

Upcoming Speakers

11/22 - Thanksgiving Week, NO MEETING

11/29 - **Hon. Tony Kitchen**, McCracken County Circuit Court Judge

12/6* - **Dr. James Gould**, Planetarium at Land Between the Lakes

***Volunteers will be RINGING BELLS FOR THE SALVATION ARMY ON THIS DATE. Don't forget that volunteering to ring a Salvation Army bell, other club activity, meeting responsibility or event participation gets you a meeting makeup!**

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GearTeeth

The Rotary Club of Paducah



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GearTeeth is published weekly except New Year's, Easter, Quilt Week, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

US Public Defender: "Member of Court Family"

November 15, 2017

Speaker: Scott Wendelsdorf, Chief Federal Public Defender, Western District of Kentucky. Wendelsdorf was introduced by Rotarian Lanny King

Topic: How the Public Defender's office functions in conjunction with the US District Court system.

Top Ten Takeaways for Rotarians:

-Wendelsdorf previously served as a First Assistant Deputy Attorney for the Western District of US District Court. He has litigated in all six courts within the district. As the Chief Public Defender, he now represents defendants in the vast majority of cases that come before the Western District Court.

-The Western Kentucky Federal Community Defender's office serves as a non-profit arm of the Western District of the US District Court system. The office operates under the guidelines of a Board of Trustees.

-Wendelsdorf stressed that the office is solely affiliated the Western District Courts, noting that do not have offices, nor offer representation, to defendants in the Eastern Division of US District Court. He said the Eastern District was one of the first to offer the public defender's program, but their judges chose to eventually end the program.

- "We are members of the Court family, not adversaries," Wendelsdorf said. "We are in the due process business," he added, "you won't find us filing frivolous lawsuits just to get an acquittal."

-The Community Defender's office's budget is \$2.5 million for this fiscal year, although Wendelsdorf said, the agency is typically able to return unused funds to the government. He anticipates the next fiscal year's budget for the office to be \$3 million.

-Wendelsdorf said he is often asked "How do you represent guilty people?". He said his office's job is to work hard to achieve the full measure of due process of law. "If the court hired 'softball' public defenders who presented less evidence, etcetera, many cases would be reversed upon appeal," he added.

-The public defender said the crime trends he sees most include opioid and methamphetamine-related crimes. Child pornography-related cases are "booming out of control" because of internet accessibility, he said.



Dee Dee Whitaker

Randy Bridges

Scott Taylor

Shawn Turner

Birthdays

Brad C Clark

November 12

Thomas B Russell

November 15

Ashley Wright

November 17

Randy Bridges

November 25

George B. Shaw

November 27

James A. Sigler

December 08

Ronald Jackson

December 10

Kevin Shannon

December 10

-Wendelsdorf discussed the Western District Court's new Veteran's Program for Louisville area vets charged with federal crimes. The Veterans Treatment Court started in May 2016 as an outreach to "curb recidivism in the veteran community and promote sober and crime-free lives that veterans deserve."

-A press release introducing the program cited Bureau of Justice Statistics data that veterans make up 8% of the inmate population in local, state and federal lock-ups. In 1978, the number was 24%. In an often-related statistic, between 1999 and 2010, it's estimated that 18 to 22 veterans commit suicide each day in the United States.

-Wendelsdorf said the program has only 12 eligible veterans participating in the 18-month program, and recently "graduated" its first participant. Participants convicted or charged with violent or sexual offenses are not eligible. Successful graduates will either have their charges reduced, be referred to pre-trial diversion, or have their charges dismissed. Eligibility must be approved by all agencies involved including the US Attorney, the Veterans Administration, law enforcement, and the public defender's office. Wendelsdorf said he hopes the court can expand the program to other parts of the state soon.

Announcements

November 15, 2017

-Rotarian Joni Goodman reported that several slots remain open for the Salvation Army Bell Ringing on December 6th. To see what time slots are still available, and sign up, visit: <http://signup.com/go/wDerSJe>.

-It was our pleasure to have the Paducah Downtown Kiwanis Club join us for our weekly meeting!

-The Rotary Club of Paducah welcomes Betsy Burkeen, Mary Foley, and Brian Katz as our newest Rotarians!

Rotarian Betsy is the Executive Director of the United Way of Paducah-McCracken County. She and her family make their home in Paducah. Burkeen was sponsored by Rotarian Mike Muscarella.

Rotarian Mary serves as Executive Director of the Merryman House Domestic Crisis Center in Paducah. Foley and her family make their home in Paducah. She was sponsored by Rotarian Emerson Goodwin.

Rotarian Brian is a practicing attorney and founder of Katz Law in Paducah. He and his family make their home in Paducah. Katz was sponsored for membership by Rotarian Scott Taylor.

Guests

November 15, 2017

Thank you to all our friends from the **Downtown Kiwanis Club** that joined us for lunch this week!

Alice Rose Robertson, Angela Elder, Bill Moss, Bill Murphy, Bobbie Wrinkle, Brandon Clifton, Brent Housman, Brian Laird, Chase Venable, Don Oliver, Hedy Beyer, Jacob Waid, John Oliver, Kelly Davis, Kimberly Dossett, Kim Wallace, Mason DeJarnett, Melissa Yates, Michelle Smolen, Morgan Hall, Quent Smith, Raynarldo Henderson, Scott Jordan, Sonny Smith, Spencer Young, Tina Waid, Tonya Goodale.

Guests of Rotarians:

Heather Jackson – guest of Clay Howerton

Jennifer Sanders – guest of Lanny King

Eric Straub – guest of Shay Morgan

David Sparks – guest of Dan Key

Jay Patel – guest of Barry Griffith

Bill Garmer – guest of Chris McNeill

Amy Bontrager, Jennifer Johnston and Abbie Allen – guests of Mike Muscarella

Taylor Willis and Kaleb White – student guests from Paducah Tilghman

Hope Eason, McKenzie Moss and Samuel Powless – student guests from McCracken



County
Caroline Veatch – student guest from St. Mary