

40 YEAR ANNIVERSARY
**Leadership
Kentucky**
Improve Your State.

Commemoration

**22ND ANNUAL
ALUMNI LUNCHEON**

— *and* —

**FLAME OF EXCELLENCE
AWARD PRESENTATION**

*February 8th, 2024
Central Bank Center
Lexington, KY*



FLAME OF
EXCELLENCE AWARD
SPONSORED BY:





Flame of Excellence Award Recipients

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 2002 Dr. Thomas D. Clark
Kentucky Historian Emeritus | 2006 Wendell H. Ford
U.S. Senate, Retired;
Wendell H. Ford Government
Education Center | 2014 Bill Goodman
Former Host, KET |
| 2003 Edward T. "Ned" Breathitt
Former Governor | 2007 Albert P. Smith, Jr.
Retired Host of "Comment on
Kentucky" | 2015 John A. Williams, Sr.
Computer Services, Inc. |
| 2004 John R. Hall
Retired Chairman/CEO,
Ashland Inc. | 2008 David A. Jones
Founder & Former Board
Chairman, Humana, Inc. | 2016 Helen Carroll
Toyota, retired |
| 2005 Martha Layne Collins
Former Governor;
Chair/CEO, Kentucky World
Trade Center | 2009 Eula Hall
Founder, Mud Creek Clinic | 2017 William (Bill) Jones
U.S. Bank, retired |
| | 2010 Owsley Brown Frazier
Founder & Chairman, Frazier
International History Museum | 2018 David Adkisson
Kentucky Chamber of
Commerce, retired |
| | 2011 Dr. T. Pearse Lyons
Founder & CEO, Alltech | 2019 Mira Ball
Ball Homes and Donamire Farm |
| | 2012 William T. Samuels, Jr.
Chairman Emeritus, Maker's
Mark Distillery, Inc. | 2020 Alice and Wade Houston
HJI Supply Chain Solutions |
| | 2013 Dr. Lee T. Todd, Jr.
Past President, University of
Kentucky | 2021 Porter G. Peeples, Sr.
Urban League of Lexington-
Fayette County |
| | | 2022 Paul and Judi Patton
Former Governor and First Lady |
| | | 2023 Wilson W. Wyatt, Sr.
LKY Founder, Statesman,
(posthumous) |

Flame of Excellence Honoree

Wilson W. Wyatt, Sr.

Wilson Watkins Wyatt, Sr. (1905-1996) served as Mayor of Louisville from 1941 to 1945 and as the 43rd Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky from 1959 to 1963. He served in the Cabinet of President Harry S. Truman and was a Special Envoy to Indonesia in the 1960s. Throughout the years, Wyatt always returned to the law firm he had formed in the mid-1940s, Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs. He and his wife, Anne, were generous philanthropists.

The word most often used to describe Wilson W. Wyatt is statesman – extremely intelligent, kind, articulate, visionary, positive attitude, true gentleman, motivational, realistic, and incredible inspiration to others. Mr. Wyatt shared a keen interest in the next generation, which led to his extraordinary support for the development of Leadership Kentucky in the 1980s. He is the spark that lit the Flame!





Early LKY Board Chairs

John R. Hall, John L.G. Richards,
James M. Wiseman, Justice
Robert F. Stephens, and William
B. Sturgill

Former Leadership Kentucky Board Chairs

Perry Allen

LKY Chair 2023

Regina Jackson

LKY Chair 2022

Daniel P. Bork

LKY Chair 2021

Barbara K. Dickens

LKY Chair 2020

Teresa Trimble Hail

LKY Chair 2019

Elmer K. Whitaker

LKY Chair 2018

Mary Michael Corbett

LKY Chair 2017

H. Lytle Thomas

LKY Chair 2016

Deborah Moessner

LKY Chair 2014-2015

Timothy G. Rutledge

LKY Chair 2013

James Conn

LKY Chair 2012

James M. Miller

LKY Chair 2011

Steven E. Trager

LKY Chair 2010

Barbara W. Jones

LKY Chair 2009

Gary Mielcarek

LKY Chair 2008

Michael A. Owsley

LKY Chair 2007

Timothy C. Mosher

LKY Chair 2006

Kristen T. Bale

LKY Chair 2005

Billy Harper

LKY Chair 2004

James G. LeMaster

LKY Chair 2003

Burns Mercer

LKY Chair 2002

James M. Wiseman

LKY Chair 2001

Michael N. Harreld

LKY Chair 1999-2000

John R. Hall

LKY Chair 1996; 1997; 1998

William B. Sturgill

LKY Chair 1994-1995

Gov. Edward T. Breathitt

LKY Chair 1993

Albert P. Smith

LKY Chair 1991-1992

John L.G. Richards

LKY Chair 1989-1990

Justice Robert F. Stephens

1987-1988

Wilson W. Wyatt, Sr.

