



# THE CHAMBER CONNECTION

Volume 30, Issue 3

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

March 2026

## Paducah Chamber's March breakfast will feature Cody Thomas with SkyWest Airlines

The Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce March 5th breakfast will feature Cody Thomas, Managing Director of Market Development for SkyWest Airlines. The event is sponsored by Four Rivers Nuclear Partnership. Supporting sponsors are Barkley Regional Airport and Jay's Electric.

The breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m. at the Paducah-McCracken County Convention Center. Pre-registration is required by Monday, March 2nd at 2 p.m. at [paducahchamber.org](http://paducahchamber.org) or by calling 270-443-1746. Power Card holders do not have to pre-register. The cost is \$25.

Recently, SkyWest began offering daily service from Barkley Regional Airport, connecting Paducah to United Airlines'



major hubs in Chicago and Houston. This service began in February and is operated using 50-seat CRJ-550 regional jets, featuring First Class, Economy Plus, and Economy seating options. In 2024, SkyWest Airlines carried 42 million their passengers in their fleet of over



**Cody Thomas**

500 aircraft connecting passengers to 257 destinations throughout North America.

The program will also feature a presentation from Leadership Paducah Class #39 on their class project benefiting Fresh Start Village.

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Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce

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# February PIP Recap



The Paducah Chamber February Power in Partnership Breakfast was sponsored by the McCracken County Chapter of the NAACP and the McCracken County Community Career Endowment. The featured speaker was Paducah native, SaMee Burrage-Harden. J.W. Cleary, NAACP President, spoke on behalf of the NAACP. Don Mitchell, MCCCE Director, spoke on behalf of the MCCCE and Sheila Smith-Anderson, MCCCE Board Member, introduced the speaker. Pictured from left to right: J.W. Cleary, NAACP President; Kenny Boyd, 2026 Chamber Board Chair and Baptist Health Paducah President; SaMee Burrage-Harden; Don Mitchell, MCCCE Director; and Sheila Smith-Anderson, MCCCE Board Member.

## CHAMBER CONNECTORS

### Connector of the Month

**Sharollette Pierce** | Professional Real Estate Agent  
BHGRE Fern Leaf Group

**How long have you been a Connector?**  
"Since 2018."

**Why do you serve on the Membership & Marketing Committee?**  
"I decided to join the Membership and Marketing Committee after being encouraged by Leslie Heath. She has been a great mentor in so many ways."

**What is your favorite Chamber event?**  
"My favorite Chamber event will always be the end of year celebration. It's a great way to see local businesses and our peers being recognized for their achievements."

**Sharollette is currently...**  
Watching *Landman*, *Reacher*, and some older shows like *The Good Wife*.  
Reading *God is My Refuge* and *Atomic Habits*  
Listening to *The Red Stray Clays*

**Fun Fact!**  
"I'm the oldest of 7 and I believe that has helped me with leadership skills."



# Welcome New Chamber Members: January 2026

## AES Clean Energy

*Solar/Energy Efficiency*

Katie Haarsager

2180 South 1300 East, Suite 600

Salt Lake City, UT 84106

(832) 776-3040

KYstakeholderrelations

@aes.com

aes.com/energy-projects/

mccracken-solar

## Blue Sky Global

*Software Development*

Ryan Drane

3121 Broadway St, Ste 106

Paducah, KY 42001

(270) 227-0841

ryan@blueskyglobal.io

darciready.com

## Doug McClure KY Farm

### Bureau Insurance

*Insurance*

Doug McClure

1600 Broadway

Paducah, KY 42001

(270) 442-7179

doug.mcclure@kyfb.com

kyfb.com/mccracken/broad-

way/doug-mcclure/

## Maria Felker/Salon Services

*Beauty Salons*

Jason Felker

305 Cedar Creek Rd

Princeton, KY 42445

## Mesabi Metallics

*Manufacturing*

Charles Sutton

100 Television Lane

Paducah, KY 42001

charles.sutton@mesabimetal-

ics.com

mesabimetallics.com/company/

## Pope Creative Studio, LLC

*Professional Services*

Jill Pope

5448 Tuck Road

Paducah, KY 42001

(206) 228-5819

jillmpope@gmail.com

## Rhodes Convenience Store

*Convenience Stores*

Lindsey Wagoner

2404 Lone Oak Road

Paducah, KY 42001

(573) 334-7733

lwagoner@rhodes101.com

rhodes101.com

## TAM International

*Logistics*

Jason Cybulski

819 Broadway

Paducah, KY 42001

(270) 816-5807

ap@tamintl.ca

tamintl.ca/

# Thank You for Renewing Your Chamber Membership in January!

American Red Cross Western  
Kentucky Chapter  
Barkley Regional Airport  
Blythe CPAs & Advisors  
Bricolage Art Collective  
Child Watch Counseling & Advocacy  
Center  
Cunningham Dental  
D-Port Directional Drilling & Utilities,  
LLC  
Dr. Carl LeBuhn & Dr. Anita Fleenor  
Ford/IDA  
FNB Bank, Inc.  
FT Home Loans  
Jenny Hines  
Independence Bank  
Kentucky Dam Marina  
Kiwans Club of Paducah  
Lamar Advertising  
Lee's Heating & Air, Inc.  
Marquette Transportation Company,  
LLC

