

## Upcoming Speakers

8/2 - **Dr. Patrick Withrow**, Director of Outreach - Baptist Health, Topic: Addiction

8/9 - **Dr. Ed O'Neill**, Neonatologist - Director of Baptist Health NICU, Topic: Neonatal Exposure to Opiates & Its Impact

## Club Leaders



**Melanie W. McNeill**  
President



**Dee Dee Whittaker**  
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**Shawn Turner**  
Secretary



**Randy Bridges**  
Vice President



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# GearTeeth

## The Rotary Club of Paducah



**July 26, 2017 Issue 79, Number 4**

**Website:** [www.paducahrotary.org](http://www.paducahrotary.org) **Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/rotaryclubofpaducah>

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## KY Supreme Court Justice Discusses 'The Decline of Manhood'

July 26, 2017



**-Speaker: Kentucky Supreme Court Justice Bill Cunningham.** Justice Cunningham was introduced by Rotarian Lewis Carr.

**-Topic: Cunningham's theories on "The Decline of Manhood"**

**-Top Ten Takeaways for Rotarians:**

-Justice Cunningham is a native of Lyon County, Kentucky. After graduation from Murray State University, he served in the US Army and later earned his law degree from the University of Kentucky. He is a former City Attorney for Eddyville and Kuttawa, Public Defender for inmates at the Kentucky State Penitentiary in Eddyville, and Lyon Circuit Judge. In 2006, Cunningham became a Justice on the state Supreme Court.

-Cunningham said his thoughts on "the decline of manhood" were piqued by an article in the Atlantic Monthly magazine critical of the lack of support given women, particularly single mothers, by estranged fathers.

-The article, combined with Cunningham's fifteen years as a trial judge, validated his theory that the effects of absent fathers are truly a "social cancer." The problem, he said, is that without fathers, children aren't exposed to the life lessons of fatherhood. Add to that, he said, the continued segregation of communities and the result can become a total lack of fatherly-type mentors.

-Cunningham cited statistics that say up to 75% of high school dropouts had no father in the home. He said families without a father at home are four times more prone to poverty. Fatherless homes, he said, continue to be more apt to produce runaway children and bad decisions among children.

-Young women in fatherless homes, he said, often make poor choices at younger ages. Most often, he added, young women feel abandonment and seek early companionship which often leads to unplanned pregnancies and other issues. 63% of people who commit suicide in America, Cunningham said, come from fatherless homes.

-In 2009, the State of Kentucky collected some 416 million dollars in past due child support. Even after collections, 1.3 billion dollars were still owed primarily from who he labeled "deadbeat dads".

- "I don't have a silver bullet," Cunningham said, "but we have to acknowledge the problem to discuss it and address it." He said organizations that traditionally try to supplement the "mentor" role for young people can't keep up with increase demand for their services.

-Cunningham challenged civic groups, churches and others to get involved with whatever

## Birthdays

**Don Barger**

July 29

**Scott Powell**

July 30

**Lucas Bremer**

July 31

**Victor Sredl**

July 31

**Christopher Sims**

August 01

**Patrick Withrow**

August 04

**Cathy Creelius**

August 04

**Brian J. Laczko**

August 07

**Wayne M. Shelton**

August 09

**Steven A. Powless**

August 11

**Lance Allison**

August 14

**Kevin Peck**

August 15

**Bill Glenn Holsapple**

August 15

**James Patrick Mobley**

August 16

**Terrance Adams**

August 17

**Frank Shelton**

August 23

**Lisa Long**

August 24

resources they might have available. He said schools are often a great source of information for knowing where help is needed.

- "We've got to teach our young men how to treat women," Cunningham concluded, "we need to decrease domestic violence and other social problems related to 'the decline of manhood.'"

-Justice Cunningham writes a regular blog. Visit his page at [www.justicebillcunningham.wordpress.com](http://www.justicebillcunningham.wordpress.com)

## Announcements

July 26, 2017

--President Melanie reminded club members to watch for a recent letter from this year's Rotary Foundation Chair John Williams, Sr. regarding contributions to the Rotary Foundation. After three years, donations to the Rotary Foundation are redistributed to the local club and used for charitable donations. Donations to the Rotary Foundation also contribute to members' eligibility for Paul Harris Fellow designation.

-Tuesday August 1, 2017, the City of Paducah will host an official ribbon cutting ceremony for Phase One of the Fountain Avenue Health Park. The Rotary Playground is one of the anchor attractions of the park, located along north 13th Street in downtown Paducah. The ceremony begins at 10:30 and is open to the public.

## Guests

July 26, 2017

Mark Whitlow - Dan Patterson

Alex Stiles - George Sirk

Katie Smith - Clay Howerton

Jack Johnston - Bob Johnston

Steve Wilson - John Williams, Jr.

Zibby Benner - Becky Straley

Darlene Mazzone - Mary Hammond

Brent Housman - Randy Bridges

Laura Martin - Ted Hutchins

Jack Russell - Prospective Member

Kempton Baldrige - Prospective Member

Mike Muscarella Guests: Melanie Swager, Raquel Ziegler, Riley Sturzebecher, Stephanie Groth, Wes Waldon, Tanner Way