



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

Bipartisan pension reform a slam dunk for businesses



By Dave Adkisson

THE CLOSING of the 2013 Kentucky General Assembly at midnight March 26 was more remarkable than its warm, friendly opening the first week of January.

Remember January? Governor Beshear invited legislators to the Mansion for dinner, making an important, if mostly symbolic, gesture, toward the new legislature. A few days later, legislative leaders and the Governor, speaking to more than 1,000 business and political leaders at a Kentucky Chamber of Commerce event, declared a new atmosphere of bipartisanship and civility that would lead to real progress for the Commonwealth.

Frankly, some people were skeptical about how long that campfire spirit of “Kumbaya” would last. After all, legislative sessions usually devolve into political gamesmanship.

In spite of major philosophical differences on some emotional issues and competing political agendas, the bipartisan atmosphere in Frankfort, by and large, was sustained and produced real, measurable results for the Commonwealth.

Several significant bills passed; the most important one for the business community was finding a solution to the state's pension crisis. That was accomplished in the final hours, with strong leadership from Governor Beshear, Senate President Stivers and Speaker Greg Stumbo.

The historic public pension reforms in SB 2 will provide full funding for the retirement system, revise retirement benefits for new employees starting next year and reduce overall costs – saving an estimated \$10 billion in employer contributions over the next 20 years – approximately \$5.4 billion in savings in the plan that serves state employees and a similar amount in the plan that serves local government employees (see page 10 for details). Bipartisan pension reform was not only a victory for Kentucky taxpayers, it was a slam dunk for the business community.

The Kentucky Chamber represents thousands of businesses, large and small, all over the state. Business people like to see results. Kentucky's legislators made real progress this session on the biggest issue facing Kentucky – and in the process, showed that government CAN work.

BUSINESS SUMMIT AND ANNUAL MEETING

Former presidential advisor to discuss future of political parties

ONLY A FEW PEOPLE in history have had the honor of working as an advisor to a U.S. President. Even fewer have had the opportunity to do so on four different occasions, working for both Republican and Democratic leaders. David Gergen is one. Gergen, an independent, played the role of advisor for Presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton. On July 22, he will share his views on the second term of President Barack Obama and the future of political parties in his keynote address to the Kentucky Chamber's Business Summit and Annual Meeting, presented by Bingham Greenebaum Doll.

In addition to his years of White House experience, Gergen is a senior political analyst for CNN, a professor of public service at Harvard University, the former editor-at-large for U.S. News and World Report and a New York Times best-selling author. Recently, the Kentucky Chamber had the chance to talk with Gergen about the current political landscape.

ON KENTUCKY

Gergen had a lot to say about Kentucky's emerging presence in national politics. “Kentucky's influence in politics far exceeds the population size,” he said. “If there is any tradition that Kentucky represents, it is that of Henry Clay. ... If you want politics to work, you've got to be willing to negotiate with the other side and see if you can find common ground.” In Gergen's view, “Kentucky already exercises enormous influence, and I see that being the case for the foreseeable future.”

ON MCCONNELL

Gergen also seemed well versed on Senator Mitch McConnell. Gergen described McConnell as a straight shooter, “He's tough-minded and he doesn't suffer fools easily. ... He can so often figure out how to get from A to B, and a lot of people

cannot do that.” Gergen believes McConnell's relationship with the President, while rocky, could be a great asset to the parties. “I was surprised early on that the President didn't reach out to him more.”

SEE GERGEN, PAGE 2



Former presidential advisor and CNN Analyst David Gergen (right) has worked with Presidents Nixon, Ford, Reagan and Clinton. He's pictured above with President Obama. Gergen will be the keynote speaker during the Chamber's Business Summit and Annual Meeting on July 22.



Clark County School Superintendent Elaine Farris, a co-chair of the Leadership Institute for School Principals, attended the luncheon at the Governor's Mansion in March.

Leadership Institute principals, donors honored at luncheon

IN MARCH, the Kentucky Chamber Foundation hosted a luncheon honoring the participants and sponsors of the Leadership Institute for School Principals. Held at the Governor's Mansion in Frankfort, the event was sponsored by Booth Energy and AT&T Kentucky and attended by nearly 80 principals and program sponsors. Leadership Institute Chairman John Williams, CSI, Chamber Chairman Jim Booth, Booth Energy, and Mary Pat Regan, AT&T Kentucky – one of the founding donors of the pilot program – spoke during the luncheon. Gov. Steve Beshear also greeted the group and spoke about the pivotal role principals play in their schools and communities. For more information about the Leadership Institute for School Principals, visit principalsleadky.com. A list of Leadership Institute donors appears on page 11.



John Williams, CSI, is co-chair of the Leadership Institute.



Check out the Best Places to Work in Kentucky Magazine included in this mailing to learn more about the 2013 winners – including the 44 Chamber members that made the list.

Welcome new members!

Please help us thank these companies for investing in the Chamber's mission by giving them your business.