MPW Industrial Services  
On Track Storage  
Paducah Cooperative Ministry  
Paducah Dental Care  
Paducah Symphony Orchestra  
Paducah/McCracken County  
Riverport Authority  
Providence Pointe Healthcare  
Rail Services, Inc.  
Raymond James  
Resistant Roofing, LLC  
River Valley AgCredit  
Rivercrest Engineering Incorporated  
Royal Oaks Chevrolet  
Signet Federal Credit Union  
Starfish Orphan Ministry  
STEWART GIRL MINISTRIES  
TAG Truck Center  
Trifecta Real Estate  
West KY Workforce Board  
Westlake Corporation

## MEET YOUR NEW PYP STEERING COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS AND MEMBERS

**PYP** paducah  
young professionals  
empowering young leaders of the future  
PYP IS SPONSORED BY **ARNOLD**  
and associates



**BEN CLAYTON**  
Paducah Bank  
Steering Committee  
Co-Chair



**JUDD MALONE**  
Edward Jones  
Steering Committee  
Co-Chair



**SHELBY CLARK**  
Keuler, Kelly,  
Hutchins,  
Blankenship & Sigler



**DERRICK DELANEY**  
Paducah Bank



**TORI SENG**  
Whitlow, Roberts,  
Houston & Straub



The Paducah Chamber delegation traveled to Frankfort on Thursday, February 12 with 85 local business, government, education, health care and community leaders participating.

## Paducah Chamber delegation spends day in Frankfort

The Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual Chamber Day at the Capitol in Frankfort on Thursday, February 12, sponsored by BFW|Marcum. The Chamber delegation included 85 individuals representing business and industry, local government, education, healthcare and community leaders. Members of Leadership Paducah Class #39 also participated.

The day began with a Legislative Luncheon at The Capital Plaza with Transportation Secretary Jim Gray as the keynote speaker. Joining the Paducah Chamber for the luncheon were Chambers from Greater Owensboro, Henderson, and Murray-Calloway County. Local state legislators – including House Majority Floor Leader Steven Rudy, Representative Randy Bridges, and Senator Danny Carroll – were recognized during the luncheon.

Later that afternoon, the Paducah Chamber had meetings featuring

Cabinet leaders and other officials. Speakers included Sec. Rebecca Goodman, Energy and Environment Cabinet; Sec. Lindy Casebier, Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet; Rocky Adkins, Senior Advisor to the Governor; Eric King, Energy Planning and Inventory Commission; and State Auditor Allison Ball.

The day ended with the 17th West Kentucky Thank You Night reception. The event was hosted by the West Kentucky Regional Chamber Alliance and C-LINK representing 25 Chambers in Western Kentucky. Paducah Chamber President/CEO Sandra Wilson and Greater Owensboro Chamber President/CEO Dave Kirk served as the emcees. Governor Andy Beshear was the featured speaker and welcomed the group of over 300 attendees. 1st District U.S. Congressman James Comer also attended the reception and spoke to the group.

  
**THANK YOU TO THE SPONSORS FOR THE PADUCAH CHAMBER DAY AT THE CAPITOL**  
 Presenting Sponsor  
  
 Capitol Sponsors  

  


  
 Gubernatorial Sponsors  


  
 Cabinet Sponsors  



# Annual Dinner and Business Celebration

The Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce's Annual Dinner and Business Celebration was held on January 30th at the Paducah-McCracken County Expo Center. The Annual Dinner was sponsored by CSI and Mercy Health. The event, with more than 900 registered guests, included 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.

2025 Board Chair Susan Ybarzabal, Paducah Market President for Paducah Bank, officially passed the gavel to 2026 Board Chair Kenny Boyd, President of Baptist Health Paducah.

