

Kentucky Chamber

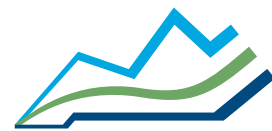
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MAY/JUNE 2009

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**Kentucky Chamber**  
Uniting Business. Advancing Kentucky.



## Unemployment costs to business increasing

Since 2002, Kentucky has paid out more in unemployment benefits each year than it has taken in through employer contributions – steadily depleting the state's Unemployment Insurance (UI) Trust Fund. This problem has been exacerbated by the global economic recession, which has resulted in the UI Trust Fund's insolvency. Due to statutory determined levels within the UI Trust Fund, Kentucky employers are currently paying the highest scheduled rate on unemployment taxes.

As of April 2009, Kentucky's unemployment rate was 9.8 percent, the highest unemployment rate in the Commonwealth in the past 25 years. Currently, more than 200,000 Kentuckians are unemployed with that number expected to increase by the end of the year.

What is the current state of Kentucky's UI Trust Fund?

- In January 2009, Kentucky became one of eight states to borrow money from the federal government in order to meet the demands of its UI claims.
- Since that time, six other states have borrowed money. By the end of 2009, it is believed another 15-20 states will reach insolvency in their UI Trust Funds.
- To date Kentucky has borrowed \$253 million from the federal government to cover its UI obligations.
- The state's trust fund balance stood at \$70 million at the beginning of May.
- The fund has been paying out \$100 million dollars a month in benefits throughout 2009, but collects \$375 million annually.

Considering the amount of money being paid out of the trust fund each month, the state will be forced to continue borrowing money from the federal government to meet its UI obligation. Federal assistance in the form of loans is only a short-term solution to maintain the fund, and the state must repay those loans.

To return the trust fund to solvency and meet future demands, Kentucky must make systemic reforms within the UI system. The Kentucky Chamber of Commerce is actively participating on Gov. Beshear's UI Task Force, which is charged to offer long-term solutions on unemployment insurance.

The Kentucky Chamber realizes that business cannot bear the burden of solving UI's problems alone. These difficult economic times call for the state to strike a careful balance between providing a safety net for unemployed workers and keeping Kentucky's employers competitive with our neighboring states.

## Chamber questions taking federal UI stimulus dollars

GOV. STEVE BESHEAR'S Unemployment Insurance Task Force began meeting three months ago in an effort to address the long-term stability and effectiveness of the unemployment insurance system. Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Dave Adkisson was appointed to the task force by the governor along with 17 other members who have been asked to propose long-term changes to the UI system by Oct. 1.

The Chamber has been a vocal member of the task force, calling on the administration to bring in independent actuarial assistance to analyze any potential costs to the UI system through the acceptance of federal stimulus dollars. Kentucky is eligible to receive an additional \$90 million in UI incentive funds if the state "modernizes" its UI system.

The additional federal stimulus dollars for UI would have the following strings attached:

- To qualify for one-third of the federal incentive, Kentucky must establish an alternative base period, which requires applicants for unemployment compensation determined to be monetarily ineligible for benefits to be reconsidered using a new base period for wages earned in the most recently completed quarter.
- To qualify for the remaining two-thirds of the federal incentives, Kentucky would have to expand its UI program by adopting two of four options: 1) increase the benefit payable to a dependent by at least \$15 per week; 2) allow part-time workers to be eligible for benefits if they are only seeking part-time work; 3) allow benefits for a person who quits work for compelling family reasons; and 4) authorize weekly benefits for up to 26 weeks for a person who has exhausted all benefits or enrolled in an approved training program.

The UI Trust Fund is currently paying out \$100 million in monthly benefits. Adding long-term costs to the UI system in order to receive less than one-month of additional benefits requires actuarial assistance to analyze each of these options and their potential long-term costs to the system.

At the Chamber's request, two economists were hired to assist the task force. They will be charged with creating and running economic models used by the task force to project the long-term costs for each of these federal options.

KENTUCKY'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

KENTUCKY'S UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE TRUST FUND

### Economic Summit and Annual Meeting

## Washington Post columnist George Will to present 'The Political Argument Today'

Over the past three decades, *Washington Post* columnist and ABC news analyst George Will has remained a steadfast conservative voice in Washington, D.C. An Illinois native who cast his first presidential ballot for Barry Goldwater, Will has spent a long, prosperous career analyzing the U.S. government.

With a Democrat now in the White House coping with the recent economic crisis, Will has had no shortage of fodder for his weekly column. He has been openly critical of the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP), the automotive bailouts and the proposed government-run health care system.

In an interview with the Kentucky Chamber, Will said that this continued government intervention will eventually lead to a shift in America's perception of politics.