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GERGEN: Many promising things happening

In Gergen's opinion there is no reason for the divide. "It is possible to develop working relationships with people who are not your best friends. ... I believe the White House should be trying to work with him far more than they have in the past."

ON THE MEDIA

Being a CNN analyst has allowed Gergen to draw many conclusions about the media. "We've spiraled down in our media the way we have spiraled in our politics; we are a long, long way from the age of Edward R. Marrow and Walter Cronkite." Gergen voiced his concern that the media is part of the problem with personal attacks trumping tough questions. "There is a tendency, if you are on the left, to say it's the right's fault, on the right to say it's the left's fault, if you're in the middle then the pox is on both the houses. In political television there is heavy tendency to seek differences and make it very personal. That is hugely reinforced

by what is going on, on the Internet." According to Gergen, the solution may be unrelated to politics and media altogether; rather, it could be a societal rejection of personal attacks and a demand for answers to problems. "We have to be a little more honest."

ON THE FUTURE AND POLITICS

Gergen describes himself as a short-term pessimist and long-term optimist. "Our long-term future is bright if we are willing to make the tough decisions now. The next two or three years are going to be rough, there's going to be a lot of fighting, and we're not going to make as much progress as we should." Gergen believes the U.S. is at a pivotal point in history, and politics will determine much of the outcome if politicians can find common ground. "There are so many promising things happening in this country that the future could be much, much brighter."

Chamber board approves workers' comp partnership

DURING its board meeting in April, the Kentucky Chamber Board of Directors approved a new partnership with Kentucky Employers Mutual Insurance (KEMI) that will provide qualified Chamber members, excluding temporary staffing and employee leasing companies, a 10% credit* on their workers' compensation premium. To qualify, companies must have:

- KEMI standard premium of at least \$2,500
- Minimum of two years in business
- Emod of 1.25 or less (if policyholder qualifies for Emod)
- Management attitude demonstrates focus on Safety Controls
- No prior KEMI issues (outstanding debt, audit compliance, etc.)

* Maximum credit cannot exceed 40%.
Policy effective date, July 1, 2013.
Call 502-848-8724 for details.

Staff changes at the Chamber

EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, the four divisional vice presidents at the Kentucky Chamber were named senior vice presidents of their respective departments – Aimee Hiller, senior vice president of administration; Carlos Phillips, senior vice president of membership and marketing; Jim Ford, senior vice president of business education; and Bryan Sunderland, senior vice president of public affairs.

Also effective April 1, two divisional directors were promoted to vice presidents in their departments – Chad Harpole is now the vice president of government affairs and Patrick Merchak is chief financial officer and vice president of finance.

Congratulations is also in order for Merchak who was just accepted into the 2013 class of Leadership Kentucky



Jim Ford



Aimee Hiller



Carlos Phillips



Bryan Sunderland



Chad Harpole



Patrick Merchak



The Kentucky Chamber Board of Directors meets quarterly in January, April, July and October. Members of the 2013 Board are pictured above.

Nominations sought for board

BUSINESS LEADERS will be considered from a cross-section of industries and regions in Kentucky. Nominations should contain name, title, organization, city and a brief statement of leadership activities. Send to Candy Keeton at ckeeton@kychamber.com or call her at 502-848-8741. Nominations are due by May 24, 2013, for board seats beginning on Oct. 1.

POLICY COUNCILS NOW FORMING

You can also get involved with shaping the 2014 Legislative Agenda by participating in the Chamber's policy council meetings this summer. For more information, contact Beverly Standifer at 502-848-8733.

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May 30-31, Hilton Lexington/Downtown,
\$595/\$695

OSHA 10-Hour General Industry Compliance Course
June 18-19, Louisville Hilton Garden Inn Airport, \$495/\$595

OSHA 30-Hour General Industry Compliance Course
June 18-21, Louisville Hilton Garden Inn Airport, \$895/\$1095

10th Annual Workers' Compensation Conference
June 26-27, Griffin Gate Marriott Resort & Spa in Lexington, \$495/\$595

Price* = Member/Non-Member



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2013 Kentucky General Assembly

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Gov. Steve Beshear, Senate President Robert Stivers and House Speaker Greg Stumbo.

Bipartisanship prevails as 2013 session ends

THE 2013 SESSION of the Kentucky General Assembly has come to a close with a flurry of late night compromises, resulting in many important pieces of legislation passing for business.

Many were skeptical that the bi-partisan tone established early in session would lead to real progress for the Commonwealth. Fortunately, 30 legislative days later, we can reach conclusions based on what happened. Despite major philosophical differences on some emotional issues and competing political agendas among key players, the bipartisan atmosphere in Frankfort, by and large, was sustained and produced real, measurable results for the Commonwealth. For the first time in many years, policy championed over politics.

The Kentucky Chamber and the business community saw a number of "wins" this legislative session. Ultimately, compromise enabled many business-friendly bills to work through the legislative process and be sent to the governor for his signature.

