



## Happy Birthday!!



Jim Orr	3/3	Bill Witt	3/18
Tom Leach	3/3	Jim Martin	3/19
Sarah Henrich	3/5	Mary Beth Wright	3/19
Trigg Mitchell	3/5	Dan Miller	3/20
Darby Turner, III	3/5	Lee Hall	3/21
Bob Zielke	3/8	Carson Evans	3/21
Bruce Cotton	3/8	Lyle Wolf	3/22
Gordon Patterson	3/9	Carol Ruggles	3/23
Dave Riggins	3/10	Tim Terry	3/24
Charlie Edgington	3/12	Gene Straus	3/25
Jim Pope	3/12	Dennis Pike, Jr.	3/26
Jake Graves IV	3/12	Charlie Bringardner	3/29
Chris Stevenson	3/13	Doug Witt	3/30
Steve Rider	3/15	Cal Roszell, Jr.	3/30
Amanda Huddleston	3/16	Bill Cox, Sr.	3/30

Make plans now to attend!  
 2009 District 6740 Conference  
 "Make Dreams Real"  
 April 24 - 26, 2009  
 Eastern Kentucky Exposition Center  
 126 Main Street  
 Pikeville, Kentucky

The conference theme this year, "Celebrate Compassion", will be reflected in our speakers, topics of discussion, and other activities.

You just can't miss the Party in Pikeville!

To secure block rates, please reserve your room by April 1 and mention the Rotary Conference:

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# The ROTARY Club of Lexington

## WHEEL HORSE

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Vol. Q

March 5, 2009

No. 33

### — TODAY'S PROGRAM —

PRESIDING: President David Fister  
 INVOCATION: Dan Barham  
 SINGING & PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Bob Russell-Tutty

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Larry Chiles  
 INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER: Darrell Ishmael  
 PROGRAM: David Atkisson, KY Chamber of Commerce

#### MEET OUR GUEST SPEAKER



**DAVE ADKISSON,**  
 PRESIDENT & CEO  
 Kentucky Chamber of Commerce

At age 34, Adkisson was elected mayor of Owensboro and re-elected four years later. During his administration, he led the effort to revitalize Owensboro's downtown, created the RiverPark (performing arts) Center, recruited several industries to the MidAmerica Industrial Airpark, expanded the city's parks and bikeways and developed a new bridge linking Kentucky and Indiana across the Ohio River.

Adkisson has held several statewide leadership posts in Kentucky, including chairman of the Kentucky Advocates for Higher Education, president of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Executives (KCCE), co-founder of Leadership Kentucky and chairman of the Kentucky Center for Public Issues.

DAVE ADKISSON, PRESIDENT & CEO of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce returned to Kentucky in 2005 after serving as president of the Birmingham Alabama Chamber of Commerce and earlier, as president of the chamber in his hometown, Owensboro, Kentucky.

Adkisson is a graduate of Georgetown College and holds a master's from Harvard University. He began his career with the Owensboro Chamber, first as project manager and then as executive director.

Reaching out to hundreds of citizens across Kentucky, the Chamber created a strategic plan for the state called the "New Agenda for Kentucky" and in 2007, assembled a panel of Kentucky's top CEO's to conduct a major study of higher education in Kentucky.

Adkisson currently sits on the boards of the Kentucky World Trade Center, the United Way of Kentucky, the American Chamber of Commerce Executives and the Thomas Clark Foundation of the University of Kentucky.

Adkisson resides in Lexington, Kentucky with his wife Bonnie. They have two grown children who also reside in Lexington. In his pastime, he enjoys running, reading and travel.

#### MEMBERSHIP PROPOSAL

The following gentleman has been proposed for membership in Lexington Rotary:

Joshua D. Johnson  
 Law Office of Joshua D. Johnson  
 Classification: Law, Personal & Business  
 Sponsor: **Ron Ring**

Objections should be made in writing within seven (7) days to The Board of Directors, Lexington Rotary Club, 401 W. Main Street, Suite 305, Lexington, KY 40507. Objections are kept in strict confidence.

