

Leadership Paducah Class 31
Business & Economy Day
March 1, 2018
By Adam Ogle

Leadership Paducah Class 31 began Business and Economy day at the Power in Partnership monthly Chamber Breakfast. We met at the Commerce Center for a presentation by The U.S. Department of Energy led by site lead Jennifer Woodard. Representatives from Four Rivers Nuclear Partnership and Swift & Staley outlined their respective firm's responsibilities at the DOE Paducah site. This was a very interesting and interactive presentation that spanned such topics as enrichment plant history, material created during operation and its use, environmental impacts, contamination mitigation, infrastructure maintenance, and security. Mid-America Conversion Services outlined their continuing contract with the U.S. DOE to continue conversion of the remaining depleted uranium hexafluoride (DUF6) cylinders for new material used in emerging technologies and industry. Ms. Woodard shared that public tours of the DOE Paducah site will resume later this year and invited us all to sign up for one of these tours as soon as possible to get a glimpse of what goes on inside the fences of the property.

We departed the Commerce Center excited to tour the Genova Kentucky facility on Commerce Drive. Plant Manager Joe Pusateri welcomed us and oriented us to their operation with a lovely welcome video. Genova Products, Inc is the one of the largest manufacturers of PVC plumbing components in the world. The Paducah production facility opened its doors in 2014 with PVC pipe and fittings molded/extruded in-house. Mr. Pusateri mentioned that Genova plans to expand its Paducah operation in the future by adding the capability to manufacture other plastic pipe types that will make the Paducah facility even more vital for the company as a whole.

Our next destination was CSI where we were welcomed with an amazing lunch catered by Walker Hall. CEO Steve Powless gave an excellent presentation on *Carrying the Leadership Torch*. He outlined some key statistics about CSI and its customers. A locally based company, CSI provides financial technology solutions and regulatory compliance software to banks, financial institutions and a variety of other institutions nationwide. Their customer portfolio includes corporations such as Google, VISA, and Banterra. The class was engaged in a conversation about what attributes that we look for most in a leader and we compared our collective list with the attributes that Mr. Powless values in his leaders. For reference, the leadership attributes he identified were *integrity, passion, positive attitude, professionalism, curiosity, teamwork & collaboration, confidence, communication skills, commitment & loyalty, and exceed expectations*. We were left with a brief window of opportunity to tour the facility where we viewed the customer service department, various support and software department, and the office of our very own Tim Thurman.

Around 1:15 p.m. we arrived at Dippin' Dots where we were welcomed by vice president Steve Heisner and staff in front of a mammoth wall made up of cases and cases of Oreo cookies that they use in their products. Mr. Heisner outlined the company's history and recent restructuring and explained what the future looks like for their portfolio of products that now includes Doc Popcorn and a new cryogenics division. The highlight of the visit came when we were allowed brief access to their newly constructed 17,000 square foot state of the art freezer that houses the

finished product at a temperature of more than 40 below zero. We were allowed to view the product itself being made in a room reminiscent of a scene out of *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory* as a few dozen employees in white coveralls tirelessly worked in unison to make their sweet goods. After the tour, we met in the employee breakroom where we were treated to an assortment of their ice cream products.

We finally returned to the Commerce Center to engage with a small business panel that included Payment Plus President/CEO Tammy Zimmerman and Lundberg Medical Imaging Practice Manager Terri Lundberg. Both leaders explained their path to becoming business owners and community leaders. We were honored to receive lessons learned and pearls of wisdom from both they have experienced during their careers in the medical imaging and financial industries.

We adjourned at approximately 4:45pm.