

22 CHAMBER SUPPORTED BILLS PASSED

STRONG LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP PRODUCES *Business Wins*

The 2017 session offered a new day in Frankfort as Kentucky saw Republican leadership in both legislative bodies and in the governor's mansion.

Demand for legislation with a business-minded focus was high in this new atmosphere with many priorities stuck on the back burner for more than 30 years now seeing the light of day. And thanks to strong legislative

“Kentucky Chamber’s legislative agenda took center stage...”

leadership, the Kentucky Chamber’s legislative agenda took center stage and resulted in a record number of Chamber priority bills passing in only a short 30-day session.

“Strong leadership was evident throughout the 2017 session. Senate President Robert Stivers and new House Speaker Jeff Hoover provided a mature guiding hand and ensured a focus on items that will move Kentucky forward,” Kentucky Chamber President and CEO, Dave Adkisson, said.

Among the 20 bills the Chamber is counting in the 2017 Results for Business publication, there were four transformational victories.

[SEE SESSION, PAGE 2](#)

TRACKING SCHOOL PERFORMANCE CRITICAL TO ENSURING HIGH QUALITY *Education*

Taking responsibility for our actions and making sure things get done the right way is critical to the success of any undertaking. We expect accountability across the board in our society – from government to business to civic organizations to individuals – and we recognize how important it is that someone or some entity be answerable for action or inaction and outcomes.

Nowhere is that more important than in our schools, the foundation of the future we will build for individuals, communities and the state as a whole. That is why the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce has been involved in the current effort to develop a new accountability system for our schools.

“This is a complicated, ‘in the weeds’ process that doesn’t rank high on the excitement scale,” said Chamber President and CEO Dave Adkisson. “But it is foundational to ensuring that Kentuckians know what returns they’re getting from the investment of their tax dollars in education.”

Accountability has been part of Kentucky’s education system for decades, Adkisson noted. It was a key

piece of the arrangement crafted years ago when taxpayers supported more funding for schools with the expectation they would receive regular, easy-to-

“If we want Kentucky to be strong and successful in the future, we must prepare today’s young people for the workforce.”

understand information about how well the schools were performing.

Kentucky’s accountability system has grown more complicated through the years. According to education officials, the current update of the system is to provide greater simplicity and better ways to help schools not performing as well as they should be, especially when it comes to closing the gaps that persist between the academic achievement levels of different groups of students.

A new design for the system is still in the draft stage, and an online survey invites Kentuckians to share

their opinions. Adkisson noted that the Chamber hopes the final product will give Kentuckians a truly transparent and understandable way to learn just how well our schools are performing and encouraged everyone to share their views by completing the online survey.

“If we want Kentucky to be strong and successful in the future, we must prepare today’s young people for the workforce,” he said. “To do that, we need to ensure our K-12 public schools are giving all students the high-quality education they deserve.”

“One way we can connect all our students with a great education is by evaluating how well our schools are serving them—and taking action if schools need support to better serve all their students. In this way, we can identify which schools are struggling and help students and teachers in those schools get the resources they need to make progress and succeed. This is what we mean by accountability.”

IS KENTUCKY MAKING PROGRESS?

DASHBOARD *Highlights*

The first annual update of the Chamber’s dashboard that compiles statistics comparing Kentucky’s performance in the **areas of jobs, government, workforce, and infrastructure** with the other 50 states found little change in the past 12 months.

While Kentucky trails the nation in most areas, bright spots include 4th grade math and reading scores, 8th grade reading scores, bridge condition, low energy costs and Kentucky’s state debt per capita. The Commonwealth’s ranking in CNBC’s annual Best States for Business has also improved slightly.

[SEE HIGHLIGHTS, PAGE 4](#)

READ MORE

Learn more at
www.research.net/r/KyAccountability.



TRANSFORMATIONAL VICTORIES

FROM THE FRONT

Session

MEDICAL REVIEW PANELS

As a way to address Kentucky's uncontrolled medical liability climate, the Kentucky Chamber has advocated for years to bring medical review panels to the Commonwealth. And with the passage of Senate Bill 4, that first step of **commonsense liability reform is now a reality.**

State Senator Ralph Alvarado, a doctor from Winchester and sponsor of the bill, said the panel of three doctors examining evidence of the case and providing an expert opinion before it goes to court adds a layer of accountability to the process and does not block access to the courts.