LKY Chair 1985-1986

2024 Leadership Kentucky Board of Directors

Executive Committee

2024 Board Chair

Ron Wilson

Immediate Past Chair

Perry Allen

2025 Chair Elect

Gina Winchester

Secretary

Leslie A. Fugate

Treasurer

Daniel P. Bork

BRIGHT Liaison

Elmer K. Whitaker

Committee Members

Trey Grayson
Melissa Knight
Ken Perdue
Chrisandrea Turner

Committee Members-Ex-Officio

Barbara Dickens
Teresa Trimble Hail
Regina Jackson



1985 CHARTER LKY CLASS

Founding LKY Committees

Executive Committee

The committee was fully engaged and met frequently to offer suggestions and feedback for the initial concepts of the Leadership Kentucky program and to the development of the first Board of Directors. The EC also served as the Selection Committee for the first class. Once the full board was formed, members were helpful with publicity, recruiting applicants, and sponsorships when the class visited the various regions for sessions. In his role as the Chair of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce at the time, John L.G. Richards was instrumental in forging the relationship and support from the Chamber for Leadership Kentucky.



Wilson W. Wyatt, Sr.
Chairman
Louisville



Albert G. Clay
Secretary
Mt. Sterling



Nana Lampton
Louisville



James M. Wiseman
Executive Director,
KY Chamber of
Commerce
Frankfort



William B. Sturgill
Treasurer
Lexington



John L. G. Richards
Louisville



Julie A. Hahn
Leadership
Kentucky Staff
Frankfort



Lawrence F. Forgy
Lexington



Albert P. Smith
London



Robert F. Stephens
Vice-Chairman
Frankfort



Frank P. Justice
Russell

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee was the "workhorse" in designing and developing the program concept. The Steering Committee arranged initial funding, helped design and implement a successful seven-month curriculum, and served long hours as valuable volunteers to develop talent and tap the energies of Kentucky's present and future leaders.



Joan Riehm
Chair
Louisville



Sue Dowdy
Ashland



Ronald Logsdon
Owensboro



Robert A. Babbage, Jr.
Lexington



D. Eugene Ewing
Cincinnati



Helen Pattie
Danville



Laura Babbage
Lexington

Founding LKY Board Members

Norma Adams
Somerset

C. Gary Adkinson
Frankfort

Robert A. Babbage, Jr.
Lexington

William J. Baird, Sr.
Pikeville

Nelda Barton
Corbin

Creed C. Black
Lexington

Raymond M. Burse
Frankfort

John B. Clarke
Louisville

Bruce C. Cotton
Lexington

Don R. Doty
Glasgow

Sidney B. Douglas
Harlan

D. Eugene Ewing
Cincinnati

J. A. Ewing, M.D.
Campbellsville

William G. Fuqua
Russellville

George N. Gill
Louisville

C. C. Howard Gray
Glasgow

Thomas E. Green
Owensboro

Edythe Hayes
Lexington

Jack A. Heil
Elizabethtown

Gordon H. Hood
Ft. Mitchell

W. James Host
Lexington

E.W. Kesler
Louisville

Lois Mateus
Louisville

Robert E. Matthews
Ashland

Mary Ray Oaken
Cadiz

David Osborne
Ashland

Paul E. Patton
Pikeville

Jack Paxton
Paducah

Katherine G. Peden
Louisville

Dorothy S. Ridings
Louisville

Joan Riehm
Louisville

William T. Robinson
Covington

Thomas J. Ruhf
London

Charles R. Savidge
Madisonville

George Shaw
Bowling Green

Walter Simon
Louisville

Frank B. Sommerkamp, Jr.
Ft. Mitchell

Thomas A. Spragens
Danville

Burl Wells Spurlock
Prestonsburg

Bruce Stephens, Jr.
Hazard

G. Douglas Sutherland
Louisville

Donald W. Webb
Lexington

Fred D. Williams
Ft. Thomas

Rebecca G. Williams
Hopkinsville

“Improve Your State.”

Leadership Kentucky, offering four unique programs across the Commonwealth, creates a network of engaged leaders who develop alliances and influence positive change in their communities and throughout the state.

**Leadership
Kentucky** 

Improve Your State.

