



# THE CHAMBER CONNECTION

Volume 29, Issue 12

[www.paducahchamber.org](http://www.paducahchamber.org)

December 2025

## December Power in Partnership Breakfast will feature the Kentucky Chamber President

The Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce's December 4th Power in Partnership Breakfast will feature keynote speaker Ashli Watts, President/CEO of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce. The breakfast is sponsored by U.S. Bank.

The breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m. at the Paducah-McCracken County Convention Center. Pre-registration is required by Monday, December 1 by 2 p.m. at [paducahchamber.org](http://paducahchamber.org) or call 270-443-1746. Power



**ASHLI WATTS**

Card holders do not have to pre-register. The cost is \$25.

Ashli Watts was named the President and CEO for the Kentucky Cham-

ber, the state's largest business association, in November 2019. Watts joined the Kentucky Chamber in 2012, and during her tenure as Senior Vice President of Public Affairs at the Chamber, she led efforts in passing significant pieces of legislation such as felony expungement, right to work legislation, workers' compensation reform, unemployment insurance reform and tax reform. Prior to joining the Chamber, she worked at the Kentucky Bar Association and the

Legislative Research Commission.

Watts graduated from Campbellsville University with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and History in 2004 and holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy and Administration from the University of Louisville. She is a 2016 graduate of Leadership Kentucky, currently serves on the boards for Campbellsville University, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, National Association of State Chambers, and the Louisville Orchestra.

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Thank You

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Public Policy Series

Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce

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[info@paducahchamber.org](mailto:info@paducahchamber.org)

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# November PIP



Baptist Health Paducah was the sponsor for the Paducah Chamber's November Power in Partnership Breakfast. The program featured the Chamber's annual "Salute to Education," and attendees were able to visit with local educators and students who had displays highlighting their school programs and students' accomplishments. Ava Bogard, who represented Kentucky in the National Civics Bee Championship in Washington D.C., also spoke at the breakfast. Liberty Pest Control and FT Home Loans were the supporting sponsors of the November PIP. Pictured from left to right: Susan Ybarzabal, 2025 Chair of the Chamber Board and Paducah Market President for Paducah Bank; Kenny Boyd, Baptist Health Paducah President and Paducah Chamber Board Chair-Elect; and Sandra Wilson, Paducah Chamber President/CEO.

## SUBMIT YOUR AWARD NOMINATIONS

Submit your nominations for the annual awards to be presented at our upcoming Annual Dinner & Celebration Gala on January 30, 2026!

**NOMINATION DEADLINE:**  
**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12 BY 5:00 P.M.**

**Only Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce members in good standing will be considered for the Awards. Submit nominations for: Business of the Year; Small Business of the Year; Entrepreneur of the Year; Citizen of the Year; and more!**

*Note: All awards may not be given*

Visit [paducahchamber.org](http://paducahchamber.org)  
to submit a nomination

# Welcome New Chamber Members: October 2025

Atlantic Bay Mortgage Group  
Home Loans  
Leigh Hughes  
181 West Professional Park Court  
Bowling Green, KY 42104  
(270) 889-1311  
leighhughes@atlanticbay.com  
<https://leighlends.com>

Residence Inn by Marriott-Paducah  
Hotels/Motels/Airbnb/Lodging  
Rhonda Hausman  
3900 Coleman Crossing Circle  
Paducah, KY 42001  
(270) 444-3966  
rhausman@residencepaducah.com  
<http://www.marriott.com/pahri>

Property Revival  
Painting Restoration  
Mark Armstrong  
260 Jacobs Ln  
Paducah, KY 42001  
(270) 933-8124  
mypropertyrevival@gmail.com  
<https://www.paducahrenovations.com/>

StudioWorks Office Park /  
DBA StudioWorks Inc.  
Multi Media Production  
Jeff Pierce  
100 Television Lane  
Paducah, KY 42003  
(270) 816-7874  
studioworksOP@gmail.com  
<https://studioworksop.com>