"I think the American nation is approaching a libertarian moment, when people get alarmed at the

promiscuous government intrusion into making cars, directing our health care, and have a recoil in the direction of Barry Goldwater," said Will.

Will has also stated in his column that Kentucky Sen. Mitch McConnell is the most important Kentuckian since Henry Clay.

"He is a master of Senate procedures which are arcane and full of power for those who understand them," said Will. "I count Mitch McConnell as a personal friend."

McConnell, coincidentally, has agreed to introduce Will via satellite during the Kentucky Chamber's fourth annual Economic Summit and Annual Meeting on July 15. During the Louisville event, sponsored by Greenebaum Doll and McDonald, Will will provide commentary on the state of affairs in Washington, D.C.

Excerpts from the interview are on page 4. Visit [www.kychamber.com/economicsummit](http://www.kychamber.com/economicsummit) to read the full interview.



On July 15, George Will, a Pulitzer-prize winning columnist for the *Washington Post*, will give the keynote address at the Kentucky Chamber's Economic Summit and Annual Meeting. Visit [www.kychamber.com](http://www.kychamber.com) to register for the event.

Read our interview with George Will on page 4.

# kentucky chamber at work

## Kentucky Chamber's chief lobbyist to form public affairs firm in Frankfort

MIKE RIDENOUR, the vice president of public affairs for the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce has announced that he is establishing his own public affairs firm after nearly four years as the Kentucky Chamber's chief lobbyist. According to President and CEO Dave Adkisson, the Kentucky Chamber will be the first client of Ridenour's new firm when he opens the doors on July 1.

"Mike has done a terrific job helping the Chamber rebuild its public affairs division during the past four years. While we hate to lose his talent as our chief in-house lobbyist, we are proud to be Mike's first client, and



RIDENOUR

we are glad he will be actively representing us during the coming year," Adkisson said.

Ridenour, a native of Ashland, worked for the Kentucky Chamber in the 1990s, later served as vice president of public affairs for Commerce Lexington and served two years as chief lobbyist for Columbia Gas of Kentucky in Lexington. Adkisson recruited him from among dozens of candidates back to the Kentucky Chamber in 2005.

Adkisson announced he has placed Bryan Sunderland, the Chamber's director of public affairs, in charge of the public affairs division. "Mike recruited and trained Bryan in

public affairs, and we won't miss a beat with Bryan in charge of the day-to-day activities of the division. He's a brilliant policy strategist and will provide great leadership during this transition," according to Adkisson.

The division includes public affairs managers Allyson Hamilton-McIntire, Tyler Campbell and Beverly Standifer, and is supported by policy consultants Diana Taylor, Bob Gray and John Cubine.

According to Adkisson, he does not plan to conduct a search to replace Ridenour at this time. "We have an outstanding team in place and Mike will still be an integral part of that team."

During his tenure as a lead voice for the business community in Frankfort, Ridenour has been involved in nearly every major public policy debate since the early 1990s. Ridenour knows the policymakers and key staff throughout government and has broad experience with complex issues including business taxation, workers' compensation, energy, health care and insurance, environmental policy and education and workforce development.

Ridenour's firm, Ridenour and Associates, will utilize his 17 years of experience in government relations, political analysis and policy development to assist clients with their legislative and regulatory issues at all levels of government.

## LEGAL VICTORIES FOR BUSINESS

### Supreme Court victory on wage and hour dispute

THE KENTUCKY SUPREME COURT recently issued its opinion in *Bravo Development, Inc. v. Singleton*, a case which the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, Kentucky Association of Manufacturers and the Kentucky Society for Human Resource Management Council, Inc. all joined as amicus parties. The case involved a class action complaint against Bravo filed by employee Scot Singleton, alleging violation of the Kentucky Wage and Hour Law. The trial court dismissed his claim, concluding that: (1) Singleton had settled his claim in full through the Kentucky Department of Labor administrative process and was not entitled to further relief in court; and (2) it did not have subject matter jurisdiction over Singleton's claim, because he had elected his remedy by proceeding through the administrative process.

The Court of Appeals reversed, finding for Singleton on both of these points. It held that the plain language of the release agreement did not bar claims for additional relief arising out of the same wage dispute, but not specifically covered in the release. The Court of Appeals likewise rejected the election of remedies argument, holding that despite having pursued, and obtained, administrative relief, Singleton could then obtain additional relief in Circuit Court arising out of the

same alleged violation.

