

## Upcoming Speakers

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!

12/13 - Club Annual Meeting and Holiday Music by the Paducah Symphony Orchestra's Children's Chorus

12/20 - Shelly Morris, Western Kentucky Project Director - The Nature Conservancy

12/27 - NO MEETING BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR

## Club Leaders



Melanie W. McNeill  
President



Dee Dee Whittaker  
President-Elect



Shawn Turner  
Secretary



Randy Bridges  
Vice President



Thomas Scott Taylor  
Treasurer



John A. Williams Sr.  
Rotary Foundation Chair



Joe Framptom  
Membership Chair



Don Barger  
Sergeant-at-Arms



Glen Anderson  
iPast President



Denise A Chapman  
Club Executive Secretary

## Board of Directors Currently Serving

Barry Smith  
Bruce Akin  
Clay Howerton  
Emerson Goodwin  
Laurie Latham  
Glen Anderson  
Brad Clark

# GearTeeth

## The Rotary Club of Paducah



November 29, 2017 Issue 79, Number 21

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

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/RotaryOfPaducah> Facebook: [www.facebook.com/rotaryclubofpaducah](http://www.facebook.com/rotaryclubofpaducah)

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

## McCracken Circuit Court Trends

November 29, 2017

### Speaker: Judge Tony Kitchen, McCracken Circuit Court

Judge Kitchen was introduced by Rotarian Brandon Barnhill



**Topic:** Reflections and statistics from his years as District Judge, and now as Circuit Judge.

### Top Ten Takeaways for Rotarians:

-Judge Kitchen was appointed to the Circuit Court bench in August, 2017 to fill the unexpired term of retiring Judge Craig Clymer. Prior to that, Kitchen served as McCracken District Judge since 2017. Before becoming a judge,

Kitchen worked for eight years in the Commonwealth's Attorney's office. He also served nine years as an officer in the US Navy.

-Kitchen described the District Court as a "high volume" court, having presided over tens of thousands of cases during his tenure. District Court, he said, consists of cases ranging from probate, misdemeanor theft (under \$500) and minor assault...to traffic offenses, small claims, and guardianship cases. To deal with docket overcrowding by thousands of traffic offenses, he said the County Attorney's office works with those accused through the Traffic Safety Program where cases are diverted or, in some cases, recommended for dismissal.

-One observation made by Kitchen on crimes reaching the Circuit Court level is that "drugs and alcohol are the number one factor that drives crime in our community." He estimates that opioid-related crimes fall statistically between those involving meth and heroine.

-Regarding drug crimes, Kitchen said in the early 2000's the manufacturing of meth was rampant in this area. Today, he says, they've seen new lows in manufacturing-related crimes due to increased production and distribution from Mexico which offers a "better and cheaper" form of the drug.

- "It would be very difficult to make the argument that we're winning the war on drugs," Kitchen said.

-The judge said he's observed the shift in paradigm from incarceration to treatment options for offenders. He said although treatment options have increased, some people "just don't want probation" and many typically violate their probation terms in less than three months.

**Zach Hosman**

**David Hutcheson**

**Maurie McGarvey**

**Terry Reeves**

**Dee Dee Whitaker**

**Randy Bridges**

**Scott Taylor**

**Shawn Turner**

### Birthdays

**James A. Sigler**

December 08

**Kevin Shannon**

December 10

**Ronald Jackson**

December 10

**Keith Wilke**

December 12

**Royce N. English**

December 12

**Timus G. Taylor**

December 16

**Joni Hogancamp**

December 19

**Mary E. Hammond**

December 23

**Michael P. Resnick**

December 24

**Chris McNeill**

December 25

**Scott Garrett**

December 25

**Susan Guess**

December 26

**Mary Foley**

December 29

**David R. Clark**

December 29

-Drug Court started in 2004 in McCracken County, Kitchen said. His assessment is that it has been very effective since it strives to change behavioral patterns of drug offenders.

-Kitchen says he is "astonished" at the number of people who drive without legally-mandated auto insurance. He cited seeing about 15 to 20 cases per week that are discovered through secondary traffic violations or vehicle accidents.

-Corporate embezzlement is becoming a more wide-spread crime in the area, according to Kitchen. "It's not uncommon to see cases where the alleged theft ranges from \$10k to \$100k." He advises businesses to take precaution by conducting regular audits to create a system of checks and balances independent of employees who work in a company's financial department,

-Regarding Jury Duty, Judge Kitchen says while most see it as a burden, the actual commitment is less than people may think. District Court trials, he said, are typically short and infrequent. Circuit Court trials, he added, usually last longer but the chances of being called for more than one trial per year are very low. "We have a fine justice system," Kitchen said, "but, it doesn't work if you fail to answer the call."

## Announcements

November 29, 2017

-Rotarian Joni Goodman gave us some great tips on increasing donations while we "Ring the Bells" for the Salvation Army Kettle Drive this Wednesday, December 6. Her advice included: 1) Be Comfortable...dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes. 2) Be Kind...offer a compliment or a "Merry Christmas or Happy Holidays" to everyone you greet. 3) Be Active...don't stop ringing the bell! 4) Be Creative...music increases donations! Bring a small speaker, your favorite instrument, or just sing! 5) Be YOU! Offer a smile to everyone, represent Rotary proudly, and work to raise money for a great cause. We're out to beat last year's total of \$7,100, and an anonymous donor will match what we raise up to \$12k. You can also bring your own donation to your shift, or to our club meeting Wednesday to count with our total. As of today, a few slots remain open. Sign up by [visitingrup.com/go/wDerSJe](http://visitingrup.com/go/wDerSJe).

-Rotarian Zach Hosman and his son Gabe invited Rotarians to join in for Christmas Caroling at various locations Tuesday evening December 12. Times and locations will be announced this week.

-Rotarian Susan Baier shared with Rotarians the McCracken County Public Library's "Drop Your Drawers" campaign. Drop off packages of new underwear for boys and girls, preferably sizes 4-16, from November 27 through December 30, at the Library. Donations will help replenish the Merryman House and Paducah Cooperative ministries' supplies of emergency underpants and provide direct assistance to each organization. Rotarians may bring their donations to the club meetings.

## Guests

November 29, 2017

Renie Barger – guest of Don Barger

Hannah Hosman and Gabe Hosman – guests of Zach Hosman

Heather Jackson and Eddie Jones – guests of Clay Howerton

William Winchester – guest of Johnny Horton

Eric Straub – guest of Shay Morgan

Gina Leeper and Gina Winchester – guest of Laurie Latham

Morgan Hall – guest of Lewis Carr

Jennifer Johnston, Kristin Massey and Miles Thompson – guests of Mike Muscarella  
Hope Eason, McKenzie Moss and Samuel Powless – student guests from McCracken County

Caroline Veatch – student guest from St. Mary