"It's time to return the focus and resources of health care where they belong, on caring for patients, not fighting lawsuits," Adkisson said.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

With the need for a strong workforce being the main concern of Kentucky employers, education remains the top strategic priority of the Kentucky Chamber. In 2017, the Chamber's team worked closely with legislators to produce a charter school law and bring more educational opportunities to children of the Commonwealth.

The charter school bill, House Bill 520, becomes law this year and will **allow for the creation of public charter schools without geographic limits.**

"The Kentucky Chamber believes all children deserve the opportunity to go to a school that challenges them and prepares them for the future. A family's income or zip code should not force their children to attend a failing school. The passage of House Bill 520 ensures that doesn't happen," Adkisson said.

RIGHT TO WORK

In just the first few days of the 2017 session, the General Assembly passed historic legislation making **Kentucky the 27th right-to-work state.**

At the ceremonial bill signing for House Bill 1, Governor Matt Bevin publicly thanked the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce for strong support and years of work on the issue, which will make Kentucky more competitive.

Gov. Bevin stated that since the passage of the right-to-work law, Kentucky has received unsolicited calls on a daily basis from economic developers and others looking at the Commonwealth as "open for business."

"The word is out that Kentucky is a better place to do business than it was 12 months ago or 5 years ago or 10 years ago. We are a better place to do business, and we will continue to do things to make Kentucky a better place to do business. That's what we are about," House Speaker Hoover said.

PREVAILING WAGE REPEAL

Another bill passed within the first five days of session was a repeal of the state's prevailing wage, which is expected to **save the state between \$125 - \$135 million a year.** Gov. Bevin has said he expects those savings to be even larger as more projects come to fruition in the state as a result of the law.

Kentucky Chamber President Adkisson said, *"eliminating the inflated government-defined hourly wage for construction projects paid by the taxpayer will help spur economic growth across the state."*

READ MORE

Learn more about what passed, what didn't and what it means to your company's bottom line, in the **Chamber's 2017 Results for Business** publication.

Nominations FOR KENTUCKY ENTREPRENEUR HALL OF FAME BEING ACCEPTED

The Kentucky Chamber is excited to partner with Awesome, Inc. and Sustainable Business Ventures on the Kentucky Entrepreneur Hall of Fame (KEHOF) for the second year. The ceremony honors the legacies of Kentucky's most successful entrepreneurs, while recognizing the inspirational impact they have on the future entrepreneurs of the Commonwealth.

Nominations are now being accepted for this year's induction class at entrepreneurhof.com/nominate.



GET DETAILS

Details on this year's induction ceremony dinner coming soon!

For more information about the Kentucky Entrepreneur Hall of Fame, visit entrepreneurhof.com.

Political & Business News



Kentucky Chamber

The Bottom Line

WITH JACQUELINE PITTS

CHAMBER NAMES *12 Legislators MVPs* OF THE 2017 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 2017 General Assembly brought about many historic changes for Kentucky and unprecedented wins for the business community. The Kentucky Chamber announced the recognition of 12 legislators who displayed conspicuous actions which helped ensure this success. In addition to sponsoring or carrying one of the Kentucky Chamber priorities, all were supportive of the Chamber's top four legislative priority bills — right to work, repeal of the prevailing wage, medical review panels and charter schools.

“With so many important business issues in play during this transformational legislative session, we feel it is important to highlight the efforts of those legislators who went out of their way to help ensure a positive business climate,” said Kentucky Chamber President and CEO, Dave Adkisson. **“These 12 legislators fought for a better business climate which will help move Kentucky forward.”**

Below are the legislators selected for this year's MVP awards and highlights of how they went to bat for the business community this session:

- **House Speaker Jeff Hoover** sponsored key priority legislation including House Bill 1, right-to-work and House Bill 3, repeal of the prevailing wage.
- **Senate President Robert Stivers** sponsored Senate Bill 6, paycheck protection legislation to give workers the choice to have union dues removed from their checks.
- **House Majority Leader Jonathan Shell** co-sponsored House Bill 1, right-to-work and House Bill 3, prevailing wage repeal legislation and served as the primary sponsor of House Bill 454, essential skills legislation.
- **Senate Leader Damon Thayer** carried House Bill 1, right-to-work and was a strong supporter of key business issues during the session.
- **Rep. Jim DeCesare** co-sponsored House Bill 1, right-to-work and House Bill 3, prevailing wage repeal as well as served as a primary sponsor of House Bill 189 to bring transparency to the state's area development districts.
- **Rep. Bam Carney** sponsored House Bill 520, charter school legislation and worked closely with the Chamber during the process to ensure passage of the bill.

