

Upcoming Speakers

1/20 - Dr. Bob Hilgers, Women's Global Cancer Alliance
1/27 - Liz Hansen, CASA

Club Leaders



John A. Williams Jr.
President



Glen Anderson
President-Elect



Phyllis B. Russell
Secretary



Thomas Scott Taylor
Treasurer



Melanie W. McNeill
President-Nominee

Roger Truitt

Rotary Foundation Chair

Don Barger

Sergeant-at-Arms



Jamie B. Futrell
iPast President

Denise A. Chapman

Club Executive Secretary

Birthdays

John R. Anderson Jr.

January 15

Charles O. Heyduck

January 20

Robert E. Finney

January 20

Donald I. Shively

January 24

Kenneth M. Schuppert Sr.

January 24

Edward A. Hely

January 25

Roger L. Kellner

January 27

James A. Harris Jr.

February 01

Peter J. McNally

February 03

Alex Edwards

February 05

Michael A. Muscarella

February 06



GearTeeth

The Rotary Club of Paducah

Website: www.PaducahRotary.org

January 13th, 2015 Issue 77, Number 25

Gear Teeth is published weekly except New Year's, Easter, Quilt Week,

4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

State of the City and County Address

January 13th, 2016



Paducah Mayor Gayle Kaler and County Judge Executive Bob Leeper are in agreement on one thing for sure: optimism for the future of Paducah and McCracken County. Asking the large crowd gathered for the weekly Rotary luncheon, "will those in this room who want Judge Leeper and me to be successful and move this community forward, please stand," not a person was left seated. Serving as Mayor since 2013 after several years as a City Commissioner, Mayor Kaler has great pride in Paducah and a great vision for its future. Outlining new and ongoing projects, as well as several initiatives for moving toward even greater growth, Mayor Kaler heartily thanked current City Commissioners for their dedicated service, as well as recognizing the successful efforts of the Convention and Visitors Bureau and their positive impact on the City of Paducah. She was quick to thank and commend a praiseworthy staff and shared many of the numerous

awards the City of Paducah has achieved. Showcasing the appeal of our fair city, the Mayor noted that last year Paducah was named on a list of "**50 Best Main Streets in America**," crediting in part the growing arts community and travelling exhibits at the National Quilt Museum. She also shared that Paducah has been named the "**6th Best Place to Retire in Kentucky**" by the financial technology company, Smart Asset. Great neighborhoods contribute to a great city, and Mayor Kaler outlined the ongoing efforts initiated by the City Commission 8 years ago in the Fountain Avenue neighborhood. "The change has been incredible," she stated, "with 30 new homes constructed and more than 50 homes experiencing major rehabilitation, with more than 11 million dollars spent to rehabilitate and revitalize the area with more work planned to begin this summer."

Citing events new to the area, Paducah hosted its first FLW tournament in 2015 which had a great economic impact locally and there were many events hosted by Paducah Main Street, all of which are free to the public and make Paducah a vibrant, fun place to be.

Commending and giving credit to the Paducah Parks Department, Mayor Kaler offered that the Parks Department serves well over 3,000 people in the community, children and adults alike. Organizing and coordinating events throughout the year that are fun, available to all ages and free, the Parks Department also organizes the Downtown Farmer's Market. Improvements to the Noble Park tennis courts are planned for the future.

New projects currently in progress include a Pocket Park in Market Square, the consideration of turning Jefferson and Broadway back into two-way streets, the Riverfront project, the Olivet Church Road project, the City/County E911 center project, and the construction of a new Holiday Inn by Lingate Hospitality which will be ready for guests in 2017.

In summation, Mayor Kaler stated, "It's all about partnerships. So many of the great things that have happened and are happening in Paducah are not because the government does it, it's because folks

in the community help us; it's all about community. We ALL can become agents of progress."



County Judge Executive and former independent member of the Kentucky State Senate, Bob Leeper, previously served as Mayor Pro-Tem and Commissioner for the City of Paducah. Citing his appreciation for the cooperation between City and County government, Judge Executive Leeper commented that to talk about the "state of the County" is to say, "The County is in great shape and is the greatest place in the world to be, in my opinion."

Referencing the 28th Annual Rotary Quilt show to be held in April of this year, Leeper expressed his gratitude for what the show does for the community through the Community Scholarship Program, stating, "I don't think this contribution to our community should go unnoticed."

In the area of County finances, Leeper shared that when he started, the reserves were approximately 60% of what they were 4 years prior. Not comfortable with that, he set forth with a fairly austere budget and is trying not to take on any new or continuing expenses until he gets a better feel for where things are. "We're not in bad shape, but we could be in better shape and my goal is to get us there as quickly as possible," he stated.