Overall, the 2013 legislative session was a success – not only in tone, but in the progress that was achieved. When legislators are willing to sit down and work through tough issues, real progress is possible. On behalf of the thousands of business leaders representing the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, we commend the General Assembly and look forward to working toward more progress in the future.

LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES

Public Employee Pension Reform

Despite significant opposition from public unions and an unfortunate amount of misinformation about the legislation, Gov. Steve Beshear and a bipartisan group of legislators were able to forge an agreement and pass the Chamber's top legislative priority. Senate Bill (SB) 2, sponsored by Majority Floor Leader Damon Thayer, will keep the promise of pensions for current employees, increase oversight of the retirement system and set forth a manageable system for future employees that will reduce the long-term risk to taxpayers. This legislation is the most consequential piece of fiscal policy passed in Kentucky in decades.



Damon Thayer

One Business ID

Introduced by Rep. Mike Denham, HB 343 creates a single standardized business identification number for businesses who file various documents with state agencies. This bill cuts a significant amount of red tape for small businesses who currently deal with multiple business identification numbers for each agency they deal with.



Mike Denham

Alcohol Modernization

Kentucky's alcohol laws were brought closer to 2013 standards with the passage of SB 13 which will allow alcohol sales on election days. Thanks to some last-minute hard work from the bill sponsor, Sen. John Schickel, and leaders in the House and Senate, other provisions were added to the bill including allowing Kentucky's microbreweries to sell the products they produce on site without unnecessary added hurdles, recommendations of the interim Alcohol Task Force and the expanded sales of alcohol at some historic properties.



John Schickel

Industrial Hemp

SB 50, sponsored by Sen. Paul Hornback, creates a structure for the regulation and production of industrial hemp if and when the federal government allows it to be grown.



Paul Hornback

Water Quality Programs

Introduced by Rep. Fitz Steele, HB 378 establishes a clear policy and process for the Energy and Environment Cabinet's development of total maximum daily loads (TMDL) across the state.



Fitz Steele

Dropout Age Raised

SB 97 gives local districts the ability to raise the dropout age from 16 to 18 in the 2014-2015 school year. When 55% of the local school districts have adopted the policy, all school districts in the state will be required to adopt the compulsory attendance requirement. First Lady Jane Beshear has been a long-time champion of raising the dropout age as has Rep. Jeff Greer. Legislative leaders worked together this session to reach a compromise in SB 97, sponsored by Sen. David Givens.



David Givens

Early Graduation

Introduced by Sen. Mike Wilson, SB 61 allows high school juniors, who meet specific academic criteria, to graduate from high school early and attend a public two-year or four-year postsecondary institution, allowing them to enter the workforce more quickly.



Mike Wilson

University Bonding

House Bill (HB) 7, sponsored by Rep. Rick Rand, allows Kentucky's public universities to issue their own debt or revenue generating projects such as dormitories, student activity centers and research facilities.



Rick Rand

The Kentucky Chamber of Commerce provides leadership as a catalyst, consensus-builder and advocate to unite business and advance Kentucky.

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HOW DID THE 2013 GENERAL ASSEMBLY IMPACT BUSINESS?



Kentucky Chamber-supported, business friendly legislation.



Kentucky Chamber-opposed legislation would negatively impact business.



Legislation enacted by both House and Senate; signed by governor.



Legislation not passed. Details in italics.

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



University Bonding

HB 7 (Rand) allows Kentucky's public universities to issue their own debt for revenue generating projects such as dormitories, student activity centers and research facilities. This innovative financing approach allows our institutions of higher education to make much needed investments without having to use state General Fund money. **Enacted into law.**





Raising the Dropout Age

SB 97 (Givens) gives local districts the ability to raise the high school dropout age from 16 to 18 beginning in the 2014-2015 school year. When 55% of local school districts adopt the policy, the higher dropout age will be implemented statewide. This measure was a compromise proposal worked out with Rep. Greer and the governor, both longtime supporters of raising the dropout age. **Enacted into law.**





Early Graduation

SB 61 (Wilson) allows high school juniors, who meet specific academic criteria, to graduate from high school early and attend a public two-year or four-year postsecondary institution, allowing them to enter the workforce more quickly. **Enacted into law.**





Teacher Evaluation

HB 180 (Rollins) requires the Kentucky Board of Education to establish a statewide system of evaluation for all certified personnel. The Kentucky Department of Education, along with teacher and principal steering committees, will develop the system prior to the start of the 2014-2015 school year. The new evaluation system will take into account student progress, administrator and peer observations and parent surveys. This new process helps ensure we have qualified teachers in every classroom, increasing the quality of education for our future workforce. **Enacted into law.**





