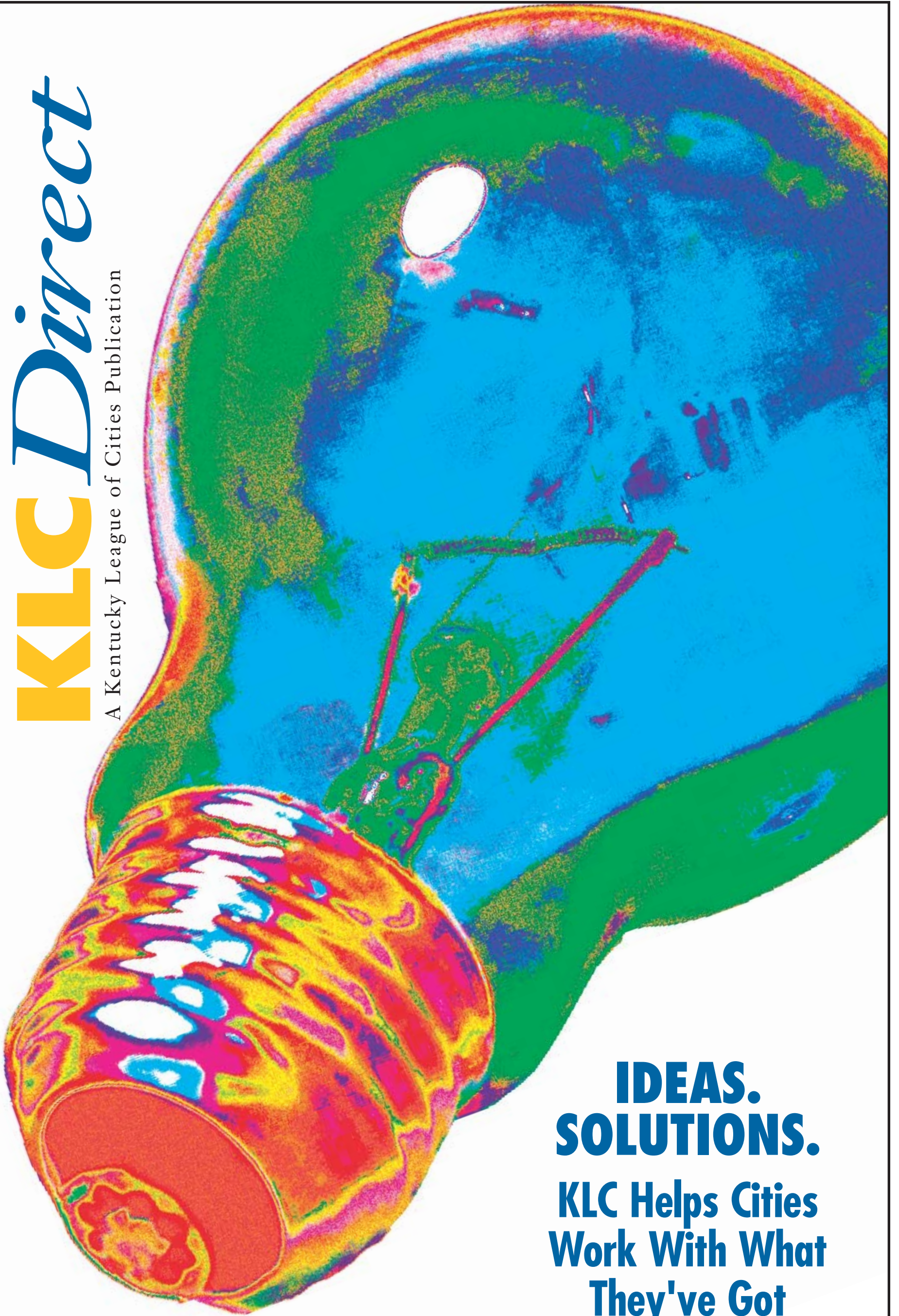


KLC Direct

A Kentucky League of Cities Publication



**IDEAS.
SOLUTIONS.**
**KLC Helps Cities
Work With What
They've Got**

IN THIS ISSUE

Tech Edge

3

Show Me the Money

4

Big Ideas/Innovations

5

August 2003

vol. 5 issue 5

FRONT PAGE NEWS

IDEAS. SOLUTIONS. KLC Helps Cities Work With What They've Got 1

THE LAST WORD FIRST

Look to Each Other for Ideas and Solutions 2

TECH EDGE

'Turn On' Your City 3

SHOW ME THE MONEY

Homeland Security Grant Funding 4

BIG IDEAS/INNOVATIONS

Bowling Green & WKU: How Teamwork Can Bring Solutions 5

CITY POSTCARD

A Look at the City of Erlanger 6

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Kentucky Watershed Roundtable Planned 7

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

KBC-LEO - Get Involved! 8

FROM THE FIELD

Hyden's Muncy Honored

Hyden City Clerk Angie Muncy recently received the Tony Turner Volunteer of the Year Award. The award, named after the late Tony Turner who was Vice President and station manager of WYMT-TV, recognizes a volunteer that has gone above and beyond the ordinary to promote PRIDE and improve the environment. PRIDE, which stands for Personal Responsibility In a Desirable Environment, serves 38 counties in southern and eastern Kentucky.

Biz Friendlier



The most recent issue of *Forbes Magazine* recently ranked the **City of Lexington** and the **City of Louisville** among their top 150 Best Places for Business and Careers. Both in the top half of the ranking, Lexington ranked 14th and Louisville ranked 71st.

Lexington was also recently named the seventh Best Place to Locate a Company by *Expansion Magazine*.

Congratulations to our two largest cities for this business friendly distinction!



PBS Features Pioneer Playhouse

Danville's Pioneer Playhouse, which has been a unique part of the city's unique history for 54 years, will be featured nationwide in a television documentary on PBS in August.

FRONT PAGE NEWS

IDEAS. SOLUTIONS. KLC Helps Cities Work With What They've Got

