

Speakers / Events

4-H Day

October 17

Paducah Improv

October 24

Bill Bartleman

October 31

Dave Weller

November 07

John Hodges

November 14

Joint Meeting with Kiwanis

November 21

Stan Eckenberg & Steve Powless

November 28

Club Leaders

Missy R Eckenberg

President

Chris McNeill

President-Elect

Jamie Futrell

Vice President

Phyllis Russell

Secretary

Thomas Scott Taylor

Treasurer

Michael A. Muscarella

iPast President

Birthdays

Barry Smith

October 12

Roger Truitt

October 15

Shawn Turner

October 16

Brenda Allcock

October 19

Deborah Simon

October 19



GearTeeth

The Rotary Club of Paducah

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

Merger Mania

To merge the Paducah City government with the McCracken County government or not. That is the question voters will answer on November 6th. Today proponents of both sides made an impassioned plea for their views before a packed house of Rotarians and guests.



Dr. David Thomas, a non-city resident and an opponent of the merger made claims that a merger would not stimulate economic development nor result in a more efficient government. He named five university studies, which found no significant increase in economic growth after a merger and four others, which found a merger, did not result in more efficient or less costly government.

Other issues Dr. Thomas cited against the merger included a less racially diverse government, conflicts with fire and police departments, and potentially higher taxes to service increased debt. "Their rhetoric and propaganda is not based on fact," he said.

Rotarian **John Williams, Jr.** then spoke passionately in favor of the merger. "We haven't grown for 35 years. It's not right for every community, but it is right for Paducah and McCracken Co., he said. We have created only 620 new jobs for 65,000 residents since 1976."

Williams said it came down to "simple math." A single government that sets policy and provides service is more efficient. "One is still less than two," he said.

He also emphasized that for the first time, those that lived outside the city limits, yet paid the city payroll tax for working inside the city limits would have a voice in how tax monies are spent. Williams said it would expand representative government to include those suburban areas that are under represented under the current two government body system.

The City of Paducah currently ranks 15th in size of Kentucky cities. The merger, bringing the population to 65,000, would rank Paducah number three, just behind Louisville and Lexington. Both those cities operate under a merged government and have an increase in economic development and population.

Supporters, after 8 years of study, have come to the conclusion that a merger would result in more efficient government, lower the cost per taxpayer and give Paducah the reputation of being aggressive in recruiting new industry and business.

"We are seeking to be remarkable. Paducah would be unique. We would be only one of three cities our size in the nation to merge governments, he continued, we are an inseparable, intertwined community from county line to county line. Merger is a bold move. I don't fear change. I fear what happens if we don't," Williams concluded.



Announcements

Attendance - Jamie Futrell announced the Club had 71 Rotarians with perfect attendance in September. Joanie Hogancamp was the winner of this month's attendance prize drawing, which is two tickets to "Tap the Show" at the Clemens Center.

Rotaract and AmeriCorps member Melissa Wortman announced a food drive that will benefit the Paducah Cooperative Ministry. A van will be available for the next two weeks to collect food from Rotarians. kymidtownalliance@gmail.com for more information.

Vocational Services Month - CPA David Bailey shared an overview of the many opportunities an accounting degree can afford, as well how public accountants are actively involved in the community by serving on numerous non-profit boards. David said the business isn't just about tax returns, but about business advising and financial planning, as well.

Rotary on the Move – A special thanks was given to Market House Theater and Michael Cochran for their hospitality and walking Ghost Tour, Tuesday, October 9, 2012. Upcoming dates and locations:

November 13th at the National Quilt Museum

January 8th at Paducah Cooperative Ministry

March 12th at the Railroad Museum

Contact Robyn at Robyn@reneadvertising.com for more information.

The World Service Committee – In cooperation with KeeForce and Healing Hands International will pick up used computers, Wednesday, October 24th and clean the hard drive then distribute to Third World countries.

Welcome Guests!

Student Guests

James Hill – PTHS

Brittany Sullivan- Reidland

Nick Elias – Lone Oak

Jacob Bridges – CCA

Logan Hester – Heath

Caitlin Hodges – St. Mary

Member Guests

Jessica Perkins, Kristin Williams – Elaine Spalding

Virginia Siegel, Melissa Wortman – Missy Eckenberg

Ashlea McMillan, Robbie Englert, Dane Blythe – Michael Byers

Debrah Edmonds – Lynn King

Van Newberry, David Thomas – Club

Robert Coleman, Rosemarie Stele – Gayle Kaler

Julie Harris – Josh White

Lisa Thompson – Allan Rhodes

Cameron Taliban, Jim Lewis – Randy Bridges

Kelm Davidson Burchard – Rayla Bridges

Charlie Martin – Ken Wheeler

Darlene Mazzone – Sandra Wilson

Raffale Ponti – Georgann Lookofsky

Chad Pruitt – Jessica Toren

Mary Giuliani, Kara Casey – Mike Muscarella

Ann Erickson – Debbie Wattier

Lynn Loyd, Meredith Schrader, Fowler Black – Frank Bennett

Whitney Englert – Duncan Pitchford

Mike Karnes – David Bailey

Bill Lentz, Angie Wilke – Anita Ward

Welcome New Rotarians!

The Club welcomes Becky Staley, Hotel Sales Manager for Caesar's Eastern Division, and David Black, Vice President of Ray Black & Son, as new members.



(L to R) Becky Staley, David Black