

Kentucky Council of Area Development Districts
Quarterly Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 9, 2023 at 8:45 am EST

Room 125, Capitol Annex, Frankfort, Kentucky

Board Members Present:

Mayor Les Stapleton (BSADD) Chair
Mr. Steve Thurmond (BRADD) 1st Vice-Chair
Judge Rick Stiltner (GWADD) Treasurer
Judge Casey Ellis (NKADD) Past Chair
Judge Adam O’Nan (GRADD)
Judge Joe Choate (BRADD)
Mr. Craig Lindon (KRADD)
Judge Orbrey Gritton (BGADD)
Ms. Penny Robinson (CVADD)
Mayor Al Botts (GWADD)
Mayor James Smith (BGADD)

County Atty. Jesse Melcher (BTADD)
Judge John Frank (LCADD)
Mayor Harold Sloan (FIVCO)
Judge Stephen Henry (GRADD)
Mayor Kevin Cotton (PeADD)
Judge George Sparks (BTADD)
Judge Shane Gabbard (CVADD)
Judge Dan Ison (KIPDA)
Judge Scott Alexander (KRADD)
Mr. George Spragens (LTADD)
Judge Jerry Summers (KIPDA)

KCADD Staff

Tony Wilder, Executive Director
Bill Cooper, Business Development Manager

Guests:

Senator Robert Stivers, Senate President
Representative Steven Rudy, House Majority Floor Leader

Call to Order: Chair Stapleton called the meeting to order and welcomed all members, ADD staff and guests present.

Introduction of Guest Speaker: Chair Stapleton then proceeded to recognize Senate President Robert Stivers and invited him to address the members. He noted that Senator Stivers has served as Senate President since 2013 and he represents the 25th Senatorial District. President Stivers expressed his appreciation for the invitation to appear before the KCADD especially since he knows so many of the members like Ms. Penny Robinson, Judge Scott Alexander and Judge Shane Gabbard. He explained what a special place they were in meeting today, the 120 year old Capitol on Capitol Avenue, and noted what a great place it is to work. He compared it to the Emerald City visited in the Wizard of Oz and noted that Shellie Hampton of KACo who was in the audience must be the girl in the Dorothy’s red shoes. He added the Capitol is actually more like the Marble City due to the use of marble in the interior of the building. However, like the Emerald City, it is very important to know who is behind the curtain. Kentucky has 5.5 million people now and this building is where things get done that affect working people, much more than Washington, D.C.

President Stivers then talked about the letters of this country’s founding fathers Madison, Washington and Jefferson and their commitment to federalism. They talked about day to day things and the process of government. And whether you agree or not on Roe vs. Wade, the question needs to be decided at the local level rather than by the Federal government. He professed that there are only a few specific things the Federal government should do. State government which is closer to the people, is the entity that

actually gets things done. He suggested that it is hard for government to keep up with all the technological advances such as genetic markers. He explained that as a Senator, he is an educator, not a dictator. Stivers recognized Judge Summers of Bullitt County and the many things they have disagreed on but still worked together.

President Stivers then agreed to take questions from the group. LTADD Director Daniel London asked him about property taxes. He responded that the tax revenue is \$140 million more since the tax went into effect. George Spragens also of LTADD asked about building a workforce for the growing bourbon industry. President Stivers responded that there are many ways to support the workforce. He complimented former Governor Paul Patton for assembling 1500 prime acres with which the current Governor secured the commitment from Ford to locate their new plant in Kentucky. He also said Kentucky needs a better detox program to support workers. It was then reported that Ohio County now has 19 bourbon houses and the barrel tax helps the local government.

In regard to workforce support, Judge Scott Alexander recalled when they had buses that transported students to the vocation schools which encouraged citizens to take classes. Others added that training in bookkeeping skills would also be an asset for the workforce.

Judge Dan Ison asked about the fate of medical marijuana this session and the President responded that it is a very complicated issued and they want more study to get it right. Penny Robinson talked about vaping in the schools as being a problem. President Stivers announced he had talked too long already and needed to leave. Chair Stapleton thanked him for his interesting remarks.

Unfortunately, Representative Steven Rudy, Majority Floor Leader, had to leave before being able to deliver his presentation due to another appointment.

Roll Call: Following the Call of the Roll, conducted by Executive Assistant Eaton-Thomas, the Chair declared a quorum existed with 14 of the 15 ADDs represented by Board members.

Approval of November 16, 2022 Minutes: Chair Stapleton called for approval of the minutes from the November Council meeting. **Judge Obrey Gritton offered a motion to approve with Judge Rick Stiltner issuing second. All members voted in favor.**

KCADD Financial Report: Chair Stapleton then called upon Treasurer Rick Stiltner to deliver his finance report. Stiltner overviewed the Statement of Revenues and Expenses to be found in each person's meeting folder and declared the financial condition to be sound and cited that total year to date expenses were 50% and revenue was at 97%. He concluded by citing the healthy January 2023 ending balance in checking of \$430,172.64. **Mr. Craig Lindon offered the motion to approve the Financial Report as presented and Ms. Penny Robinson issued a second. All members voted in favor.**

Nominating Committee Report: Chair Stapleton then called on Mayor Harold Sloan, a member of the nominating committee, for the Nominating Committee Report. Mayor Sloan stated the committee was comprised of himself, Judge Brad Schneider and Ms. Kendra Scott. He offered the following report: The nominees for the 2023 KCADD Executive Committee are Mr. Steve Thurmond, BRADD, Chairman; Mayor Rita Dotson, PuADD, 1st Vice Chair; Judge Rick Stiltner, Gateway ADD, 2nd Vice Chair; Judge Matthew Wireman, BSADD, Secretary and Judge Obrey Gritton, BGADD, Treasurer. The Executive Committee for

2023 will also include Mayor Stapleton as Immediate Past Chair. Chair Stapleton thanked Mayor Sloan for the good work by the committee.