The subject of tax reform is on the lips of many officials at both the state and local levels. With the state budget severely strained and cities from the eastern coalfields to the western cotton fields watching every penny, many are asking if there's a better way to finance needed public services. Responding to the situation, the Kentucky League of Cities is engaged in a comprehensive data-gathering process to make sure city leaders are armed with good information when the finance debate gets serious - probably after this fall's election cycle.

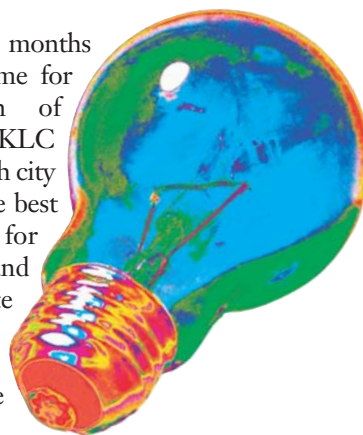
The good news is that most Kentucky cities have done a commendable job of keeping their financial houses in order. Some have reduced the city workforce through attrition, while others have enacted modest rate increases in utility fees or occupational license fees. But current law doesn't allow cities many options. Receipts from property taxes are limited by what is known as House Bill 44. Transfers from the state and the federal government are declining. And revenues from insurance premium taxes are stagnant.

To address these problems, KLC is hammering out several legislative proposals to give cities greater financial flexibility. Among them is a proposal that would allow cities

across the state to adopt a restaurant tax, now available only to fourth and fifth class cities, as an additional revenue tool. Another idea is to institute a system that would compensate city public safety officials for their efforts in enforcing state laws and working with state courts.

Further, KLC offers a number of services that simply help cities save money; our training and education, insurance products, financing options and innovative information technology (IT) services in particular, are saving Kentucky cities money and furthering opportunities for growth. And, possibly the best source of ideas and solutions city leaders can access is each other.

The next several months will be a critical time for the fiscal health of Kentucky cities. KLC will work closely with city leaders to ensure the best possible outcome for our communities and to promote continued municipal prosperity across the



The Power of Peers!