Charter Schools

SB 176 (Wilson) and HB 76 (Montell) would have permitted a local board of education to designate a persistently low-achieving school as a charter school. Charter schools are independent schools designed to provide tuition-free public education choices to parents and students. Charter schools liberate teachers and administrators from red tape and permit more innovation in the classroom. **SB 176 Passed the Senate; neither bill considered by the House.**





Tribunal Reform

SB 77 (Wilson) would have reformed the system by which teachers are given due process to appeal termination, suspension or reprimand. The current system to review cases of misconduct and inadequate job performance for school employees is both complicated and inefficient. We must adopt a more effective way to reward great teachers and remove those who are failing our children. **Not considered in the Senate.**



HEALTH AND WELLNESS



Pill Mill Bill Cleanup

HB 217 (Stumbo) is a cleanup bill aimed at solving confusion with the implementation of 2012's HB 1, which increased restrictions on prescription pills. HB 217 makes important changes for medical providers without weakening the effectiveness of the restrictions designed to combat illegal prescription drug abuse. **Enacted into law.**





Medical Review Panels

SB 9 (Denton) would have established a medical review panel process for lawsuits against long-term care facilities. The panel, consisting of three physicians and an independent moderator, would determine whether or not the standard of care has been violated. The Chamber supports medical review panels because the rising costs associated with medical malpractice liability continue to take a significant financial toll on Kentucky's health care industry, resulting in increased costs for businesses and consumers and contributing to a shortage of medical professionals. **Passed the Senate; not considered by the House.**





Smoke-free Law

HB 190 (Westrom) would have created a statewide smoke-free law, prohibiting smoking in indoor public places. Chamber members overwhelmingly support a smoke-free law because of the effects of smoking on our workforce in terms of absenteeism and lost productivity as well as their insurance premiums and tax bills. **Not considered by the House.**



GOVERNMENT MODERNIZATION



Pension Reform

Without question, SB 2 (Thayer) was the most consequential piece of legislation passed in 2013. It addresses the more than \$30 billion shortfall in Kentucky's public employee pension system by implementing the recommendations of the bipartisan pension task force. SB 2 would create a hybrid plan for new hires, which is more in line with that of the private sector, and save taxpayers more than \$10 billion over the next two decades. **Enacted into law.**





Special Taxing Districts

HB 1 (Stumbo) creates a centralized registry for special taxing districts to improve transparency and hold public officials accountable. This pro-taxpayer proposal was a result of the work by State Auditor Adam Edelen and requires special taxing districts to create budgets and demonstrate to taxpayers that tax dollars are used efficiently. **Enacted into law.**



KENTUCKY COMPETITIVENESS



Industrial Hemp

SB 50 (Hornback) creates a structure for the regulation and production of industrial hemp if and when the federal government allows it to be grown. This Kentucky Chamber-supported measure passed the House and Senate on the final night of session after a bipartisan compromise deal was struck. This deal includes many of the provisions found in the original version of SB 50 along with expanded energy and agriculture research opportunities for the University of Kentucky. **Enacted into law.**



One Business ID

HB 343 (Denham) is a great victory for small business by lessening the amount of cumbersome paperwork on business by creating a single, standardized business identification number for businesses who file various documents with state agencies. **Enacted into law.**



Alcohol Modernization

SB 13 (Schickel) brings Kentucky's alcohol laws closer to 2013 standards by allowing alcohol sales on election days. Other Kentucky Chamber-supported provisions were added to the bill including allowing Kentucky's microbreweries to sell the products they produce on site without unnecessary added hurdles, recommendations of the interim Alcohol Task Force and the expanded sales of alcohol at some historic properties to improve tourism. **Enacted into law.**



Telecommunications Reform

SB 88 (Hornback) would have repealed outdated regulations that serve to limit investment in new wireless telephone and broadband technologies in Kentucky. As more and more states move to encourage investment in new technology, Kentucky falls farther behind in needed telecommunications infrastructure. **Passed the Senate; no vote taken in the House.**



Angel Investor Tax Credit

HB 337 (Palumbo) would have allowed a tax credit for those that invest in small business start-up companies across the state, fostering growth in innovation and new technologies. **Passed the House and Senate in various forms; did not receive a final vote for passage.**



Employee Misclassification

SB 89 (Schickel) clarifies the definition of an independent contractor, creating a fair, straightforward procedure that streamlines compliance and ensures a level playing field for employers, especially small businesses. **Passed Senate; failed in the House.**



Drug-Free Workplace

SB 157 (Westerfield) would have created a voluntary program for employers to participate in that would create drug- and alcohol-free workplaces saving employers health care and workers' compensation costs while protecting employees in the workplace. The bill's sponsor has pledged to work with the Kentucky Chamber and other business groups on this important issue through the interim. **Passed the Senate Licensing and Occupations Committee; not considered by the full Senate.**



Higher Business Taxes

HB 142 (Wayne) would have increased the tax burden on businesses of all sizes, putting Kentucky at a significant disadvantage in the race to create jobs. While states around us are looking to improve their tax code, HB 142 would have reduced Kentucky's competitiveness. This proposal differed with the recommendations from the Governor's tax commission by eliminating the pro-business proposals. **Not considered in the House.**