The case thus presented two issues of great importance to Kentucky employers: (1) the effect of a waiver and release of wage and hour claims in an administrative action, and plaintiffs' ability to recover liquidated damages and attorney's fees in a subsequent civil action; and (2) exhaustion or election of administrative remedies to prevent double-dipping by pursuing claims in both administrative and judicial forums. Deciding only the first issue, the Supreme Court reversed the Court of Appeals and reinstated the trial court's dismissal of Singleton's claims, holding that the release settling Singleton's claims through the Kentucky Department of Labor waived all wage and hour claims, including all forms of recovery potentially available in a subsequent civil action.

This opinion is of critical importance to Kentucky employers, because had the Supreme Court failed to reverse the Court of Appeals, plaintiffs would have been permitted to release claims and receive compensation in an administrative forum, only to then come back for more in court. This Opinion represents a victory for all Kentucky employers, underscoring the importance of the amicus parties' participation in this case.



### Victory in North American Stainless EEOC case

IN A DECISION hailed as a victory for employers, a federal appellate court ruled last week that only those who have been directly involved in protected activity under federal civil rights law, not others only associated with them, can file a retaliation claim. The Kentucky Chamber joined with the U.S. Chamber in filing an amicus brief on behalf of employers before the court.

According to the decision by the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati, Eric L. Thompson, a metallurgical engineer, and his fiancée Miriam Regalado, both worked for Ghent, Kentucky-based North American Stainless.

Regalado filed a discrimination claim

against the company with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which notified North American Stainless of the charge in February 2003.

Thompson was terminated three weeks later, and then sued, claiming the termination was in retaliation for Regalado's complaint. The company contended the termination was for performance-based reasons.

In its 9-6 decision, the court agreed with the employer perspective ruling that under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, only those who engage in protected activity under the law themselves are protected against retaliation – not those who may be associated with them.

### Chamber members speak out against card check legislation

ON MAY 22, Kentucky Chamber President Dave Adkisson sent a letter to the offices of the members of Kentucky's Congressional delegation with the concerns of more than 300 Kentucky companies from all over the Commonwealth. His letter echoed the serious problems that card check will pose to businesses in Kentucky.

Specifically, Adkisson detailed the Chamber's opposition to three fundamental parts of the card check legislation, also referred to as the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA). The Chamber opposes the elimination of the secret ballot for union elections, government-imposed arbitration and unreasonable and



one-sided penalties on employers.

Adkisson also urged Kentucky's Senators and Representatives to oppose the so-called compromises being proposed in Washington. Those being considered would do as much harm to business as the original proposal.

To learn more about the EFCA and its potential impact on your business, visit [www.kychamber.com/cardcheck](http://www.kychamber.com/cardcheck).

## ABOVE AND BEYOND EXPERTISE



Just because you own a small business, doesn't mean you have small dreams. With a combined total of over 760 years, Arison experience is deep and proven effective. Our independent brokers offer you a complete array of health insurance,

group employee benefits and personal insurance plans including life, disability, dental and financial planning services. Our name rises above the industry standard because we set higher standards for ourselves. Call us today for a free insurance needs analysis.

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# chamber briefs

## Kentucky Chamber policy committees now meeting

AS THE STATE'S premier business advocate, the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce is a recognized and respected voice at the state Capitol. The Chamber's diverse business policy initiatives converge upon one goal: a healthy, vibrant Kentucky economy supported by a political climate that encourages and rewards private investment in the Commonwealth and its people. Ensuring that business has a voice in the legislative process, the Chamber works with local business leaders to identify critical trends.

As part of its advocacy mission, the Kentucky Chamber's public affairs team maintains six member-driven policy committees and three advisory/program support committees. These committees are now meeting to discuss what the top priorities will be during the 2010 Legislative Session. These top priorities will also be based on answers our members submit through our 2009 Policy Survey. Watch your e-mail inbox in the coming weeks for this survey, and ensure that your voice is heard in the halls of the Capitol.

If you are interested in serving on one of the Chamber's policy committees, contact Beverly Standifer at 502-848-8733 or via e-mail at bstandifer@kychamber.com.

### POLICY COMMITTEE CHAIRS



**EDUCATION**  
Kelly Swartz, Site  
President and Regional  
Director, Citi-Florence



**FISCAL POLICY**  
Dan Bork, Vice President  
– Tax, Lexmark  
International, Lexington



**LITIGATION**  
Linda Foss,  
Assistant General  
Counsel/Corporate  
Secretary, Ashland Inc.,  
Covington



**ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT**  
Darrell Ishmael, Business  
Development Program  
Manager, East Kentucky  
Power Cooperative,  
Winchester



**HUMAN RESOURCE  
AND LABOR**  
Suzanne Northern,  
General Manager of  
Distribution, Unifirst  
Corporation,  
Owensboro



**ENVIRONMENTAL**  
Tim Hagerty, Attorney,  
Frost Brown Todd,  
Louisville



**SMALL BUSINESS**  
Tierra Kavanaugh Turner,  
CEO, TKT Associates,  
Louisville



**HEALTH CARE**  
Robert Slaton,  
Georgetown

## Free worksite wellness guide online now

THE KENTUCKY Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, has recently released Investing in a

Healthy Bottom Line: A Guide for Worksite Wellness. The guide is available as a free download on the Chamber's Web site.