Great Ideas and Solutions Come From KLC Relationships



Richmond Mayor Connie Lawson (right) talking with a resident during a neighborhood 'summer stroll.'

KLC's Mayor Mentoring Program, launched in January with more than 70 participating mayors, is working well for a number of city leaders. Bowling

Green Mayor Sandy Jones, first elected in 2001, and Richmond Mayor Connie Lawson, in office since January 2003, have met twice, discussing issues and ideas in their respective cities.

"Public service can be a challenge for all of us and sharing best practices that work can help a new mayor with a quick impact success," said Jones.

One idea that Lawson adopted was Jones' neighborhood walk program called Summer Stroll, where she and members of her administration literally go 'door-to-door' talking with citizens about issues on their minds. Jones started the program in Bowling Green three years ago.

The KLC mentoring program affords mayors an opportunity to develop collegial relationships as city leaders. Through it, matches are made based on factors such as city size. Mentors and their

'mentees' are expected to visit each other's city at least twice a year, but the connections for mayors like Jones and Lawson have already exceeded expectations.

"Mayor Jones is my new best friend!" said Mayor Lawson. "Bowling Green is so citizen aware. It's great to have someone like Sandy who is willing to share her good ideas."

"I have enjoyed getting to know more about Richmond," said Mayor Jones. "Mayor Lawson and I agree that there is a benefit in leaving our own city from time to time for a quick respite. There is therapeutic value in being able to walk down a Main Street where no one knows your name!"

For more information on the Mayor Mentoring Program, contact KLC's J.D. Chaney at 1-800-876-4552, ext. 3719 or jchaney@klc.org.

THE LAST WORD FIRST

Look to Each Other for Ideas and Solutions



To find a way to help with the beautification of its downtown area, Bardstown called on the garden club and the master gardeners program. So said Mayor Dixie Hibbs as she shared a success story from her city with elected officials from other Kentucky cities. Mayor Danny Howard from Harlan mentioned that he had found success in paying for equipment for the fire department by using the money that employees spend in city vending machines.

Finding solutions to sometimes frustrating and complex issues that city officials and their staff face everyday was part of the networking that occurred at the KLC annual board meeting held in Williamsburg, Kentucky in late July. The meeting was hosted by our energetic President, Bill Nighbert, and what a phenomenal event for the KLC board members and their families!

The two-day event found a large percentage of our board learning more about Kentucky League of Cities through a new orientation program. In addition board members were presented with a "State of the City" report as well as a budget overview. Those attending were also treated to a family style picnic and special guest speaker, David Williams, President of the Senate. The success of this event proves once again that while we may have become technologically savvy, there is still no substitute for coming together and sharing our thoughts and ideas.

So, if you and your fellow city officials are wanting hear more about solutions to the problems that arise in city government, please mark you calendar and plan to be with us for the upcoming KLC Convention, "Success in your City" to be held in Lexington, Kentucky, October 1-4, 2003. There are many specialized classes that we have scheduled for you on topics that are unique to city governments. In addition, we believe that you will find solutions to your city issues by taking the time to network with your peers during this three-day conference designed especially for you!

Thank you for being the leaders in your city. You are a special breed of folk and make decisions every day that directly impact citizens in your community. On behalf of the staff and board members of KLC, we extend a warm invitation to you and your city officials to join us in October to share, learn and grow with one another.

Sincerely,

Sylvia L. Lovely
Executive Director and CEO
Kentucky League of Cities

TECH EDGE

'Turn On' Your City



SITUATION: The city of Murray needed to buy a pavement roller and stay within the \$42,000 budgeted for the purchase.

IDEA/SOLUTION: KLC's online reverse auction service, which produced an impressive savings of 20 percent off the ceiling price.

Nothing "turns on" a city more than saving money, and in this case Murray got a low bid of \$32,500, which is \$10,500 below the amount budgeted for the roller and represented a 24 percent savings off the ceiling price. (The city wound up choosing the second-lowest bid of \$34,250 because of other considerations, such as proximity and future repair cost.)

