

Upcoming Speakers

2/3 - Dr. Jeffrey R. Seay, UK College of Engineering, Paducah Campus
2/10 - Greg McKeel, General Manager - Paducah Chiefs
2/17 - Emerson Goodwin, Corporate Regional Director-KY, KentuckyCare

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
Past President

Denise A. Chapman

Club Executive Secretary

Birthdays

Edward A. Hely

January 25

Peter J McNally

February 03

Alex Edwards

February 05

Michael A. Muscarella

February 06

Gary Zheng

February 08

Walter Allen Qualk

February 09

John Hodges

February 10

Missy R Eckenberg

February 12

Sandra Wilson

February 14

Charles R. Moffitt

February 15

Ralph Young

February 16

Barry Griffith

February 16

Tara T. Kolb

February 18

Robert P. Meriwether

February 20



GearTeeth

The Rotary Club of Paducah

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Liz Hansen Discusses the CASA Project of McCracken County

January 27th, 2016



Standing before a room full of Rotarians just as her dad, Barron White, had done many times as a past President of the Paducah Rotary Club was bittersweet for CASA Supervisor **Liz Hansen**. Wonderful memories came to mind as Liz shared, "I remember as a young girl growing up that any family vacation began with dad finding the location and time of the particular town's Rotary Club; dad loved Rotary and all that it stands for." The feeling was mutual, as Barron White was beloved and revered by Paducah Rotarians for his faithful service for decades.

Applauding the charitable efforts of the Club in support of local non-profit organizations and education, Hansen shared her appreciation for their generosity to Child

Watch Counseling and Advocacy Center, which is the home of the CASA Project of McCracken County. Hansen explained that CASA Stands for **Court Appointed Special Advocate**. CASAs are volunteers from the community who are appointed by Family Court judges in child abuse and neglect cases. These CASA volunteers research the case, review documents, interview people and make a report to the Court as to what is in the best interest of abused and/or neglected child or children in terms of services, placement, visitation, and family reunification

CASAs are objective community volunteers who are not part of the child welfare system. They focus their efforts solely on gathering information and making recommendations regarding children in abuse, neglect, or dependency cases-- who would otherwise have no voice. Volunteers are carefully screened and are very well trained; they receive a minimum 30 hours of initial training and 12 hours of ongoing training annually.

CASA volunteers monitor a child's situation while they are in foster care to make sure they are safe and to make sure their psychological, physical, educational and other needs are met. Volunteers are often the only constant the child knows as he/she moves through child welfare system. When a CASA volunteer accepts a case, they must agree to stay with it until the child has a safe, permanent home. McCracken County volunteers oversee only 1 case at a time and are assigned to each case for its life. CASAs typically have a depth and breadth of information that other parties may not have. Because of this extensive focus on the child, the national motto is **"I am for the Child."**

Giving an overview of CASA in Kentucky, Hansen explained that Kentucky has only 19 CASA programs in 43 counties. CASA programs do not receive state funding, and rely on local governments and private donors to continue to help children in need. The CASA Programs in Kentucky are part of a larger National Network. The National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association (NCASA) is the national organization which advocates for abused and neglected children in the Court System and in foster

care. To find out more about CASA in McCracken County and how to volunteer, contact www.childwatchcac.org

What Does Rotary Mean to You?

January 27th, 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 27th, 2016

Terry Reeves – guest of Debbie Wattier;

Lee Emmons and Julie McKeel – guests of Sandra Cargill;

Tonya Goodale – guest of Jamie Futrell;

Marjorie Heyduck – guest of Chuck Heyduck;

Janie Devers – guest of Marvin Devers;

Diane Davis – guest of Suzanne Farmer;

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.