The publication is a step-by-step guide on how to implement, maintain and evaluate wellness programs. It contains checklists, employee surveys, return on

investment formulas, as well as a list of additional online resources. "Rising health-care costs continue to be the No. 1 concern among businesses across the state," said Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Dave Adkisson. "The business community can benefit greatly by using this toolkit to encourage employees to live healthier lifestyles. This will create a healthier workforce that will be more productive and will improve employers' bottom lines by reducing health-care costs."

Download the toolkit at [www.kychamber.com](http://www.kychamber.com). For more information about this toolkit or on implementing a worksite wellness program, contact Teresa Lovely at [tlvely@kychamber.com](mailto:tlvely@kychamber.com).

**"As an Associate Professor in the Department of Public Health at WKU who teaches worksite health promotion, I feel confident that this worksite wellness guide offers businesses a comprehensive structure that will enable them to provide a successful employee wellness program that is a win/win for employees and employers."**



**Dr. Cecilia Watkins,  
Western Kentucky University**

## Manufacturing study echoes need for retooled economic development policies

A STUDY released by a public-private manufacturing coalition reveals a significant gap between what Kentucky manufacturers are doing today and what they need to do to position themselves to be successful in 2015.

The study uses six Next Generation Manufacturing (NGM) strategies as key indicators of future manufacturing competitiveness. Performance that is world-class today will likely be standard practice in 2015, study sponsor Kentucky Manufacturing Assistance Center's Lynn Witten said.

With fewer than 50 percent of Kentucky manufacturers indicating they are making good progress toward achieving world-class performance on any one NGM strategy, Witten said the study should serve as a call-to-action for policymakers, legislators and manufacturers.

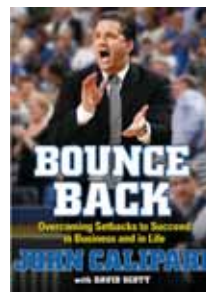
"The results of this study clearly show the need for Kentucky to retool its economic development policies in a way that will help existing manufacturers retool their facilities in order to compete in the changing global marketplace," said Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Dave Adkisson. "A similar proposal passed both the House and Senate earlier this year, but failed to become law over procedural disagreements." Gov. Beshear has given legislators the opportunity to make important changes in this regard during the special legislative session that convenes on June 15.

## Coach John Calipari to keynote KYSHRM's 25th annual conference

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY Men's Basketball Coach John Calipari will be the featured keynote of its 25th Annual Kentucky SHRM Conference presented by UnitedHealthcare of Kentucky, Sept. 16-18 at Louisville Marriott Downtown. Calipari will speak at 8 a.m., Thursday, Sept. 17.

Calipari was named head coach of the UK Men's Basketball team in April. He was previously the head coach at the University of Memphis for nine seasons, and he led the Tigers to the 2008 NCAA championship game.

In addition to over 50 different workshops, the conference, to be held at the Kentucky International Convention Center and the Louisville Marriott Downtown, will feature four keynote presentations, SHRM welcome reception and dinner cruise, networking reception, a bookstore, and sponsor and exhibitor giveaways. Visit the conference Web site at [www.kyshrmconference.com](http://www.kyshrmconference.com) for more information.



## Kentucky business leaders see signals of economic turnaround in early 2010

A PANEL of economists and Kentucky business leaders reflected in a teleconference in mid-May that the worst of the economic downturn may be over and that a turnaround could be seen in early 2010.

The teleconference, co-hosted by the Kentucky Chamber and *The Lane Report*, echoed the results of a recent Chamber member survey, which received 250 responses in late April. Chamber members responding to the survey reported they expect to see growth in revenue and employment in the next three-, six- and 12-month intervals. Audio from the teleconference is available at [www.kychamber.com](http://www.kychamber.com).

## Chamber committee meets with U.S. Chamber's top health care lobbyist

MEMBERS of the Chamber's health care committee met with the U.S. Chamber's top health care lobbyist to understand the various proposals and to learn what is going on behind the scenes in the halls of Congress. Katie Strong, executive director for the U.S. Chamber's congressional and public affairs department and lead health care lobbyist for the U.S. Chamber, spoke at length to our members. She described the proposals before Congress and how the process will likely play out over the summer.

In the House of Representatives, there is a high likelihood of quick passage of a proposal that includes a number of mandates that the business community will oppose. However, in the Senate, where 60 votes are needed, there will be a greater attempt for a bipartisan solution, one that may take into account more of our concerns.