Murray's reverse auction attracted six bidders and four were active in lowering their initial bids.

"We were real pleased with it," said Murray city administrator Donald Elias, who added that mayor Tom Rushing and 10 or so staff members watched the process to study its effectiveness. "Normally a piece of equipment like this might get two, maybe three, bidders. We'll definitely try it again."

More and more KLC member cities are enjoying the benefits of the fast-paced reverse auction-one in a range of IT products and services that KLC offers, including surplus disposal, human resources software, assessment and analysis of technology infrastructure, strategic consultation, training, ongoing e-based communication on IT news and updates, and technical support.

For more information on how your city can 'turn on,' contact Joe Mefford, Chief Information Officer (CIO) at 1-800-876-4552, ext. 3743 or email jmefford@klc.org.

KLC Direct

OFFICERS

Bill Nighbert
Mayor of Williamsburg
President

Karen L. Cunningham
Mayor of Madisonville
First Vice President

David Cartmell
Mayor of Maysville
Second Vice President

Thomas E. Holocher
Mayor of Fort Mitchell
Immediate Past President

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Jerry Abramson
Mayor of Louisville

Charles Beach, III
Mayor of Beautyville

Glenn V. Caldwell
Mayor of Williamstown

Robert Coleman
Commissioner of Paducah

Bradley H. Collins
Mayor of Morehead

David Fowler
City Attorney of Owensboro

Thomas Guidugli
Mayor of Newport

Curtis Hardwick
Mayor of Columbia

Teresa Isaac
Mayor of Lexington

Gregory T. Jarvis
City Manager of Covington

Sandy Jones
Mayor of Bowling Green

Sylvia L. Lovely
Executive Director/CEO, KLC

The voice of Kentucky cities

KLC Direct is published monthly by the Kentucky League of Cities (KLC). KLC is a voluntary association of nearly 400 cities and provides a multitude of services to assist in improving local government. Please address any correspondence to KLC Direct, Kentucky League of Cities, 101 East Vine Street, Suite 600, Lexington, Kentucky 40507. Phone (859) 977-3700 or 1-800-876-4552. Fax (859) 977-3703. www.klc.org.

EDITORIAL STAFF

Publisher, Sylvia L. Lovely

Editor, Terri Johnson

Design/Layout, Ulysses C. Hayes

Senior Writer, John McGill
Director of Communications, Bobbie Bryant

For a full list of KLC staff
visit www.klc.org

By providing pertinent information, the Kentucky League of Cities does not necessarily endorse the views, services, programs or initiatives described in the listed references or websites, nor is the Kentucky League of Cities responsible for any statements or material contained therein. This publication provides information and links as a service to readers for their consideration.

©2003 Kentucky League of Cities

Celebrate Diversity in Your City



Race Equality Week Kits Now Available on NLC Website.

September 29 through October 4 has been designated the Fourth Annual NLC Race Equality Week by the National League of Cities. The purpose of the week is to highlight local efforts by cities and towns to promote race equality. The effort also looks at stamping out existing racism. "We hope cities will make race equality a top goal for their community," said John DeStefano, Mayor of New Haven, Connecticut and NLC President.

Get your event kit, packed with ideas by clicking on the Race Equality Week button at www.nlc.org.

SHOW ME THE MONEY

Homeland Security Grant Funding - Watch for Times and Locations Soon



KLC has been asked by the Kentucky Office for Security Coordination to take a lead role in collecting data at the local level for the State Homeland Security Assessment and Strategy Program developed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The federal government will be coordinating many grant programs that pertain to emergency preparedness, law enforcement, and emergency services through the Department of Homeland Security.

Congress has mandated that these grant programs distribute funds based not on population, but rather an analysis of risks, and the improvement in capabilities of local jurisdictions to control the risks. This is a tremendous opportunity for cities to position themselves to

receive homeland security funding, as city-based Police, Fire, EMS, and Public Works Departments provide many of the services needed for Homeland Security. **Local funding levels from all grant programs that are in any way related to Homeland Security will be determined through your participation in the Assessment & Strategy Program.** If you do not participate in this program, it is unlikely that your city will receive any homeland security grant funding.