Workers' Compensation

SB 113 (Buford) would have raised workers' compensation costs for employers significantly by exposing employers to additional litigation, providing a preference for a plaintiff's doctor in lawsuits, increasing cash benefits and significantly raising attorney fees. **Not considered in the Senate.**



Unemployment Insurance

HB 102 (Nelson) brings Kentucky in line with a federal mandate that states an employer will have a loss of reserve account credit if improper payments are made due to the employer's failure to respond timely or adequately. A pro-business amendment offered by the Kentucky Chamber defines the number of failures as six failures in a calendar year, or 2% of such requests, whichever is greater. The amendment ensures all businesses, large and small, are treated fairly under this law. **Enacted into law.**



Public Construction Cost Increase

HB 119 (Donohue) would have driven up construction and administrative costs on government projects – including school and road construction – by requiring these projects to use U.S.-produced iron and steel. Protectionist measures like this one have many unintended consequences. In addition to raising costs to taxpayers, they often lead to construction delays that not only inconvenience citizens, but can disrupt jobs in the construction industry. **Passed the House; not considered by the Senate.**



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT



Water Quality Programs

HB 378 (Steele) is a great measure for small businesses, developers and economic development groups by establishing a clear policy and process for the Energy and Environment Cabinet's development of total maximum daily loads (TMDL) across the state. In addition, much of this data will be available online using appropriate mapping technologies. **Enacted into law.**



Aluminum Smelters

HB 211 (Thompson) and SB 71 (Bowen) were measures aimed at protecting Kentucky's two primary aluminum producers in Hawesville, Ky. and Sebree, Ky., The Chamber opposed this legislation because of the regulatory uncertainty and rate increases the remainder of the rate base would have faced if these bills were to become law. The Chamber continues to hope a negotiated solution can be reached in the upcoming months to protect these two facilities outside the legislative process. **Not considered by the House or Senate.**



Utility Cost Increases

HB 40 (Sinnette) would drive up the cost of residential and business utilities by removing franchise fee agreements between local municipalities and utilities by spreading the costs of those agreements across the entire rate base. The Chamber opposed this measure because it reduces transparency of government fees on utility bills. **Not considered in the House.**



With us 100 percent

THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER would like to extend a special thanks to the following 11 Senators and 15 representatives whose perfect voting record on key business issues show a dedication to the principles of free enterprise. On every key vote – many with vocal opposition from labor unions and personal injury lawyers – these legislators stood strong for the business community!



Bob DeWeese
Louisville



Jeff Hoover
Jamestown



Thomas Kerr
Taylor Mill



Adam Koenig
Erlanger



Brad Montell
Shelbyville



David Osborne
Prospect



Marie Rader
McKee



Sal Santoro
Florence



Diane St. Onge
Lakeside Park



Russell Webber
Shepardsville



Addia Wuchner
Burlington

Senate



Joe Bowen
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Carroll Gibson
Leitchfield



Chris Girdler
Somerset



Ernie Harris
Crestwood



Jimmy Higdon
Lebanon



Paul Hornback
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Alice Forgy Kerr
Lexington



Dan Seum
Fairdale



Robert Stivers
Manchester



Damon Thayer
Georgetown

House



Julie R. Adams
Louisville



Ron Crimm
Louisville



Bob Damron
Nicholasville



Jim DeCesare
Bowling Green

Senate Bills



			Pension Reform (Original SB2)	Pension Reform Final Passage	Limiting Frivolous Lawsuits	Update Alcoholic Beverage Laws	Industrial Hemp	Early High School Graduation	Telecommunications Modernization	Employee Misclassification	High School Dropout Age	Charter Schools	Special Taxing Districts	University Construction	Effective Teacher Evaluations	Uniform Business ID	Water Quality Transparency
			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
LEGISLATOR	DISTRICT	BILL NUMBER SUPPORT %	SB2	SB2	SB9	SB13	SB50	SB61	SB88	SB89	SB97	SB176	HB1	HB7	HB180	HB343	HB378
Walter Blevins	D-Morehead	66.70%	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Joe Bowen	R-Owensboro	100.00%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	X	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tom Buford	R-Nicholasville	93.30%	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jared Carpenter	R-Berea	93.30%	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Julian Carroll	D-Frankfort	53.30%	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Perry Clark	D-Louisville	80.00%	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Julie Denton	R-Louisville	100.00%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Carroll Gibson	R-Leitchfield	100.00%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Chris Girdler	R-Somerset	100.00%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
David Givens	R-Greensburg	93.30%	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sara Beth Gregory	R-Monticello	92.90%	Yes	Yes	X	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Denise Harper Angel	D-Louisville	66.70%	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ernie Harris	R-Crestwood	100.00%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jimmy Higdon	R-Lebanon	100.00%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Paul Hornback	R-Shelbyville	100.00%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Stan Humphries	R-Cadiz	86.70%	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ray Jones	D-Pikeville	60.00%	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Alice Kerr	R-Lexington	100.00%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Robert Leeper	I-Paducah	93.30%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Chris McDaniel	R-Latonia	93.30%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Morgan McGarvey	D-Louisville	73.30%	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gerald Neal	D-Louisville	73.30%	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
R.J. Palmer	D-Winchester	71.40%	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	X	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dennis Parrett	D-Elizabethtown	73.30%	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jerry Rhoads	D-Madisonville	80.00%	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dorsey Ridley	D-Henderson	73.30%	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Albert Robinson	R-London	80.00%	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
John Schickel	R-Union	85.70%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	X	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dan Seum	R-Fairdale	100.00%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	X	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Brandon Smith	R-Hazard	73.30%	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kathy Stein	D-Lexington	66.70%	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Katie Stine	R-Southgate	86.70%	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Robert Stivers	R-Manchester	100.00%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	X	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Damon Thayer	R-Georgetown	100.00%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Johnny Turner	D-Prestonsburg	73.30%	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Robin Webb	D-Grayson	53.30%	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Whitney Westerfield	R-Hopkinsville	93.30%	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mike Wilson	R-Bowling Green	93.30%	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