- **Rep. Adam Koenig** sponsored and championed Chamber-backed legislation, House Bill 296, to update the state's workers' compensation system.
- **Sen. Whitney Westerfield** sponsored Senate Bill 120, re-entry reform legislation, seeking to cut down on recidivism and allow people an easier transition back into the community after serving a prison term.
- **Sen. Ralph Alvarado** served as the sponsor and a strong advocate for Senate Bill 4, medical review panel legislation, and sponsored Senate Bill 18, peer review and Senate Bill 78, tobacco-free schools.
- **Rep. Robert Benvenuti** carried Senate Bill 4, medical review panel legislation, on the House floor and was a strong advocate for the issue.
- **Sen. Danny Carroll** sponsored Senate Bill 11, lifting the moratorium on nuclear energy, and worked closely with the Chamber to ensure its passage.
- **Rep. Steven Rudy** carried Senate Bill 11, lifting the moratorium on nuclear energy in the House, and worked closely with the Chamber to ensure its passage.



3,133

KENTUCKY BRIDGES ARE
**FUNCTIONALLY
OBSOLETE**

CHAMBER TO RELEASE *Infrastructure Report*

Focusing on one of the top concerns of members, the Chamber will be releasing a report looking at Kentucky's infrastructure on May 15 in connection with National Infrastructure Week.

Many of the factors that affect the state's prospects for economic prosperity can be subject to change. But there is one certainty the state can count on year after year, regardless of taxes or workforce or regulatory environment or anything else: location, location, location.

Kentucky is in a prime spot – within a day's drive of two-thirds of the nation's population. That makes the Commonwealth a key site for industries needing to transport products across the country. In fact, University of Kentucky economists report more than a quarter of the state's economy is made up of industries highly dependent on transportation. And national surveys of corporate executives rank highway accessibility as the top factor in business location decisions. All of that means transportation infrastructure maintained in top condition is a key requirement for a healthy economy.

Of course, transportation is just one part of the infrastructure that keeps Kentucky working, producing and growing. This review will take a look at the current condition of the state's various infrastructure elements, such as highways, bridges, river ports, utilities and broadband and identifies needs that would strengthen the state's structural backbone in key areas.

Here's a quick rundown of what will be included in the report:

- **Highways**
 - **Bridges**
 - **Airports**
 - **River Ports**
 - **Electric Utilities**
 - **Broadband**
- **Dams**
 - **Drinking Water**
 - **Wastewater**
 - **Pipelines**
 - **Public Transit**
 - **Railroads**

READ MORE

For more information on National Infrastructure Week go to infrastructureweek.org.

UPCOMING EVENT



READ MORE

Learn more at kychamber.com/business-summit.

BUSINESS SUMMIT
AND ANNUAL MEETING

Presented by Bingham Greenebaum Doll LLP

JULY 20-21 | GALT HOUSE HOTEL, LOUISVILLE

Business Summit — July 20-21

The Kentucky Chamber's Business Summit brings together diverse ideas to answer the question: What decisions do we have to make to move Kentucky forward? The Summit features presentations by corporate leaders and representatives from other sectors focusing on an array of topics ranging from business innovations to education to energy to workforce development. You can be a part of the conversation to shape the course of our state. Join your peers and business, political and policy leaders for a dialogue that explores solutions and inspires change. The theme of this year's Summit is **"A Vision for Kentucky."**

Annual Meeting Dinner — July 20

The Kentucky Chamber's annual meeting **brings nearly 1,000 leaders together** to hear from a national speaker on current developments in such areas as government, politics, policy and journalism. We have been pleased to host such speakers as James Carville and Mary Matalin, the late Tim Russert, Ted Koppel, Bob Woodward and Chuck Todd, to name a few. Join us for an evening of networking and an entertaining listen on current issues. This year's keynote speaker announcement coming soon!

Register

kychamber.com/businesssummit
p: (502) 848-8727
e: lgoff@kychamber.com

Sponsorship Opportunities

For more details contact
Andrea Flanders
p: (502) 848-8723
e: aflanders@kychamber.com

FROM THE FRONT

DASHBOARD
Highlights

JOBS



Kentucky still lags behind the national average in most categories such as annual wages, economic growth and venture capital funding. The Commonwealth's Economic Freedom ranking (which measures the economic impact of state fiscal and regulatory policies on personal freedom) dropped from 27th to 41st among the states. However, Kentucky's ranking in the latest CNBC's annual Best States for Business improved slightly from 36th to 35th among the 50 states.