Election of Officers: Mayor Sloan moved that the slate of officers presented in the Nominating Committee Report be elected by acclamation. Judge Kevin Cotton issued a second. All members voted in favor. Mayor Stapleton passed the gavel to the new Chair, Steve Thurmond, and Thurmond was given a standing ovation for his willingness to serve. By way of introduction to the Board, Chair Thurmond said that much of his career had been in banking but for the last several years he had served as Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce in the city of Franklin. He is also the immediate past chair of BRADD and looks forward to serving the KCADD.

OLD BUSINESS

Community Health Care Connections Update: Chair Thurmond then recognized Business Development Manager Bill Cooper and invited him to offer his report. Cooper began his presentation by announcing recognition the Kentucky Community Health Care Connections Network has received over the years, to date there has been 4 different national recognitions. The Kentucky Network was also recognized as one of the top 5 nationally.

Next, Cooper overviewed his attendance of monthly meetings with the AAA and ADD Directors and also cited his having attended seven national webinars/ZOOM meetings covering the topics of Business Acumen, Community Care Hubs, Health Plans and Improving Healthcare Quality Metrics. Cooper explained that the new big push by ACL is the Community Care Hub Learning Community. He has represented Kentucky in that effort by attending meetings by ZOOM, developing a PowerPoint, drafting Kentucky's Goals, preparing for a Community Care Hub Readiness Assessment and actually submitting the Assessment to ACL. He also developed and circulated an AAAIL Service Cost Survey. He tabulated the results and provided results to the ADDs. Not surprising, he concluded that the services ADDs are providing are costing more and a raise in rates is sorely needed.

He concluded by voicing his continuing efforts to procure contracts with Aetna, Humana, Heyday Health and United Healthcare. Chair Thurmond thanked Cooper for his work on behalf of the ADDs.

NEW BUSINESS

Legislative Priorities for 2023 Legislative Session: Chair Thurmond proceeded to New Business and called upon Executive Director Wilder and BRADD Director Eric Sexton to report on priorities for the upcoming Legislative Session. Wilder opened by recapping the successes realized by the ADD's in the previous session. Director Sexton then advised that he and his Legislative Committee of ADD Directors were tracking 33 bills. They include among others, HB 1 which proposes to reduce income taxes down to 4%. He mentioned HB 11 which affects the Transportation Cabinet EV Charging Program and increases the allocation from \$17 million to \$69 or \$70 million. Sexton is tracking the Workforce Bill, and SB 19 which alters the deadline for election filing deadlines, SB 29 regarding Medicaid Managed Care and SB 48 which offers exemptions for necessary caregivers. His committee is also keeping an eye on the Taskforce on Medicaid Waivers which is proposing changes to the Department for Aging and Independent Living.

Chair Thurmond thanked Wilder and Sexton for their insight into proposed legislation in the current session of the General Assembly.

Executive Director's Report: Chair Thurmond called on Executive Director Tony Wilder to provide his report. Wilder addressed the Council that this is his last meeting with the KCADD. He explained that while he resigned at the end of December, 2022, he had been working on contract until he could be replaced. He expressed the gratification he has received from working with the members over the course of 5 years. He encouraged the Council members not fail in praising the ADDs at every opportunity. He advised the ADDs cannot lobby themselves so the KCADD has to do it for them to assure continued respect and funding.

Executive Committee Recommendation for Executive Director: Chair Thurmond called on Mayor Stapleton, former head of the Executive Committee, to announce their recommendation of employment to the Council. Stapleton advised the Search Committee, comprised of five numbers with three members from the Council and two ADD Directors went through a process of short listing the applicants and interviewing the top candidates. The Search Committee recommended a candidate to the Executive Committee who approved the selection. He announced the selection is Owen County Judge/Executive Casey Ellis. **Judge Obrey Gritton moved and Judge Steve Henry provided a second to endorse the selection of the Executive Committee and employ Judge Casey Ellis as the new Executive Director of the KCADD. All members voted in favor with Judge Ellis abstaining.** There was applause all around for Judge Ellis. Judge thanked the members and said while he is appreciative of the appointment, it is bittersweet to leave the Owen County Judgeship. He talked about his passion for public service and his belief this position offers an opportunity to continue his service. He advised that the Governor will announce his replacement in early March and he will begin his new job when that occurs.

Recognition of Past Chairperson: Chair Thurmond then praised immediate past Chair Les Stapleton. He was presented an attractive wood/brass plaque from the KCADD honoring his year of service. Stapleton accepted the plaque and said he was passionate about all people and it had been very fulfilling to work with different aspects of life with the KCADD and hopefully affect people in a positive way.

Adjournment: Chair Thurmond called for a motion to adjourn but before he asked each ADD Director in attendance to stand and receive recognition as the backbone of the regional system of community and economic development in Kentucky. He stated that what they do affects millions of people every day and thanked them for their service. He added, "The boat doesn't float without you".

Thurmond then recognized Judge Henry to take the floor. Judge Henry expressed his opinion of the ADD's being essential to the success of our state. He expanded on his topic by saying that ADD Directors need us, the KCADD, to stand up for them and it is our responsibility to give them what they need. He observed that the Joint Funding Administration (JFA) at DLG provides state and federal funding for their programs and the Council may have to fight for that \$2 million again. He concluded by saying that lobbying is our job.

Mayor Les Stapleton followed with a motion to adjourn and Judge Jerry Summers issued a second. All members voted in favor.