# Thank You for Renewing Your Chamber Membership in October!

3A Composites USA, Inc.  
3C's Concrete Work  
AirMedCare Network  
Ashley Homestore  
Atomic City, Inc.  
Better Homes and Garden Real Estate, Fern  
Leaf Group  
Big Bear Resorts, Inc.  
Bluegrass Commercial Cleaning  
Bobo Law Office, PLLC  
Broadway Dental Care  
Broussard's Cajun Cuisine  
Chase Environmental Group, Inc.  
Comfort Inn  
The Commonwealth Event Center  
Compass Counseling  
Courtyard By Marriott  
EXIT Realty Key Group  
First-Line Fire Extinguisher Company  
Four Rivers Behavioral Health  
Frazine Wellness  
George's Hill  
Global Laser Enrichment (GLE)  
Goodwill Kentucky  
Harrison Street Missionary Baptist Church  
HDR Engineering, Inc.  
Higdon Development Inc.  
Higdon Furniture  
Housman Partners  
Housman Partners Land & Farm  
Hughes Funeral Home  
IMPEX  
Jim Smith Contracting Co., LLC  
JMS Russel Metals Corporation  
Kemper CPA Group, LLP  
Kentucky Legal Aid - Paducah Office  
Kentucky Oaks Mall  
Kim Homra Insurance Agency  
L.A. Miller & Associates, Inc.  
Lents Crane & Rigging  
Lindsey Funeral Home  
Linwood Chrysler Dodge Hyundai, LLC  
LivePaducahRentals  
LivingWell Radiology West  
Luxe Properties  
Mattress Market  
Merryman House Domestic Crisis Center  
Mighty Tees Screen Printing  
Moore Real Estate Company  
The Moses Basket  
Murtco, Inc.  
Orano TLI  
Orr Medical  
Paducah Alliance of Neighbors  
Paducah Railroad Museum  
Paducah Sports Park  
Paxton Park Golf Course  
Phelps Farm Service  
Pinnacle, Inc.  
RARE Auction Group/Robert Alexander, Auctioneer  
Stonecreek Health & Rehabilitation  
TempsPlus, Inc. - Employment Services  
Troy's Auto Service  
TVA Shawnee Fossil Plant  
USA Management LLC  
Wells Fargo Advisors  
Wilson Medical Staffing, PLLC  
WKYX-WKYQ-WPAD-Electric 96.9

## THE LEADERSHIP HOUR

A ZOOM WORKSHOP SERIES FEATURING FRANK BENNETT



Speaker:  
Frank Bennett



## LEADING ACROSS GENERATIONS

**December 17**  
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Workplaces today span four generations, each shaped by different experiences, values, and expectations.

This session explores what makes leading across generations both complex and rewarding, revealing how understanding these differences can become a powerful competitive advantage when guided effectively.

Register at  
[paducahchamber.org](http://paducahchamber.org)

Attendees will receive Zoom link upon registering.  
There is no cost to attend. Pre-registration is required.

# EmpowerHER

Thank you to  
our 2025 sponsors!



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Paducah Public Schools Board of Education  
Ray & Kay Eckstein Charitable Trust  
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# Launch into the New Year!



The flipping of the calendar offers a window for organizations to ignite their team and start the year with energy and purpose. Psychologists call this the fresh start effect, a motivational surge that happens when people reach what researchers describe as a temporal landmark, a natural dividing line between what was and what comes next. Katherine Milkman and her colleagues at the Wharton School found that goal-oriented behaviors rose by 82% at the start of the year. In short, people are wired to treat January as a reset button, and organizations should too.

Yet many leaders miss the opportunity. They rush from one year to the next, changing goals but not conversation.

The most intentional leaders use this moment as a deliberate strategic reset. It is not just a meeting. It's a moment to pause, reflect on what worked, examine what did not, and reconnect around a shared direction while strengthening relationships through shared experiences.

A powerful annual launch event follows a natural rhythm that moves people from reconnection to renewed purpose.

## 1. Step Outside the Noise

I've seen successful events held in all kinds of places, from state parks to local attractions to escape rooms. The key is getting away from the office and creating a space outside of the daily routine.

## 2. Start with Connection

Begin with an activity that lowers defenses and builds trust. The goal is for people to reconnect as humans. Build a sense of belonging before talking about metrics or plans. The Leadership Center offers two retreat experiences that include team-building activities,

one in nature at the Dawson Springs 4-H Camp and another at the Challenger Learning Center in Paducah.