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#### UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- Mar. 12 Brent Jackson, ROTARACT
- Mar. 19 Eric Brooks, "Henry Clay"
- Mar. 26 Kelly Hampton, "The Boy Scouts of America"

#### MARCH 2009

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

#### THE FOUR-WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say or do...

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

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**WHEEL HORSE**

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**Rotary in Review**

**Bobby Owens  
Blue Grass Airport**

Blue Grass Airport board chairman and fellow Rotarian Robert "Bobby" Owens was our guest speaker last week. Owens joined the airport board in 2006 and began his presentation by defending former board chairman and fellow Rotarian Bernard Lovely, who has come under a lot of criticism in light of the recent spending scandal at the airport. Owens said that Lovely "always acted in the best interest of the airport".

Owens stated that Blue Grass Airport serves 1.1 million airline passengers annually, has 84 full-time employees, and sits on 1,000 acres of land. The airport has a 10-member board appointed by the mayor. The airport is in the middle of a \$66 million renovation project that includes a new runway, a new parking lot, and a new front entryway to the airport. These renovations are expected to be completed in time for the 2010 World Equestrian Games.

When Owens joined the airport board, the airport had money in the bank and a management team with

national reputations. Owens did meet with "arrogance" from some airport management, however, as he tried to adjust the airport's accounting system. Airport CFO John Rhodes viewed Owens as a temporary board member and himself as a permanent manager. Rhodes told Owens that he (Owens) would have to adapt to the airport's system in place. "As his boss, this was not the answer I wanted to hear" Owens said.



The tragedy of flight 5191 affected everyone at the airport in some way. Bernie Lovely and airport Executive Director Michael Gobb led the recovery from the tragedy. Estimates were that the airport would lose up to 25 percent of its business after the crash, and Michael Gobb began extensive travel as an outreach to the aviation community. The outreach was viewed as a success, as airport business actually increased 2-percent in the year following the crash.

Owens emphasized that the board "had no reason to distrust management" before the recent scandal. Owens said the airport board started looking into Gobb's spending in April 2008, when the Lexington Herald-Leader made its first open records requests for Gobb's expenses. Owens said the board quickly realized that the

expensive accountant records for Gobb and other former airport executives were incomplete and inadequate.

Cleaning up after the scandal, the airport has many updated policies - including an anti-harassment policy, an ethics policy, and a whistle-blower policy. Owens stated that "I made a statement to the press that we are going to get every dime (back), and I meant that." Alfred Testa, Jr. is the new Executive Director of Blue Grass Airport. Owens expects the current airport audit to cost around \$70,000 to \$80,000. He estimates the legal and consulting fees for the current scandal to cost around \$700,000 to \$800,000.

Opening the floor to questions, the first was about what he had learned from the scandal. Owens said there were at least three things:

1 - "Be sure your policies and procedures are being adhered to. We thought ours were, but quickly learned that wasn't the case."

2 - Do not use so-called company credit cards. "They are an ATM machine." The airport now requires charges to be made on staffers' personal cards and receipts submitted for reimbursement.

3 - Ask questions. If the answer is not adequate, ask more questions.

The final question from the floor asked what advice Owens has for current corporate executives, board members, and politicians to avoid similar situations to what the airport has gone through. Owens' answer was simple: "You better act with integrity in everything you do."

— Mike Loeffelholz

**ROTARY NIGHT AT KET**

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING ROTARIANS FOR ANSWERING PHONES AT KET FOR ROTARY NIGHT.

DON HARPRING, BILL ALLEY, RUTH AND DAN MCLEMORE, BILL PERRINE, BILL WILSON, BOB RUSSELL-TUTTY, JUDY WORTH, BRAD BLAIN, JAKE GRAVES, BUZZ CARMICHAEL, JOHN DARNELL, MARTHA RIDDELL, GEORGE MASON, JACK MCALLISTER, MIKE FISTER, TYLER WILSON, TOM MERRITT AND JANIE WILLIAMS.

WE ALL HAD A GREAT AND HELPED A GREAT CAUSE.

DAVE WILLIAMS.

**The ROTARY Club of Lexington**



**SPRING KEENELAND OUTING**

The Spring Keeneland Outing will be Sunday April 5, 2009. We have reserved twenty four tickets for the Kentucky Room overlooking the race track. Included in the ticket is admission, racing program, and the buffet lunch. The cost is \$47 each.

Please give Nell Main your check for the number of tickets you may need. We are all in hopes for great weather and lots of winners at Keeneland this year.

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