The Kentucky Chamber will continue to follow this issue closely and will be working with members of Kentucky's Congressional delegation to try to address our concerns. In particular, the Chamber will reach out to Sen. Mitch McConnell, whose leadership position can play a pivotal role in this debate.

## Welcome new members!

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

### BOARD OF TRUSTEE

Lexington Clinic  
Specialty Foods Group

### STAKEHOLDER

Energy Systems Group  
GlaxoSmithKline  
Green Valley Landfill  
Martin-Brower Co.  
Mineral Labs,  
Scheu & Kniss  
Western Kentucky University

### GENERAL MEMBERS

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Adco Management Co. LLC  
All-Rite Ready Mix, Inc.  
Associated Builders and Contractors of Kentuckiana, Inc.  
Bluegrass Concepts Inc  
Bluegrass Tours & Charter  
Capital Network  
Conveyor Services, Inc.  
Crowne Plaza/Campbell House Inn  
Danville Inns Ltd.-Holiday Inn  
D-C Elevator Company, Inc.  
DGApr  
Eastern Telephone Company, Inc.  
Franklin Simpson Ambulance Service  
Global Polymers Corporation  
GR Spring & Stamping, Inc.  
Grant County Drugs Inc.  
Green River Area Development District  
Hansen Medical Group  
Hayden Electric, Inc.  
IGS Energy  
Johns Building Systems, Inc.  
Life Safety Services  
Maaco Collisions & Auto Painting  
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Merry Maids  
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Northern Kentucky Convention Center Corp.  
Nuski, LLC Dba Niko's  
Oncology Associates of West Ky  
Owensboro Place  
Ring 2 Conferencing  
Sector Technology, Inc.  
SmartClaim, LLC  
Sunrise Corporation  
TEM Electric Company  
The Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation  
Traditional Bank  
WYMT-TV  
Perry Oil Company

## HEALTH CARE REFORM MAY THREATEN BUSINESS

The current health reform proposals being considered by Congress include a number of provisions that may adversely impact a business' bottom line. The cost of trying to provide adequate health coverage for employees is already one of the greatest cost drivers for companies, particularly for small businesses. Current proposals being considered by Congress include:

### "Play or Pay" Employer Mandate

Providing coverage would no longer be voluntary. Companies would be required to offer coverage and pay for a set percentage of the cost or a punitive tax would be applied to the employer.

### The Public Option

Many believe that offering a government-run public option would undermine the private health insurance market and result in government-run health care. Market-driven health reforms are a better approach to reducing costs, promoting efficiency, wellness and quality of care.

### Loss of Tax Credits

Employers and employees would lose the tax benefit for employer-sponsored health plans under one of the likely funding scenarios that is being considered by Congress.

Health care costs have increased significantly and the cost of obtaining quality coverage is a concern of employers and employees alike. Health care reform is a top priority for President Barack Obama and Congress. The Chamber will remain engaged on behalf of Kentucky companies to help you stay on top of this and other potential threats to your business.

## Topics at Economic Summit will continue to explore 5 Goals

SINCE 2006, the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce's Economic Summit and Annual Meeting has proved to be a catalyst for change in the Commonwealth. During this one-of-a-kind event, Kentucky's top business leaders, educators and legislators converge in Louisville to discuss key issues that will affect the state's future for decades. The high-level discussions at the Economic Summit in past years have spawned the New Agenda for Kentucky project, ideas for a study of Kentucky's progress in higher education, and has helped shape the policy debate in Frankfort.

In light of the current economic crisis, the Fourth Annual Economic Summit and Annual Meeting, sponsored by Greenebaum Doll and McDonald, is expected to be the most provocative, inspiring summit yet. Join the Kentucky Chamber, July 14-15, at the Louisville Marriott Downtown for this unique event.

### ECONOMIC SUMMIT AND ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

In addition to a presentation by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist George Will during the annual meeting, three keynote sessions will highlight the Economic Summit.

**Nat Irvin, II, D.M.A.**, professor of management, College of Business, at the University of Louisville and founder and president of Future Focus 2020, will provide the opening keynote session at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, July 14. During this session, attendees will take part in an interactive multimedia presentation which takes a provocative look at the

world of 2025 and beyond. The presentation will explore how some of the intriguing social, political, economic, technological and environmental trends of today may impact our world of tomorrow.

**Michael Morris**, chairman, president and CEO of American Electric Power, will provide the opening keynote session at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, July 15. His presentation will explore global warming and how to address the issue without dramatic impacts on the Kentucky and U.S. economies.