The Chamber honored several area businesses and individuals with their annual awards:

- Business of the Year – Mission Conversion Services Alliance
- Small Business of the Year – PFGW Architects
- Spirit of the Community – Barkley Regional Airport
- Summit Award – Dave Carroll, Paducah Power System
- Citizens of the Year – Paul and Carrie Signa
- Entrepreneur of the Year – John Stopka, Liberty Pest Control
- Non-Profit Organization of the Year – Lifeline Recovery Center
- Chamber Volunteer of the Year – Judd Malone, Edward Jones
- Leadership Paducah Alumnus of the Year – Mark Whitlow, Leadership Paducah Class #2. This award is selected and presented by the Leadership Paducah Alumni Association.
- Young Leader of Western Kentucky – Leigh Ann Ballegeer, Mercy Health – Lourdes. This award was selected and presented by the Paducah Sun.

- Chair's Award – Dr. Michael Muscarella, Baptist Health Paducah. This award was presented by 2025 Chamber Board Chair Susan Ybarzabal.

- Chair's Posthumous Award – The late Steve Doolittle. His daughter, Emily Doolittle, accepted the award on his behalf. This award was presented by 2025 Chamber Board Chair Susan Ybarzabal.

- Passing of the Gavel - Susan Ybarzabal and Kenny Boyd
- Congressional Record presented to the Chamber – Congressman James Comer



**Business of the Year:** Award was presented to Mission Conversion Services Alliance by 2025 Chamber Board Chair Susan Ybarzabal and Mike Yungmann (representing presenting sponsor Mercy Health).



**Small Business of the Year:** Award was presented to PFGW Architects by 2025 Chamber Board Chair Susan Ybarzabal and David Culbertson (representing presenting sponsor CSI).



**Spirit of the Community:** Award was presented to Barkley Regional Airport by 2025 Chamber Board Chair Susan Ybarzabal and Kenny Boyd (representing platinum sponsor Baptist Health Paducah).

# Annual Dinner and Business Celebration



**Summit Award:** Award was presented to Dave Carroll, Paducah Power System, by 2025 Chamber Board Chair Susan Ybarzabal and Myrna Redfield (representing platinum sponsor Four Rivers Nuclear Partnership).



**Citizens of the Year:** Award was presented to Paul & Carrie Signa by 2025 Chamber Board Chair Susan Ybarzabal and Ashley Johnson (representing platinum sponsor Paducah Bank).



**Non-Profit Organization of the Year:** Award was presented to Lifeline Recovery Center from Liberty Pest Control, by 2025 Chamber Board Chair Susan Ybarzabal and Ashley Johnson (non-profit award sponsor Paducah Bank).



**Entrepreneur of the Year:** Award was presented to John Stopka, Liberty Pest Control, by 2025 Chamber Board Chair Susan Ybarzabal and Jordan Vaughn (representing platinum award sponsor Happy Zzz's Sit'n Sleep).

# Annual Dinner and Business Celebration



**Volunteer of the Year:** Award was presented to Judd Malone, Edward Jones, by 2025 Chamber Board Chair Susan Ybarzabal.



**Chair's Award:** Award was presented by 2025 Chamber Board Chair Susan Ybarzabal to Dr. Michael Muscarella, Baptist Health Paducah.



**Chair's Posthumous Award:** Award was presented by 2025 Chamber Board Chair Susan Ybarzabal posthumously to Steve Doolittle. His daughter, Emily Doolittle, accepted the award.



**Leadership Paducah Alumnus of the Year:** Award was presented to Mark Whitlow by Steve Christmas, Immediate Past Chair of the Leadership Paducah Alumni Assoc. Board of Directors. The LPAAs presents and selects the award.



**Young Leader of Western Kentucky:** Award was presented to Leigh Ann Ballegeer by Jeff Bidwell, WPSD-TV News Director and West Kentucky Media Group Executive Editor. The Paducah Sun presents and selects the award.

# Annual Dinner and Business Celebration



**Passing of the Gavel- Susan Ybarzabal and Kenny Boyd:** 2025 Board Chair Susan Ybarzabal, Paducah Market President for Paducah Bank, officially passed the gavel to 2026 Board Chair Kenny Boyd, President of Baptist Health Paducah.



**Congressman James Comer and Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce:** Congressional Record presented to Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce by Cong. James Comer for winning 2025 Chamber of the Year.



**LEADERSHIP PADUCAH**  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

**MORE**  
**TOURS**

## UAJG AUTOMOTIVE WHITEHALL INDUSTRIES AND RIOT PLATFORMS TOUR

with an update from Greater Paducah Economic Development

**MARCH 12 | 8:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.**

Meet at the Commerce Center, 300 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St.,  
in the Paducah Bank Community Room.

**Open to all Leadership Paducah Alumni!**

Don't miss this opportunity to see behind the scenes of  
leading local industries and connect with fellow LPAA alumni!

**\$20 per person**

*Includes coffee and donuts before the tour*

*Space is limited. Pre-registration is required. Register online at [paducahchamber.org](http://paducahchamber.org).*