LEADERSHIP KENTUCKY joins together a selected group of established, diverse leaders with a variety of career accomplishments and volunteer activities, to gain insight into complex issues facing the state. In a series of seven monthly, three-day sessions held at various locations throughout the state, participants meet with Kentucky leaders and explore the state's resources and opportunities.

BRIGHT KENTUCKY is designed especially for residents of the 54 Kentucky counties of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and builds the capacity of next-generation leaders (average age 21-40) to innovate, collaborate, and advance community and economic development in a series of five monthly, three-day sessions.

BRIGHT 
LEADERSHIP KENTUCKY

 **ELEVATE**
LEADERSHIP KENTUCKY

ELEVATE KENTUCKY offers young professionals (average age 25-35) in-depth personal and professional development while fostering a better understanding of challenges facing our Commonwealth in a series of three monthly, three-day sessions. Participants return to their companies with increased skills, knowledge, perspective, and a new statewide professional network and are better prepared to ELEVATE Kentucky.

NEW EXECUTIVES TO KENTUCKY highlights signature Kentucky experiences and thought-provoking discussions about exciting opportunities in our Commonwealth. The one-day complimentary program is designed for senior level executives who have transferred into the state during the last two to three years. Participants connect with Kentucky's best minds in government, business, and industry.

**NEW EXECUTIVES
TO KENTUCKY** 
LEADERSHIP KENTUCKY

To learn more about these programs, contact Leadership Kentucky at (502) 695-1102 or email lky@leadershipky.org.
www.leadershipky.org



LKY CLASS OF 2016

The History of Leadership Kentucky

By Julie Hahn Schmidt

For 40 years, Leadership Kentucky has played a vital role in building leadership capacity in the Commonwealth through insightful experiences and thought-provoking discussion. The original goal of developing a statewide network of informed and committed leaders has now expanded to four unique programs including Leadership Kentucky, ELEVATE, BRIGHT, and New Executives to Kentucky. Leadership Kentucky has enriched the lives of nearly 2,500 graduates, who are dedicated to building a greater Kentucky.

In the late 70's and early 80's, leadership development programs were being established across the state and nation. Fewer than five states had a statewide leadership program at the time, but in Kentucky, Leadership Louisville, Lexington, and Owensboro were all having great success and bringing renewed energy and commitment to their communities.

Galvanized by what they had experienced in their own cities, young and civic-minded Dave Adkisson, Bob Babbage, Laura Babbage, and Joan Riehm, conceived of a program that would bring a diverse network of leaders together to focus on state

issues and provide an opportunity for deeper understanding and engagement in the shaping of Kentucky's future. These founders knew the person chosen to serve as chairman of the organization needed to be someone well-known, deeply-respected, and of the highest level of integrity, so they shared their vision with Wilson W. Wyatt, a prominent lawyer in Louisville, with Wyatt, Tarrant and Combs, who had served as the former Mayor of Louisville and Lt. Governor of Kentucky, and requested his commitment to lead as the founding chairman of "Leadership Kentucky."

Wyatt agreed to serve if certain criteria were met: the program must have a statewide sponsoring organization and adequate funding secured to successfully commence the initiative. Joan Riehm arranged a meeting with Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Chairman, John L. G. Richards, to seek sponsorship for the non-profit educational program. Although it was during a period of change, the Chamber's new Executive Director, Jim Wiseman, along with Chairman Richards, gave full backing for the initiative and pledged administrative support. Subsequently, the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors voted to serve as the sponsoring organization. Leadership Kentucky was formally incorporated on January 18, 1984. While Leadership Kentucky is a separate 501(c)3 organization, the Kentucky Chamber has remained supportive throughout Leadership Kentucky's history.

Work continued in recruiting Leadership Kentucky Executive Committee members. Invitations were extended on behalf of Wyatt and all asked agreed to serve. The inaugural Executive Committee members, in addition to Chairman Wilson W. Wyatt, Sr. included Vice Chairman Robert F. Stephens; Secretary, Albert G. Clay; Treasurer, William B. Sturgill; Lawrence F. Forgy; Frank P. Justice; Nana Lampton; John L.G. Richards; Albert P. Smith; and James M. Wiseman, all of whom were fully engaged. Jim Wiseman committed to oversee the effort and John Richards offered his expertise to lead the necessary fundraising strategy. Julie Hahn served as the Program Director for the first two years.