Also, at 12:45 p.m. on Wednesday, **Robert Compton**, executive producer of the documentary *Two Million Minutes*, will provide the luncheon keynote. *Two Million Minutes*, a reference to the amount of minutes students are in high school, follows seniors from India, China and the U.S. The film compares the high school experiences in each country and how students allocate their time inside and outside of school.

Visit [www.kychamber.com/economicsummit](http://www.kychamber.com/economicsummit) for more information on these and other Economic Summit sessions.



Nat Irvin, II, D.M.A.



Michael Morris



Robert Compton

### TUESDAY, JULY 14

11:30 a.m. Registration

Noon **Welcome and Comments – Darby Turner, Chairman, Kentucky Chamber and Member, Greenebaum Doll & McDonald PLLC**



Turner

**Economic Summit Overview and Update – Dave Adkisson, President and CEO, Kentucky Chamber**

12:30 p.m. Luncheon

1 p.m. **Opening Keynote: Challenging Our Imagination: 2025 – Seeing the Future Through New Eyes – Nat Irvin, II, D.M.A., Professor of Management, College of Business, University of Louisville, and Founder and President, Future Focus 2020**

2 p.m. Dessert break with sponsors

2:30 p.m. **The Future of Kentucky's Economy: An Outside-the-Box Conversation with Key Kentucky Leaders (panel discussion)**



Higdon



Dyche



Harper



Houston



McBrayer



Ransdell

**MODERATOR:** Steve Higdon, Partner and Executive Vice President, Faulkner Real Estate

**PANELISTS:** John David Dyche, Assistant General Counsel, Counsel, Fultz Maddox Hovious & Dickens; Billy Harper, President, Harper Industries, Inc.; Alice Houston, President, Houston-Johnson, Inc.; Ann McBrayer, President, Kentucky Eagle Beer, Inc.; and Gary A. Ransdell, Ed.D., President, Western Kentucky University

4 p.m. Day one Economic Summit adjourns

5 p.m. **Taste of Kentucky Networking Reception with sponsors**

7 p.m. Day one adjourns

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

8 a.m. Registration and continental breakfast with sponsors

8:30 a.m. **Welcome – Darby Turner, Chairman, Kentucky Chamber and Member, Greenebaum Doll & McDonald PLLC**

**Economic Summit Overview – Dave Adkisson, President and CEO, Kentucky Chamber**

**Opening Keynote: Global Warming and Its Impact on Kentucky – The Right and the Wrong Way – Michael G. Morris, Chairman, President and CEO, American Electric Power**

9:30 a.m. Break with sponsors

10 a.m. **Government Modernization**

11 a.m. **Worksite Wellness: Improve the Bottom Line by Improving Employee Health – Steven Aldana, Ph.D., CEO, WellSteps**



Aldana

Noon Luncheon

12:45 p.m. **Keynote: Two Million Minutes: A Global Examination – Robert Compton, Executive Producer, Two Million Minutes**

1:30 p.m. Dessert break with sponsors

2 p.m. **States Engagement in the National Tough Choices or Tough Times Initiative: Early Indicators of Success – Marybeth Schubert, President, Schubert Consulting LLC and States Manager, Tough Choices or Tough Times**



Schubert

3 p.m. Break with sponsors

3:30 p.m. **Competing in the Global Marketplace: Keeping Kentucky's Business Competitive – Leslie M. Schweitzer, Senior Trade Advisor and creator of the Trade Roots Initiative, U.S. Chamber of Commerce**



Schweitzer

4:30 p.m. Fourth Annual Economic Summit adjourns

5 p.m. **Annual Meeting Reception with sponsors**

6:30 p.m. **Annual Meeting Dinner**

**Introduction of Keynote Speaker (via satellite) – Sen. Mitch McConnell, Republican Leader and United States Senator for Kentucky**

**Keynote Presentation: The Political Argument Today – George Will, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and ABC News analyst**

9 p.m. Annual Meeting adjourns

## Kentucky Chamber Interview

— with —  
**George Will**



### PRESIDENT OBAMA

**Do you believe the November election was a true political shift, beyond the fact that a non-white male was elected president?**

I think the fact that a non-white male was selected now looks like the least historic aspect of it. What we've seen is a growth of government almost without precedent in American history — certainly rivaling that of 1933-34 — and involves fundamental rewriting of the rules of American capitalism. A year ago, New York was the financial capital of the world. Now, New York is not even the financial capital of the United States — Washington is. Washington is essentially treating capital, which is the lifeblood of our system, as a public utility. The government shall decide how much of it there shall be, what it will cost and who will get it.