EXPLANATION OF BILLS USED IN VOTING RECORD

The roll call votes you see in this record reveal how legislators voted on bills the Kentucky Chamber publicly supported or opposed during the 2013 General Assembly. Although we took positions on several bills, the voting record includes only those that received a full vote before the entire House and/or Senate. Please note that the substance of a bill may be significantly altered during the legislative process. Unless otherwise noted, the legislation referenced in the voting record is based on the final version of the bill receiving a floor vote for each house. To access the language of the bills highlighted in this document, the Kentucky Chamber invites you to visit the Legislative Research Commission’s website at lrc.ky.gov.



Pension reform will save \$10 billion over 20 years

THE PROBLEMS of Kentucky’s public pension system have been well documented by the Pew Center on the States and other researchers. Kentucky ranks as one of the worst states in the country in pension funding, with the pension system funded at only 54% of liabilities, and the system is projected to run dangerously low on funds within the next five years.

These unfunded pension liabilities are the key reason that both Moody’s Investor Service and Fitch ratings have recently downgraded Kentucky’s bond ratings and financial outlook—meaning it will ultimately cost taxpayers more to finance such important public projects as the Ohio River bridges, new school construction and infra-

structure improvements. Increased pension costs are also taking needed funding away from education, economic development and other spending at all levels, and from public safety and infrastructure projects at the local level.

The historic public pension reforms in SB 2 as passed by the 2013 Kentucky General Assembly will provide full funding for the retirement system, revise retirement ben-



efits for new employees starting next year and reduce overall costs—saving an estimated \$10 billion in employer contributions over the next 20 years (approximately \$5.4 billion in savings in the plan that serves state employees and a similar amount in the plan that serves local government employees).

These savings are particularly significant to Kentucky’s business community because

approximately half of employer contributions in the Kentucky Employee Retirement System (that covers state employees) are funded with state General Fund revenue. Since Kentucky businesses contribute about 40% of state revenue in income, corporate and sales taxes, the business community’s share of the estimated \$5.4 billion in savings over the next 20 years in the state employee plan will be an estimated \$1 billion—an average of more than \$50 million per year in savings to business over the period.

These numbers tell the story. Bipartisan pension reform was not only a victory for Kentucky taxpayers, it was a slam dunk for the business community.

Membership strengthens your voice *and* bolsters your buying power

ENHANCE your employee benefits plan with the Kentucky Chamber’s exclusive member discounts on employee health insurance, worker’s compensation, office supplies, payroll and HR services, freight shipping, trade documents — savings that directly benefit your bottom line.

Being a member of the Kentucky Chamber strengthens your voice in Frankfort and bolsters your buying power. Take advantage of your membership. The Kentucky Chamber Member Savings programs below can help you save money, reduce time-consuming activities and stay competitive in today’s marketplace.

Not a member? Learn more about membership with the Kentucky Chamber by contacting us at (502) 695-4700 or membership@kychamber.com.

OFFICE SUPPLY DISCOUNTS

Office Depot offers Chamber member companies and their employees valuable discounts on a variety of everyday office products and discounted next-day delivery. One office employee uses an average \$300 worth of office supplies annually. By participating in the Office Depot program, Chamber members save, on average, \$54 per office employee.



HEALTH INSURANCE

ChamberAdvantage, a partnership between the Kentucky Chamber and Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, offers specially priced small group health, dental, life, vision and disability plans to Chamber members. Participants in

ChamberAdvantage receive:

- 2% discount on medical, dental and vision
- 8.5% discount on life, dependent life and short-term disability coverage
- 3.5% discount on long-term disability

The program is available to organizations with 2-99 eligible employees and offers more than 40 flexible health benefit plans, including consumer-directed plans. Seventy-five percent of the net eligible employees must participate.



CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN

We are pleased to offer our members who export internationally a reliable source for obtaining certificates of origin (a trade document required by some customs authorities). With very few exceptions, chambers of commerce are the only institutions granted the authority to issue certificates of origin. Certificates of origin are discounted to \$25 per shipment for members. Future members pay \$55 per shipment.

FREIGHT SHIPPING

UPS Freight now offers members discounts starting at 70% on LTL (Less-Than-Truckload) services.

The Kentucky Chamber/UPS Freight program offers free enrollment for all members, with no fees or minimum shipping requirement. This program pro-



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vides significant savings for most companies using commercial freight carriers. Sign up today or contact us to compare your current freight charges and consider the advantages of enrollment in the new Kentucky Chamber savings program.

PAYROLL SERVICES

ADP is the leader in the state in delivering human capital management services to small, mid-size and large organizations, and is committed to assisting Kentucky employers with the increased compliance requirements resulting from the rapidly changing economic and regulatory climate. Member discounts apply to workforce management solutions, including payroll, taxes, time and attendance, human resource management, benefit administration and more.



WORKERS’ COMPENSATION DISCOUNT

A new partnership with Kentucky Employers Mutual Insurance (KEMI) provides qualified Chamber members, excluding temporary staffing and employee leasing companies, a 10% credit on their workers’ compensation premium. Visit kychamber.com/kemi for more information and to find out if your company qualifies.



For details about enrolling in any of the Chamber’s member services programs, contact Denise Scott at 502-848-8724, or visit kychamber.com/membersavings.

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| Armstrong Coal Company, Inc. | Emerson Power Transmission-Maysville | Kentucky Medical Services Foundation | Marathon Petroleum Company LP | Splash Analytics | UK HealthCare |
| Brenntag Mid-South, Inc. | Farmers Capital Bank Corporation | Kentucky Spirit Health Plan | Messer Construction Company | SRG Global | WellCare of Kentucky |
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| Coca-Cola Refreshment | Gray Construction | Lexington Clinic | NACCO Materials Handling Group | Step toe & Johnson PLLC | Windstream Communications |
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| Dean Dorton Allen Ford, PLLC | Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance | | Pikeville Medical Center | Tiffany & Co. | |

SESSION SNAPSHOTS



House Speaker Greg Stumbo, D-Prestonsburg.



House Majority Floor Leader Rocky Adkins, D-Sandy Hook (left), confers with Senate Majority Floor Leader Damon Thayer, R-Georgetown (center) and Sen. Chris McDaniel, R-Latonia, on the final day of the 2013 legislative session.



Rep. Jeff Greer, D- Brandenburg, & Rep. Will Coursey, D-Symsonia, in House.



Sen. Perry Clark, D-Louisville (left), congratulates Sen. Paul Hornback, R-Shelbyville, following passage of an industrial hemp bill in the Senate.



Agriculture Commissioner James Comer, Congressman John Yarmuth & U.S. Senator Rand Paul in committee.



Senate President Robert Stivers, R-Manchester, adjourns the 2013 Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly.

Photo courtesy of the Legislative Research Commission



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Living Business. Advancing Kentucky.

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Annual Meeting

Monday, July 22, 2013
Louisville Marriott Downtown
5 p.m. Reception | 6:30 p.m. Dinner

The Obama Administration, Congress
and the Future of U.S. Political Parties

featuring Washington insider

DAVID GERGEN

senior political
analyst CNN

advisor to four
U.S. presidents

professor at Harvard
Kennedy School

best-selling
author

kychamber.com/businesssummit
p: 502-848-8727 e: lhill@kychamber.com

A large portrait of David Gergen, a man with light hair, smiling. The background shows the dome of the Kentucky State Capitol building.

PROTECTING YOUR BOTTOM LINE



Vice President of Government Affairs Chad Harpole discussed energy and environmental issues important to the business community at the Chamber's Annual Policy Conference in December.

Below, Senior Vice President of Public Affairs Bryan Sunderland talks to Gay Dwyer (Kentucky Retail Federation) and Sen. Joe Bowen during a committee meeting at the Capitol.



TOP: Senator Damon Thayer and Chamber President and CEO Dave Adkisson discuss Senate Bill 2 (Pension Reform) during a committee meeting in January.

ABOVE: Gov. Steve Beshear recently signed HB 378 which establishes clear policy and process for the Energy and Environment Cabinet's development of total maximum daily loads (TMDL) across the state. Chamber staffer Chad Harpole is third from left.

LEFT: Les Fugate (Run Switch PR) and Public Affairs Manager Ashli Watts greet one another during a Small Business Caucus reception in December.

Uniting Business. Advancing Kentucky.

The Kentucky Chamber of Commerce is the only business association in the state advocating for companies of all sizes and industries across the Commonwealth. The Chamber's public affairs team works year-round to protect your bottom line.