## 3. Break the Echo Chamber

Bring in outside voices. A skilled facilitator or speaker can ignite conversation, challenge assumptions, and open new ways of thinking. Fresh perspective sharpens strategy.

## 4. Reflect on the Past Year

Take an honest look at what worked, what fell short, and what was learned along the way. Reflection without blame builds insight and clears the path for smarter planning.

## 5. Reimagine the Future

Shift the conversation forward. Discuss priorities, growth opportunities, and the initiatives that will define success for the coming year. Align



FRANK BENNETT

those goals with your purpose so they feel both strategic and meaningful.

Each of these elements rebuilds the two things every organization needs most at the start of a new year: clarity and energy. When people understand where the organization is going and feel connected to why it matters, their effort multiplies.

Frank Bennett is the Executive Director of The Leadership Center, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides leadership and professional development training services to organizations in the West Kentucky area. For more information, go to [www.paducahchamber.org](http://www.paducahchamber.org)



Congratulations to Bluegrass Roofing Co., 3160 Parisa Dr., on their ribbon cutting. They specialize in roof repairs, roof inspections and new construction. Visit [bluegrassroofpros.com](http://bluegrassroofpros.com).



Congratulations to Family Service Society, 1225 Broadway St., on their new location and ribbon cutting. Family Service Society helps residents of Paducah/McCracken County in need by assisting with basic needs such as food, clothing, prescription medications, emergency dental, utility assistance, personal hygiene items, household goods and Christmas food assistance. Visit [fsppaducah.com](http://fsppaducah.com).



Congratulations to Fly Guys Menswear, 500 Broadway St., on their ribbon cutting. They offer a variety of menswear including clothing, accessories, body care and more. They are open Mon. - Sat. from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Visit [flyguysmenswear.com](http://flyguysmenswear.com).



Congratulations to JT's Sports Bar & Grill, 548 N 32nd St., on their ribbon cutting. They are open Mon. - Thurs. from 4 p.m. to 12:00 a.m., Fri.-Sat. from 11 a.m. - 12 a.m. and Sun. from 11 a.m. to 12 a.m. Visit [jtssbg.com](http://jtssbg.com).



Congratulations to Labor of Love, 2855 Jackson St., on their ribbon cutting. Labor of Love provides medical services to women and children in Uganda. They currently operate a medical clinic and have recently purchased land for a second location to expand their impact. They are open Tuesday's and Thursday's from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Visit [laborofloveuganda.org](http://laborofloveuganda.org).



Congratulations to Love My Baby Bump 4D Ultrasound Studio, 2830 Lone Oak Rd., Suite 1A, on their ribbon cutting. They offer elective ultrasounds with gender reveal options and a variety of packages to capture those special moments. Call 270-558-9093.

# Congratulations on your Ribbon Cutting



Congratulations to Paducah Bank and the Guess Anti-Bullying Foundation on their “WOW with Kindness” mural at the corner of 5th and Monroe St. It serves as a reminder that kindness can be vibrant, visible and powerful.



Congratulations to The Paducah Innovation Hub on their ribbon cutting and 5-year anniversary. The Paducah Innovation Hub grows talent for the region through immersive experiences in technology, trades, healthcare, river industry and more. Visit [paducahinnovationhub.com](http://paducahinnovationhub.com).



Congratulations to Peaberry Coffee, 3121 Broadway St., on their ribbon cutting. They are open Monday to Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Congratulations to RE-BATH, 451 Jordan Dr., Suite J, on their ribbon cutting and grand re-opening. Visit their new showroom to view the many options they have available for a bathroom remodel! Visit [rebath.com/location/paducah](http://rebath.com/location/paducah).



Congratulations to the Yellow Daffodil Thrift Shop, 1569 Husband Rd., on their ribbon cutting. They are open Tues. - Sat. from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. They have a variety of thrift items for sale. Call 270-477-7467.



Congratulations to Ziebart of Paducah, 3525 Park Ave., on their ribbon cutting. They specialize in auto detailing, rust protection, window tint, paint correction and more! Visit [ziebart.com/your-ziebart/paducah/](http://ziebart.com/your-ziebart/paducah/).