WORKFORCE



Kentucky's NAEP scores in 4th grade reading and math are all above the national average, as is the NAEP score in 8th grade reading, while the score in 8th grade math is just below the national average. Kentucky's high school graduation rate is above the national average. The percentage of Kentuckians with a bachelor's degree or higher (21.8%) still trails the national average of 29.3% as does the number of science and engineering degrees awarded. Kentucky's per capita income of \$34,654 is significantly below the national average of \$46,129, and the poverty rate of 18.8% is higher than the national average of 15.4%. Kentucky was ranked 47th among the states in the annual America's Health Rankings.

GOVERNMENT



The State Business Climate Ranking as measured by the Tax Foundation dropped from 26th to 28th among the states in the past year. State debt per capita in Kentucky (\$3,407) is below the national average of \$3,594 while the state and local tax burden of \$9,479 is slightly above the national average of \$9,338. State pension funding ranks 49th—only Illinois is worse. Kentucky's state spending growth and rainy day fund balance is significantly below the national average.

INFRASTRUCTURE



Kentucky's industrial energy cost of 5.39 per kilowatt hour remains among the lowest in the country (national average is 6.98 per kilowatt hour). However, Kentucky lags behind the nation in the broadband adoption rate and 16% of Kentuckians have no broadband access compared to a national average of 10%. A total of 8% of Kentucky's bridges are rated structurally deficient, which is better than the national average of 9%.

READ MORE

For details on these and other state standings, visit kychamber.com/issues/4-pillars-dashboard.



Pictured above: **Senate President Pro Tem David Givens and House Majority Floor Leader Jonathan Shell discuss the 2017 session, Kentucky Chamber Board Chair Bill Lear moderates.**

CHAMBER BOARD MEETING
HELD IN BOWLING GREEN

The Kentucky Chamber's spring board meeting was held in Bowling Green where board members heard special presentations from lawmakers discussing the 2017 General Assembly, an update on the state's booming automobile industry, and more.

Special thanks to Kentucky Chamber member English Lucas Priest & Owsley, LLC for sponsoring the event.



Jacqueline Pitts
DIRECTOR,
COMMUNICATIONS
Kentucky Chamber of Commerce

Annoucement
**JACQUELINE PITTS
NAMED DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNICATIONS.**

In February, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce President Dave Adkisson announced that **Jacqueline Pitts has been promoted to the position of director of communications.**

Pitts has served as managing editor of The Bottom Line, the news site of the Kentucky Chamber, since joining the Chamber staff in December 2014. The Kentucky Chamber is the only chamber of commerce in the nation to hire a political reporter to produce original news content for a business audience.

KENTUCKY CHAMBER WORKFORCE CENTER *Advisory Board*

KENTUCKY CHAMBER WORKFORCE CENTER CONVENES ADVISORY BOARD OF BUSINESS LEADERS.

Recently, the Kentucky Chamber Workforce Center convened a first meeting of its Advisory Board made up of business leaders from across the state and key industries in Kentucky.

The goal of the new Kentucky Chamber Workforce Center Advisory Board will be to help ensure the needs of businesses are met as Kentucky works to strengthen the workforce.

“to ensure the needs of businesses are met as **Kentucky** works to strengthen the **workforce**.”

“The board is a very diverse group, made up of some of our state’s top leaders and business sectors. Each member has proven successes, going above and beyond to strengthen workforce in Kentucky,” Kentucky Chamber Workforce Center Executive Director Beth Davisson said.



While the Workforce Center has a range of short-term goals and benchmarks to hit, the members will be working to create a long-term strategic plan and vision for the Chamber’s new Workforce Center.



The Kentucky Chamber Workforce Center Advisory Board includes the following members:

- **Kim Menke**, Manager External Affairs/Government Relations, *Toyota Motor Manufacturing*
- **Mark Guilfoyle**, Partner, Dressman, *Benzinger & LaVelle, PSC*
- **Michael Rodenberg**, President, *Murakami Manufacturing USA, Inc.*
- **Susan Simmons**, Director of Human Resources, *Central Bank & Trust Company*
- **Amanda Huddleston**, Vice President, *People Plus, Inc.*
- **Sharnika Glenn**, Human Resources Manager, *UPS*
- **KYSHRM Chair*** — **Lynn Ingmire**, SHRM-SCP, SPHR, President/Owner, *Essential HR Partners, LLC*
- **Andrea Robinette Lowe**, VP HR, *Pikeville Medical Center*
- **Teresa Hayes**, HR Manager, *Bilstein Cold Rolled Steel*
- **Levi Loverkamp**, Director of Human Resources, *Mercy Health-Lourdes*
- **Ankur Gopal**, CEO, *Interapt*
- **Susan Brewer**, Vice President, Human Resources, *Gray Construction*