### THE ECONOMY

**Economically, where do you see us a year from now, as a nation?**

If I knew that, I'd plunge into the stock market (laughs). I think I would cast [my prediction] two or three years out. I can see, if you throw this much money at the economy, you are bound to stimulate its pulse. But, the question is: if you throw this much money at the economy, can you stimulate the pulse in a way that will not promptly be snuffed out by inflation? What worries me most is rising long-term interest rates, with government borrowing crowding out private sector borrowers, thereby crowding out investment and innovation.

### EDUCATION

**Why do you think the southern states continue to lag behind in education?**

This may seem like taking an absurdly long view, but the South industrialized late ... and in some terms is still catching up with the nation in terms of per-capita income. It is from surplus produced by prosperity that institutions like universities and school systems are funded; so at bottom, the question is one of economics — which is why the South has such a high stake in a rapidly growing national economy. And which also means the South has a high stake in light taxes and light regulation.

### GLOBALIZATION

**What do you see are the challenges that Kentucky and other states are facing to compete in a global economy?**

I think all the states have to worry about excessive promises they have made to public employees — the unfunded pension liabilities. For all I know, Kentucky is in good shape, but I'll bet it isn't, just because most states aren't. I think the unfunded liabilities of state entitlement programs, particularly defined benefit pensions threaten the competitiveness of every state in the union in a world economy. That and energy costs; if you combine that with cap-and-trade, which will radically revise for the worse Kentucky's competitive advantage, these are two big problems that have to be addressed.

### ENERGY

**What are your thoughts on cap-and-trade legislation, particularly regarding states like Kentucky where 95 percent of our electricity comes from coal?**

I think states like Kentucky have made their opinions known and their weight felt and have slowed down the rush to pass a draconian cap-and-trade legislation. Cap-and-trade legislation is potentially the most radical legislation in history and potentially the largest tax increase in history, and I say, right on Kentucky, and all the other states similarly situated.

# Government dominated state

Kentucky was once the place the world was coming to, when it was America's frontier. And for four generations, the rush continued to the land that Alexis De Tocqueville described — in writing about the land watered by the Beautiful River, as the Indians distinguished the Ohio — as “one of the most magnificent valleys which ever has been made the abode of man.”

The lure during the Daniel Boone and antebellum periods ended with the Civil War, and we never regained our economic footing following Reconstruction. As a result, during the last 100 years, the standard of living in the Commonwealth has ranked near the bottom among all states. And we're no longer just stuck in the what-is status, on the brink of being left behind. In Thomas Friedman's “The World Is Flat” economy, we are at risk of decay.

Did the hand of fate intervene and consign the people of Kentucky to live on less income — and have a lower education level — than citizens in other states? No! Then why is it that way? Wealth and poverty don't just happen.

Over the years, obviously state leaders have turned the economy the wrong way through bad public policies. Changing the course of a state's economy is not as daunting as it sounds. It's done one issue at a time: One stroke of the paddle can send the canoe on a new course.

It requires also a business-government partnership, like the partnership created in 1776



*Lowell Reese is editor and publisher of Kentucky Roll Call, a behind-the-scenes newsletter on Kentucky politics since 1990. He may be reached at reese@kentuckyroll-call.com*

from two documents printed that year. “The Wealth of Nations” set in motion an economic system based on economic freedom, and the Declaration of Independence set in motion a political system based on political freedom. Those principles, as partners, created the story of America.

But it was a partnership in Kentucky fewer than 100 years, and then we became a government-dominated state. With business relegated to a secondary role, there should be no surprise that Kentucky's economic performance, therefore, has been less than mediocre.

The Kentucky Chamber of Commerce as an organization can make a difference because government is an institution. “An individual cannot influence an institution; it takes an institution to influence an institution,” observed iconoclastic Harvard economist, the late John Kenneth Galbraith.

The first goal is to create the “condition” for economic growth. Like a tree, an economy functions, one way or another, where it's embedded. It grows better in the rich soil of free enterprise, because it absolutely depends

on laws, written and unwritten, that favor it.

The people play a vital role, too. As a plant needs the sun, rain and soil to sustain it, an economy needs business, government and voters who favor it. Climates, including business climates, vary among states, and even regions in a state, and explain in a large way what grows or wilts.

Low education attainment levels, the kind of government we allow, and the business performance we get: they're all rooted

in the culture and come to fruition in the ballot box.

From here, where do we go? Kentucky's economy can continue to drift down-river like a log with the ant (government) on top of it enjoying the ride — under an illusion that it's navigating. Or, with the business leadership potential through the Kentucky Chamber and organizations akin to it, working in a true partnership with government, Kentucky can once more be a place the world is coming to.

## Seeing Red?

### Call the Small Business Navigator

The Small Business Navigator helps Kentucky's small business owners navigate the sometimes tricky system of regulations, laws and licensing requirements.