# From the Board Chair

As I sit down to write this final column as board chair, I can't help but wonder – where did the year go? It feels like I blinked and suddenly twelve months have passed. But what a year it's been!

We kicked things off in style at our annual dinner, celebrating McCracken County's Bicentennial – a fitting reminder of the 200 years of community, commerce and pioneering spirit that built this place. This set the tone for an incredible year filled with more events than I have room to write about.

Speaking of incredible – we were honored to be named Chamber of the Year! This recognition celebrates our commitment to enhance business growth and prosperity through promotion, advocacy and education for our members. This is our third time to win this award and second with Sandra Wilson as our President and CEO. This achievement is a testament to the collective effort and unwavering

commitment of our entire Chamber family.

We supported our members at ribbon cuttings, ground breakings and major announcements of new business investment in our community. It was a privilege to celebrate alongside members as they launched new ventures and expanded existing businesses. Each one reminded me of the courage it takes to be an entrepreneur and the vital impact these businesses have on our economy. In June, we launched our first Behind the Business event, creating a space for small business owners to connect and support each other.

One of the most inspiring moments came at our annual luncheon with Leadership Paducah and Youth LEAD. Engaging with these future leaders and hearing their ideas about our community's future filled me with hope and confidence. They reminded

me that our work today is about investing in those who will carry the torch forward.

Let's talk about advocacy! In February, 80 community leaders attended our Paducah Chamber Day at the State Capitol. Then in September we brought our largest-ever contingent on our DC Fly-In. We hosted our elected officials at numerous Public Policy luncheons to share our priorities and learn more about current issues. When Paducah shows up with that many voices speaking as one, people pay attention. I'm proud of every person who made the trips, attended our luncheons and advocated for our community.



Susan Ybarzabal

None of these achievements would have been possible without the dedication and expertise of Sandra and the entire Chamber staff. Their professionalism behind the scenes made

every initiative a success, and I am deeply grateful for their efforts. I also want to thank my fellow board members for their wisdom and guidance. Your support made this journey possible.

Perhaps what I'm most grateful for is the opportunity to meet and work with so many amazing people – seasoned business veterans, brand-new entrepreneurs, government leaders, and countless volunteers. It's been one of the most rewarding experiences of my professional life. Each interaction has had a profound impact on me personally and reminded me why Paducah and the Paducah Chamber are so special.

As I prepare to pass the gavel, I am more convinced than ever that great things happen when we come together with shared purpose. Thank you for trusting me with this role and for all you do to make our community stronger. The best is yet to come for Paducah—and I can't wait to see what we accomplish next!

## PUBLIC POLICY LUNCHEON

# DECEMBER 16 - 11:30 A.M.

THE COMMERCE CENTER, PADUCAH BANK COMMUNITY ROOM



### Join us to hear a preview of the 2026 State Legislative Session



State Sen.  
Danny Carroll



State Rep.  
Randy Bridges



State Rep.  
Chris Freeland



State Rep.  
Kim Holloway



Majority Floor Leader  
Steven Rudy

The Chamber's Public Policy Series is designed to connect the business community with legislative leaders and important public policy topics.

2025 Public Policy Series Sponsors:



Tickets are \$30 for the luncheon. Sponsorships are also available. Register at [paducahchamber.org](http://paducahchamber.org) to secure your spot today! Attendees must pre-register by Friday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> at noon.

# ANNUAL DINNER & CELEBRATION GALA



**Don't Delay to Commit Your Sponsorship!  
Receive Early Bird pricing before January 1.**

PRESENTED BY:



## FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2026

PADUCAH-MCCRACKEN COUNTY  
CONVENTION CENTER

*Doors open at 6:00 p.m. for a reception and dinner begins at 6:30 p.m.*

## RESERVE YOUR SPONSORSHIP TODAY AND JOIN THE CELEBRATION!

Make plans to join us and showcase your business at our biggest Chamber celebration of the year! Sponsorship opportunities are now available. The program includes a celebration of the Chamber's "National Chamber of the Year" award, our community's many other great successes and recognition of our Chamber members, honoring several local businesses and individuals.

Visit [paducahchamber.org](http://paducahchamber.org) for sponsorship information