



Rotary Club of Dalton Newsletter

<http://www.daltonrotaryclub.org>

This Week:

January 12
Mel Abernathy
*Debra Conway - Cross
Plains Community
Partners*
Board Meeting

Upcoming Meetings:

January 19
Dan Combs, Jr.

January 26
Director Program

February 2
Jeff Myers
*Gary Howard - Hamilton
Cancer Institute*

February 9
Bob Kinard
February 16
Patty Mooney

February 23
Director Program

Club Officers:

Jason Parker
President
Bruce Satterfield
President-Elect
Frank M. Hogshead
Secretary, Treasurer
David Aft
Immediate Past President
Teresa Carter
Club Administration Chair
John Hutcheson
Public Image Chair
Rick Cobb
Membership Chair
Janice Kiker
Community Service Chair
Scott Rhoden
Youth Service Chair
Kevin Brunson
Vocational Service Chair
Archana Srivastava
International Service
Chair
Greg Dent
Foundation Chair

State Legislators Provide an Update on the Upcoming Legislative Session

By: Kathryn Sellers



Representative Tom Dickson reported from the Education Review Committee on the education recommendations they provided to the Governor's office. All were in-depth studies of issues, such as the Pre-Kindergarten recommendation to have the lead teacher's pay to include training and to have a reduction in class size. All of these recommendations if implemented would cost \$70 million dollars; however, the Governor has already stipulated that he would add \$50 million to the budget for education for the upcoming year. Dickson said that a new funding formula was recommended but it is not any less complicated than before because the issues are very complicated. One good forecast is that the austerity cuts of the last few years will be phased out; only \$204 million are left to remove.



Representative Bruce Broadrick stated that they will be addressing many items that are still on the table in this second portion of the session. The first job will be to create the year end budget, filling in gaps for the period through this coming June. Next they will create the new budget for fiscal year 2016-2017.

A major push will be to revise the prescription drug monitoring program allowing for various professionals – doctors, pharmacists, etc – to communicate between each other about concerns for patients who may be duplicating usage from various sources. This is all to try to alleviate the major problem of prescription drugs addictions.

Broadrick is on the industry and labor committee that will address the classification of

employees as to whether they are contract labor or real employees. This is a problem especially with truck drivers who drive for a company that owns the trucks.

Concerning healthcare, "Of course, says Broadrick, "even though our revenues will be up seven to nine percent, we want to be cost effective in treating all patients in healthcare which takes up 23% of the whole state budget."



Senator Charlie Bethel suggested that you will read about several story lines in the media because various parts of the legislature will be working on different projects providing stories from only one portion of the work in progress – a lobbyist, a single legislator who has a pet project, or others who have a vested interest in that project. The media even picks up on items that are not currently being worked on but are controversial and, therefore, sell papers and TV coverage.

Locally, major issues for our delegation will be higher education. The new building at Ga Northwest Technical College is number 2 on the list for the budget at \$23 million. And Dalton State wants to improve its business school with a private financial gift that needs to be matched by the state. Keeping those in the budget will be top of mind. Bill Ireland spoke up and commented that their emphasis should be on education because that is where our future lies.

Bethel stated that the first amendment issue will be considered about government employees and officials having immunity for expressing their religion, sometimes called the "pastor protection act."

Other issues:

- an education reform model that will shift funding from program to student-based so that each student will generate x dollars rather than the program getting funding.
- merit pay versus state scale. Performance based pay is difficult to refine.
- Gambling and horseracing,
- medical marijuana will also be discussed.
- in tax reform; Bethel predicts no big change, only small steps.

Questions about the repair/fix of the northern I 75 interstate should be let in early 2016. The northwest corridor should be complete in 2018.

When asked about Gov. Deal's legacy, Bethel with a nod from the other legislators listed "making a path for the least" that includes criminal justice reform, education reform plus the Savannah harbor, which is a major legacy for Deal.

Bethel stated that the inland port in Murray County should be a substantial driver of economic development investment for logistically-oriented businesses. The facts are that there will be "less traffic than in 2009" on Hwy 411 on the existing infrastructure. Highways 411, 52 and 136 will be enhanced with passing lanes and in some parts, four lanes in the future.

The impact of last year's transportation bill will provide 30% more state dollars in LMIG funds to local governments.

In response to a comment by Frank Hogshead to restore trust and faith in our government, Bethel stated that government's reputation is both deserved and undeserved. "The majority are trying to do good. Legislators have complex commitments. The general population should have commitments to help with problems rather than blaming others for not getting things done." He said his goal is to "do less" and not more costly programs and allow people to take care of themselves and each other." He added, "we need to celebrate our own contributions rather than finding

'victims'."

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Member Birthdays

Abernathy, Sid G. (SID)
Winter, Larry E. (LARRY)
Merritt, Gerald R (GERALD)

Birthday

14-Jan
17-Jan
18-Jan

Partner Birthdays

Kelehear, Pat
McCoy, Barbara
Wright, Betty
Smith, Rebecca

Member Name

Kelehear, Leon S.
McCoy, Norman D.
Wright, William B. Jr.
Smith, Clark C.

Birthday

12-Jan
14-Jan
14-Jan
18-Jan

Member Anniversaries

Parker, Hoyt Jason (JASON)

Start Date

1/18/2011

Years

5

Wedding Anniversaries

Bestawros, Onsy A (ONSY)
Henson, Paul E. Jr.(PAUL)

Partner's Name

Hilda
Jean

Anniversary

12-Jan
13-Jan

Years

41
54