**This position will rotate every 2 years.*



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KENTUCKY CHAMBER NEWS

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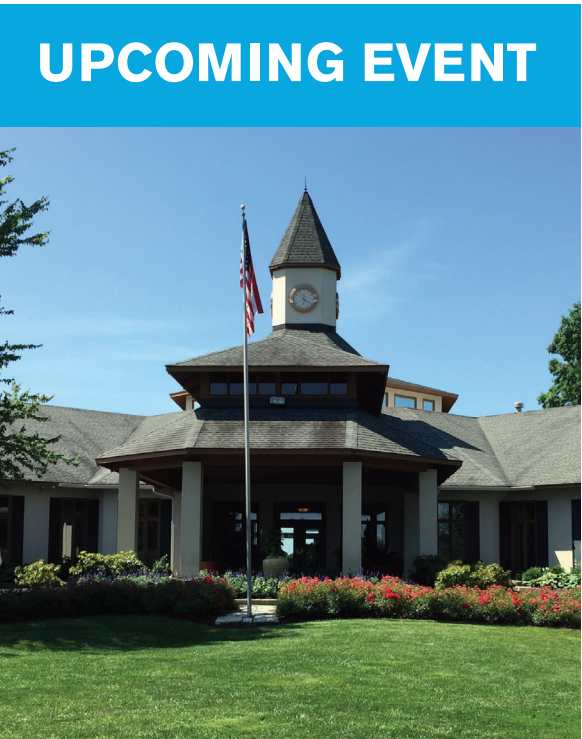
68 CHAMBER MEMBERS RECOGNIZED AS BEST PLACES TO WORK IN KENTUCKY

Edward Jones, L&N
Federal Credit Union
and Saint Joseph
Martin, a part of
KentuckyOne Health,
were ranked the 2017

Best Places to Work in Kentucky by the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and the Kentucky Society for Human Resource Management (KYSHRM).

The rankings were announced on Wednesday, April 26, during the 13th Annual Best Places to Work in Kentucky awards ceremony. Over 1200 attendees joined together in celebrating the 100 Kentucky companies (68 are Kentucky Chamber members) who were recognized for their commitment to focus, measure and move their workplace environments toward excellence.

For a complete list of winners and their rankings visit bestplacestoworkky.com.



UPCOMING EVENT

KENTUCKY CHAMBER INVITATIONAL AT VALHALLA

Presented by Ultimate Software

JUNE 19 | LOUISVILLE

Join us for an exciting day of golf and networking with some of the leading business professionals in the state!

Get your team together for a round of golf at Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville on June 19. **This invitation-only event is held exclusively for Kentucky Chamber members.** The event is limited to 132 players and provides a unique opportunity for players to tee it up with other Kentucky business leaders, all while enjoying the hospitality of top-notch sponsors!

There are a limited number of foursomes available! Register today by emailing **Lori Jo Goff** at lgoff@kychamber.com.



Pictured above: Kentucky Chamber's 2017 Board of Directors.

Nominations FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS DUE

The nomination process is now open for Kentucky Chamber Board of Directors seats beginning on Oct. 1, 2017. Nominations should contain name, title, organization, city and a brief statement of leadership activities.

For more information or to nominate an individual, contact **Candy Keeton** at **502-848-8741**.
Nominations are due by May 21, 2017.

48 KENTUCKY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS SELECTED FOR EXECUTIVE-LEVEL *Leadership Training*

Forty-eight Kentucky school principals will begin executive-level leadership training through our partnership with The BB&T Leadership Institute. Thanks to donations from individuals, businesses and communities, **the program is free for principals.** Participants in the Kentucky Chamber Foundation's Leadership Institute for School Principals will complete the program in the spring of 2018.



To pledge your business or personal support of a principal in your community contact:
Kelly Wolf at (502) 848-8725 or via email at **kwolf@kychamber.com**.

READ MORE

For details or to make a donation, visit **principalsleadky.com**.



