Lyon County will be vital to growth in the region. "All of us will rise to with the tide if we work together," Pace said. He cited the overall expected increase in freight moving through the country as a call to action to develop additional riverport facilities, as road and rail won't be able to safely meet demand.



-Pace pointed to the strength Kentucky currently has in creating positive change for the region. He cited examples such as Kentucky's first single, majority-party executive and legislative control in many years, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, US Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao of Kentucky, and leadership from Senator Danny Carroll of Paducah and Representative Steven Rudy of the First District, who is also Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. "With this type of political strength, shame on us if we let the opportunity go by."

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

-WAVE's Steering and Advisory Committees are comprised of political, business, tourism and education leaders from the region.

-The organization is funded by economic development funds from the four river counties, plus private donations.

-For more information on WAVE, visit www.kywave.com.

Next week's speaker is Kentucky State Parks Commissioner Donnie Holland.

Announcements

February 22, 2017

-The Rotary Club of Paducah welcomes new member Susan Baier as its newest member. She is the new Director of the McCracken County Public Library. Baier was sponsored by Rotarian Debbie Wattier. Welcome Rotarian Susan!

-Charitable Grant donations were presented to two agencies this week. Fellow Rotarian Sandra Wilson accepted the donation on behalf of the Leadership Paducah Foundation. The Foundation sponsors various fundraising projects throughout the year, including a scholarship program for young people attending the Oscar Cross Boys and Girls Club of Paducah. Gary Ecklekamp accepted a donation on behalf of Community Ministries. Up to 500 volunteers help staff the Ministries' homeless shelter and with other needs throughout the year.

-(from Feb. 8 meeting) Rotarian Ralph Young presented the club a Rotary flag from the Rotary Project Fair "Uniendo America" in El Salvador. Ralph and his wife were in El Salvador for the Rotary event, and to inspect water purification systems established by the Living Waters for the World organization.

"We met a lot of Rotarians from El Salvador and other Central America countries that could be future partners for water and other projects," Young told the club. Rotarian Terry Reeves also presented the club a flag from his visit to the Rotary Club of Salinas, California.



-The Annual Rotary Speech Contest was held Wednesday afternoon, February 22. Winning for the second year in a row was Michael-Ellen Walden, senior at Paducah Tilghman High School. Runner-up was Addison Rogers, also of PTHS. Placing third was John Holtgrewe of PTHS. L-R: Rotarian Tom Grassham, Michael-Ellen Walden, 1st; Addison Rogers, 2nd; and John Holtgrewe, 3rd; Rotarian Carolyn Roberts.

Guests

February 22, 2017

Betsy Burkeen – guest of Sandra Wilson

Ryan Green, David Gallagher and Jeff Douthitt – guests of Terry Reeves

Stacey Reason – guest of Lorraine Schramke



Student Guests: Jose Roberto dos Remedios and Amiya Jones – Paducah Tilghman, Kendel Ponchock and Kiersten Slankard – McCracken County