Dave Adkisson
President & CEO



Bryan Sunderland
Senior Vice President



Chad Harpole
Vice President, Government Affairs



Betsy Dexter
Education/Workforce Manager



Carrie Rogers
Communications Manager



Beverly Standifer
Political Affairs Manager



Ashli Watts
Health Care & Labor Manager



John Cubine
Senior Policy Advisor



Bob Gray
Senior Policy Advisor



Diana Taylor
Senior Policy Advisor

Call or click today to find out how Chamber membership can provide you with:

Access to fellow business leaders, lawmakers, business education and savings programs.

Influence through member businesses and our leadership to advance pro-business legislation and shape the dialogue at the Capitol.

Protection from legislation that stifles growth and hurts your bottom line.



Chairman Booth hosts board in eastern Ky.



Prior to a board meeting in April, members of the Kentucky Chamber Board of Directors visited Chairman Jim Booth's home-town in Inez, Ky. Board members visited the Booth Energy headquarters and took a helicopter tour to view reclaimed mining sites in the region such as Stone Crest Golf Course, above. Pictured in the left photo are Steve Branscum, Branscum Construction, Eric Haas, Hofbrauhaus Newport and Chris Hermann, LG&E/KU.

Chamber partners with ADP on member savings program

MEMBERS OF the Kentucky Chamber can now save 25% on various workforce management solutions through Automatic Data Processing, Inc. (ADP). The Chamber is proud to partner with one of the industry's largest providers to offer this service to members.

ADP has three offices in Kentucky and more than 1,200 local employees. ADP is committed to empowering Kentucky organizations and Chamber members with insightful solutions that drive business success. Partnering with ADP means you get solutions with the latest technology – so you can focus your limited time and resources on your business, not back-office administration. Member discounts apply to workforce management solutions, including:

- payroll
- taxes
- time and attendance
- human resource management
- benefit administration
- performance and recruiting tools

ADP is Kentucky's leader in delivering human capital management services to small, mid-size and large organizations and is committed to assisting Kentucky employers with the increased compliance requirements resulting from the rapidly changing economic and regulatory climate.

How can we help you get started? Dedicated representatives in Kentucky are ready to assist you at kychamber@adp.com



A typical mid-sized company with 200 employees participating in the Chamber member savings plan can save as much as \$6,500; a company with seven employees participating can save as much as \$550. For information, email kychamber@adp.com.

Mandatory labor law posting available on kychamber.com

ON FEB. 5, 2013, the U.S. Department of Labor released an updated FMLA posting that was required to be posted by March 8, 2013. The update addresses expanded military caregiver leave and clarification of "serious injury or illness" and "serious health condition." To place your order for your poster online go to kychamber.com/node/923. You can also purchase by email at lhill@kychamber.com or by phone at 502-848-8727.

Chamber supports education innovation fund

THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER is pleased to support the recently launched Fund for Transforming Education in Kentucky (The Fund).

Launched during a news conference at the Chamber's headquarters in Frankfort, The Fund aims to encourage and support innovative new approaches in Kentucky classrooms.

Chamber President and CEO Dave Adkisson serves on the board of The Fund, which will also operate of the Chamber's headquarters.

The Fund will start off by partnering with the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) to administer two recent grants from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation totaling nearly \$3 million. The first grant will help establish teacher networks and forums so innovative teachers can more easily "connect" with other teachers around the state and share promising new ideas for improving student outcomes.



Lt. Gov. Jerry Abramson spoke at the news conference. He discussed innovative approaches already taking place in Kentucky schools. For more information about The Fund, visit thefundky.org.

"Those of us in business typically set aside funds for research and development," said Billy Harper, a Paducah business leader who is Chairman of The Fund. "This R&D is what leads to improved products and services, sustains jobs, and gives us a competitive edge."

"Overseeing the work sponsored by the Gates Foundation will obviously be our top priority for the next couple of years," said Harper. "But looking further down the road, we will work to raise more money so we can provide an even bigger boost for innovative thinkers in schools. Although we have not set any long-term fundraising targets, we have received lots of encouragement from individuals, corporations, and foundations."



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FROM THE FRONT PAGE



Kentucky Chamber Chairman Jim Booth, board member Lynn Parrish and donor Charles Justice (Jigsaw Enterprises) with Southside Elementary School principal Jill Maynard at the Leadership Institute for School Principals luncheon at the Governor's Mansion.

Donors thanked during lunch

THE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE for School Principals is funded by generous donations from Kentucky's business community. A special thank you to the companies listed below for their investment, not only in their community schools, but also in the future of Kentucky's workforce. For more information on how you can support the Leadership Institute, contact Kelly Wolf at kwolf@kychamber.com.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
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| Alliance Coal, LLC | HealthCare |
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| Anthem Blue Cross and Blue | John Artis |
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MAY 2013



news

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