Michael Brickey
DIRECTOR,
MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
Kentucky Chamber of Commerce

Annoucement KENTUCKY CHAMBER HIRES SALES DIRECTOR.

In April, the Kentucky Chamber hired Michael Brickey as Director of Membership Development. **Michael will be working directly with the sales team to continue to grow the membership of the Chamber.**

Selected principals for the Class of 2017:

- Jeffrey Adcock** — Cloverport Independent Schools, *Breckenridge County*
Charlotte Arvin — West Irvine Intermediate School, *Estill County*
Angela Ballinger — Walker Early Learning Center, *Wayne County*
Beth Benjamin — Owensboro Innovation Academy, *Daviess County*
Nick Brooks — Wolfe County Middle School, *Wolfe County*
Daniel Bruno — Woodford County Middle School, *Woodford County*
Jamie Burch — Sts. Peter & Paul Regional Catholic School, *Fayette County*
Amber Catron — Russell Cave Elementary School, *Fayette County*
Phillip Caudill — Hager Elementary School, *Boyd County*
Ryan Clark — Bardstown Middle School, *Nelson County*
Grant Davis — Clays Mill Elementary School, *Fayette County*
Lester Diaz — Frederick Douglass High School, *Fayette County*
Helena DiBiasie — St. Leo School, *Woodford County*
Billy Edwards — Mayfield High School, *Graves County*
Brandy Feagan — Williamstown Jr./Sr. High School, *Grant County*
Kimberly Fitch — Boyd County Middle School, *Boyd County*
Shamiah Ford — Coventry Oak Elementary School, *Fayette County*
Jeff Frost — Knox Central High School, *Knox County*
Dana Gary — Pembroke Elementary School, *Christian County*
Kelly Gennick — Taylor Mill Christian Academy, *Kenton County*
Melissa Gossage — Wayne County Middle School, *Wayne County*
Brent Hall — Jones Fork Elementary School, *Knott County*
Sylvia Havicus — Owsley County Elementary School, *Owsley County*
LaWanda Hazard-Irvin — Kerrick Elementary School, *Jefferson County*
Stephen Howard — Dixie Elementary School, *Jefferson County*
Kimberly Jones — John F. Kennedy Montessori Elementary School, *Jefferson County*
Jody Keens — Beaver Creek Elementary School, *Knott County*
Anne Marie Landry — Nichols Elementary School, *Bullitt County*
Buffy Mann — St. Charles Middle School, *Marion County*
Ryan Marchetti — Lowes Elementary School, *Graves County*
Chris Mason — Bullitt East High School, *Bullitt County*
Justin Matson — Middletown Elementary School, *Jefferson County*
Ryan McCoy — Engelhard Elementary School, *Jefferson County*
James McMillin — Bryan Station High School, *Fayette County*
Christy Moore — Hindman Elementary School, *Lawrence County*
Wesley Moore — Lawrence County High School, *Knott County*
Kimberly Morales — Seneca High School, *Jefferson County*
Jessica Mullins — Estill Springs Elementary School, *Estill County*
Gail Mullins — North Middletown Elementary School, *Bourbon County*
Meg Plummer — Riverside Christian School, *Breathitt County*
Tracy Poe — Trimble County Middle School, *Trimble County*
Annessa Roberts — Jonathan Elementary School, *Marshall County*
Jessica Rosenthal — Hawthorne Elementary School, *Jefferson County*
Robin Steiner — Dixie Magnet Elementary School, *Fayette County*
Catherine Stephens — Bernheim Middle School, *Bullitt County*
Matthew Treadway — Freedom Elementary School, *Bullitt County*
Stephanie Urbanek — Meadowthorpe Elementary School, *Fayette County*
Sarah Woodford — Garrett Morgan Elementary School, *Fayette County*

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Kentucky Chamber
Uniting Business. Advancing Kentucky.

Benefits Solutions with member savings.

YOUR CHALLENGES ARE OUR STRENGTH.

The Kentucky Chamber offers member discounts through our **Power Buys program**. Lifestyle Health Plans, KEMI, and ARG1 are just a few of our partners who can help you maximize the return on investment from your membership.



HEALTH INSURANCE



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Visit us online at www.kychamber.com/powerbuys.

Kentucky Chamber NEWS

MAY 2017

A RECORD YEAR OF LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES — 2017 —



THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER PUBLIC AFFAIRS TEAM

(From left): Travis Burton, Kate Shanks, Ashli Watts,
Dave Adkisson, Jacqueline Pitts and Beverly Standifer.