The James Graham Brown Foundation provided the \$50,000 initial funding to launch the initiative. Treasurer Bill Sturgill single-handedly raised the other funds needed for the program year, which was a miraculous effort. With both requirements met, Leadership Kentucky would become a reality. A roster of top



LKY CLASS OF 1999



LKY CLASS OF 2004



LKY CLASS OF 1987

business and civic leaders from across the Commonwealth were recruited by Wilson Wyatt to be stewards of the new organization. The Steering Committee, led by Joan Riehm and Jim Wiseman, was expanded to include Bob and Laura Babbage as well as additional representatives from across the state to assist in building out the framework of the program along with Julie Hahn. The volunteer committee met on weekends and fleshed out the details addressing questions such as topics to be covered, number of sessions, how many days for a session, session locations, application process, tuition cost and so forth. Tuition for the 1985 class was \$500 and total budget for the year was \$79,500!

One of the first statewide leadership programs established in the nation, Leadership Kentucky has served as an important platform bringing leaders together to focus on issues important to the state such as education, health and human services, media, government, economic development, arts, environment, law, and social justice. Additionally, participants continue to visit the various regions of the state experiencing firsthand the unique heritage and culture that lies across the Commonwealth. Local newspapers, chambers of commerce, and leadership programs were a huge help in publicizing the new program. From the beginning, communities have graciously opened their doors hosting Leadership Kentucky and providing rich and memorable experiences.

Founders believed diversity of the backgrounds and geographic locations of the class members would add to a richer experience. Therefore, it was important the classes be composed of individuals with diverse backgrounds and that they reside all

throughout the state. This diversity has proven to be the number one reason for the ongoing success of Leadership Kentucky and remains a pillar of the organization as its alumni hail from all geographic, occupational, ethnic, and economic backgrounds, serving in vital roles across the state such as leading business and industry, health organizations, education, non-profits, arts institutions, law and justice, government agencies, and more. Kentucky's future is dependent on the vision and dedication of its leaders. To that end, Leadership Kentucky remains committed to connecting and inspiring the Commonwealth's current and future leaders, unleashing Kentucky's full potential.

Leadership Kentucky was (and is) bigger and greater than any one person or organization... it is aspirational for the Commonwealth and for those involved. The program offers hope and opportunity to pull the state together and forward from shared ideals and values. The fact that John Ed Pearce, Barry Bingham, Sr., and Wilson Wyatt, Sr. all came to Cumberland Falls for the first opening retreat demonstrated the commitment from the beginning.

As Jim Wiseman often says, "Leadership Kentucky has remained true in its purpose while growing, expanding, and evolving, with unceasing support from board members, alumni, and staff. It's simply fantastic!"



LEADERSHIP KENTUCKY



LKY CLASS OF 2021

Leadership Kentucky Presidents



Julie Hahn Schmidt
1985-1986 | 2001-2005



Jef Rounsavall Conner
1987-1988



Angie Woodward
1989-2001



Diana Ratliff
2006-2014



Janice Sword Way
2015-present



LKY Mission

Leadership Kentucky broadens perspectives of diverse leaders through experiential education that inspires them to advance Kentucky.

LKY Vision

Our Vision is for Leadership Kentucky to connect, inspire, and equip leaders of diverse backgrounds to realize Kentucky's potential.

Leadership Kentucky Impact

Leadership Kentucky has provided immeasurable impact on its approximate **2,500 PARTICIPANTS** over years. From the recent Alumni Survey, we heard:

If Not For Leadership Kentucky...

“ I would not be blessed by lifetime friendships with several classmates and other LKY Alumni. I would have missed numerous opportunities to network with other LKY alumni to accomplish important projects that made life better for fellow Kentuckians including our youth. Treasured memories of LKY alumni and activities warm my heart!”

“ I would not have understood some of the issues in other parts of the state or some of the great benefits we have to offer the world in those parts of the state. I would not have met some of the most amazing, inspirational, brilliant leaders who have greatly impacted my life.”

“ I am motivated by the things I have learned and have had an opportunity to see, and I am optimistic about the future of our Commonwealth. It is so easy to become enmeshed by our own professions, sectors, and social bubbles; Leadership Kentucky reminds us of our greater purpose.”

“ I would not have had several unique experiences that helped me understand various regions within the Commonwealth; some of which I had very little exposure. In addition, I met class members from different regions who shared their regional-specific perspectives with me. At the time, those perspectives were invaluable for understanding the differing needs within the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

“ While I felt my Kentucky experience was vast and my network expansive, Leadership Kentucky opened my eyes to much more of both. I feel part of something bigger and I'm inspired to do even more in my community and my state.”