In a cooperative effort with the City, the Judge Executive explained that the E911 project is a big issue to be considered. The County is still looking at the numbers, it being a fiscal question in the perspective of the County. A meeting will take place next week with Justice Secretary, John Tilley, to discuss the KSP proposal. Sheriff Jon Hayden and Judge Executive Leeper will travel to Frankfort for the meeting to get a better understanding of their proposal and offering in an effort to determine whether they can make it work or not. Leeper stated that the County is keeping an open and continuing dialog with the City on the issue.

Leeper referenced the Dome Pavilion downtown, sharing that an agreement has been made to use the transient room tax to pay for the property acquisition and foundation of the dome which will be an asset of the Convention Center Board. He stated that he wanted to clear up any inaccuracy that may be milling about the community with reference to the transient room tax. By virtue of the Kentucky Revised Statutes, the 2% tax can **only** be used for the convention center or improvements to the property. Some people have implied that it could or should have been used for something else, but the "KRS does not allow it."

One thing on his "to do list" is the consideration and renovation of the Courthouse. Neglect is costly and recent estimates on repair of the basement flooring makes Leeper hope for a winning lottery ticket. Windows also need replacing and there is leaking every time it rains. "We could just turn our head and continue to let it leak or we can fix it. My thought is we need to fix it."

A troublesome area for Leeper is that others simply want to compare McCracken County to other places, wanting us to be like other places. He finds this frustrating, as he believes Paducah/McCracken County to be one of the best places in the world and wants to focus on making ourselves even better. With that goal in mind when he came into office, one thing Leeper decided to do was look at County websites around the State. He found that as a group, they were all fairly standard and outdated due to small budgets. He wanted the County's website to be different. Toward that end, they are in the process of developing a user-friendly website that won't require continuous updating and will be different by virtue of imbedding a video that tells the story of our community. "It will tell the story of a hard-working community that gives opportunities to young people to encourage them to stay here, work here and do great things, Leeper stated, a community that, through our hard work and love for each other, is one of the finest communities in the world."

New Member -The Club welcomed **Ted Hutchins**, partner at the law firm of Keuler, Kelly, Hutchins & Blankenship, as the first new member of 2016.

President John advised members who ordered 100th Anniversary DVDs but have not picked them up to contact Denise at the office to make arrangements to get their copy.

Members Victoria Caldwell, Chuck Heyduck and David Morse were recognized for member sponsorships and advised to see Denise for their sponsor pins.

Meeting Reminder - The Playground Steering Committee meets next Wednesday, January 20, at the McCracken County Public Library at 4:30 p.m.

Meeting Reminder - The Board of Directors meets next Wednesday, January 20, at the McCracken County Public Library at 5:15 p.m.

What Does Rotary Mean to You?

January 13th, 2016

We all have different reasons for being in Rotary and get different outcomes from being here. Some of us enjoy the comradery of weekly lunches, some of us use Rotary to network with other active businesses in our community, some of us volunteer for everything and get great enjoyment out of helping others, and on and on.

In an effort to understand what Rotary means to us and ultimately to help spread around the community all that Rotary means and does for each of us individually, we are going to test a campaign and have Rotarians tell **what Rotary means to me**".

Every other week we would like for a Rotarian to stand at lunch and tell what Rotary means to them in hopefully a 2-3 minute "elevator speech". We will start with some of our past presidents to get the momentum rolling and then hopefully have enough volunteers to fill-in from there.

If you are willing to participate, please contact Denise, Todd or John to get on the calendar.

Guests

January 13th, 2016

Bobbie Wrinkle – guest of Julie Hart;

Terry Reeves – guest of Debbie Wattier;

Robin Fagan – guest of Lanny King;

Colette Roth and Cassy Cude – guests of Mike Muscarella;

Patrick White – guest of Emerson Goodwin;

Ashley Latham – guest of Laurie Latham;

Laura Oswald, Dakota Durrett and Paul Aho – guests of Mary Hammond;

Pam Spencer, Molly Tomasallo, Mark Thompson, Jonathan Perkins and Steve Ervin – guests of Jeff Pederson;

Teri Doss and Micheal Hassel – student guests from Paducah Tilghman;

Madeline Wooten, Beau Garcia and Wells Purdom – student guests from McCracken County;

Anna Wilson – student guest from St. Mary;

Grace McGough – student guest from Community Christian Academy.