The Small Business Navigator is available during regular business hours, five days a week at (502) 330-5492 or by e-mail at [sbnav@kychamber.com](mailto:sbnav@kychamber.com).

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# books & benefits

## Member calls signing up for ChamberAdvantage a 'no-brainer'

IN JANUARY 2009, American Roofing & Metal, a company of just under 100 employees in Louisville, found themselves facing a familiar scenario for companies across the country – a rate increase from their health insurance carrier.

They asked their broker for options and he showed them the ChamberAdvantage plan.

"When we saw the rates and the discounts, [signing up] was a no-brainer," said Dana Richey, American's payroll manager.

ChamberAdvantage is a partnership between the Kentucky Chamber and Anthem Blue



Cross and Blue Shield that offers specially priced small group health, dental, life, vision and disability plans to Chamber members.

The program is available to organizations with two to 99 eligible employees and offers more than 40 flexible health benefit plans,

including consumer-directed plans.

According to Richey, it's also simple. "There wasn't a lot of work we had to do," she said. "Our broker filled out the paperwork for us, and we got the discount."

For more information on the ChamberAdvantage plan, contact your broker or go to [www.kychamber.com](http://www.kychamber.com). On the home page, hold your mouse over the green "Membership" button on the left, then click on "Chamber Power Buys" in the menu that drops down.



Kentucky Chamber

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OVER 15 YEARS ago the Kentucky Chamber began partnering with respected law firms from across the state to share their expertise on various employment law topics. Today we have nearly 15 state-specific titles ranging from *Wage and Hour Issues* to *Drafting an Employee Policies Manual*. These publications are written in an easy-to-understand language that allows employers from a variety of backgrounds to successfully manage human resource functions. By providing this important information to employers, the Chamber helps you eliminate the need for multiple calls (and multiple fees) to your attorney. In addition, these publications serve as preventative guides that could save you from costly lawsuits and threats.

To place your orders, visit us online at [www.kychamber.com/bookstore](http://www.kychamber.com/bookstore) or contact Casey Adams at 502-848-8727.

### CHAMBER BOOKSTORE

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- The ABCs of Doing Business in Kentucky
- Drafting an Employee Policies Manual with CD\*
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- The Kentucky Human Resources File Cabinet (with CD)\*
- The Kentucky Unemployment Compensation Handbook
- Kentucky Worker's Compensation Handbook
- Preventing Workplace Discrimination
- Preventing Workplace Violence
- Understanding HR Issues & Personnel Law\*
- Kentucky and Federal Mandatory Labor Law Postings

\* bestsellers



## Kentucky's 2009 business tax climate ranks 34th

Kentucky ranks 34th in the Tax Foundation's State Business Tax Climate Index. The Index compares the states in five areas of taxation that impact business: corporate taxes, individual income taxes, sales taxes, unemployment insurance taxes, and taxes on property, including residential and commercial property. Neighboring states ranked as follows: Illinois (23rd), Indiana (14th), Ohio (47th), West Virginia (36th), Virginia (15th), Tennessee (17th), and Missouri (16th).

Source: The Tax Foundation

## UPCOMING KENTUCKY CHAMBER SEMINARS & EVENTS

Seminar	Price	Date	Location
<i>Supervising and Managing People</i>	\$595/\$695	August 13-14, 2009	Lexington
<i>OSHA 10 Hour General Industry Compliance</i>	\$495/\$595	August 25-26, 2009	Louisville
<i>OSHA 30 Hour General Industry Compliance</i>	\$895/\$1095	August 25-28, 2009	Louisville
<i>25th Annual KYSHRM Conference</i>	\$449/\$549	September 16-18, 2009	Louisville
<i>Forklift Safety: Train the Trainer</i>	\$299/\$399	November 10, 2009	Lexington
<i>OSHA 10 Hour General Industry Compliance</i>	\$495/\$595	December 1-2, 2009	Lexington
<i>OSHA 30 Hour General Industry Compliance</i>	\$895/\$1095	December 1-4, 2009	Lexington
<i>Supervising and Managing People</i>	\$595/\$695	December 8-9, 2009	Lexington

\*Member/Non-Member Price

For more information on any of the programs listed above, or if there is a program you would like to see offered, please contact Casey Adams by phone at 502-848-8727 or by e-mail [cadams@kychamber.com](mailto:cadams@kychamber.com). You can also obtain more details by visiting our Seminar & Events page at [www.kychamber.com](http://www.kychamber.com).

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LEADERSHIP KENTUCKY

The Kentucky Chamber congratulates Leadership Kentucky and its graduates on their 25th anniversary



## Unemployment trust fund broke: businesses will pay

Kentucky Chamber working with task force to find solutions

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