KLC's role will be to distribute and collect in-depth questionnaires from cities and input the data into a federal database that will essentially "grade" communities to determine levels of funding. We will also be available as a resource to answer questions and assist cities in completing the questionnaire.

The Kentucky Office for Security Coordination will be scheduling training sessions at the following locations:

- ♦ Hopkinsville, September 15
- ♦ Elizabethtown, September 19
- ♦ Richmond, September 21

If at all possible, it is imperative that your city be represented at one of these training sessions so that you will know how to complete the questionnaire. This program is under an extremely tight schedule. Our goal for completing the collection of the necessary data is October 15, 2003. Your participation in the training will heavily influence your priority in receiving assistance from KLC in this process.

We will inform you of the times and locations of these training sessions as soon as they are arranged. In order to facilitate rapid communication, please identify a main point of contact for this project and contact Howard Rosewell, Loss Control Specialist, at (859) 977-3756, (800) 876-4552, or hrosewell@klc.org.

BIG IDEAS/INNOVATIONS

Bowling Green & Western Kentucky University: How Teamwork Can Bring Solutions

SITUATION: One of your city's landmarks needs a facelift.

IDEA/SOLUTION: Share the cost.

Western Kentucky University athletics director Wood Selig calls it "highly unusual and revolutionary."

Bowling Green city manager Charles Coates calls it "getting the job done."

And Bowling Green mayor Sandy Jones says it was simply "a no-brainer."

They're all referring to the joint effort between campus and city hall that led to a \$32.5 million renovation of E.A. Diddle Arena on the WKU campus. When school president Dr. Gary Ransdell approached the city about either building a new arena or refurbishing the 40-year-old Diddle Arena, it sent in motion a partnership that Selig says is now prompting inquiries from around the nation.

"From feedback I've gotten, I think there'll be more and more of these type relationships in the future," he says.

Western could not count on state funds to renovate its arena, which is a focal point for not just the campus but also the entire community. In essence, the two groups devised a creative financing partnership in which the city issues bonds (and backs them) that Western is paying off through private luxury box leases and increased student activity fees. The city, meanwhile, plans on using Diddle for a number of events - including taking advantage of its expanded facilities as an adjunct to its existing convention center.

Jones says the decision to help WKU's Hilltopper Athletic Foundation finance the project was a "no-brainer" because the university is the city's second largest employer and an obviously critical resource for community identity and pride. Coates noted that an

economic report the city asked the school to provide found that Western represents \$150 million each year for the Bowling Green economy.

As a result of their efforts, WKU and the city landed the Sun Belt Conference basketball tournament for both men and women last March, and will host it again next year, this after the league previously held its event in New Orleans.

"Bowling Green," wrote Matthew Aguilar in the El Paso Times, "is the quintessential college town - a snapshot of Americana with enough enthusiasm, energy and atmosphere to fill up three Superdomes. It was the renovation of E.A. Diddle Arena that convinced the Sun Belt brass that Bowling Green would follow the Big Easy as the site of its showcase."

And it was finding a creative solution that made it all possible.

CITY POSTCARD

A Look at the City of Erlanger



Mayor: Marc T. Otto, Sr.: Mayor Otto first joined City Council in 1988 and was elected Mayor of Erlanger in 1993.

Population: 16,676

Location: Kenton County, Erlanger is located in Northern Kentucky and is known as the Friendship City.

History: Founded in 1887, the City of Erlanger, Kentucky was one of several northern Kentucky communities looking for a way to enter the southern markets after the Civil War. A railroad plan from Cincinnati through the area was proposed and developed. Now people could enjoy the pastoral setting in rural Erlanger and work in Cincinnati. Today, Erlanger is home to Toyota's

North American Manufacturing Headquarters, as well as many other excellent companies. In addition to the city's continuing connection to the railroad, Erlanger's location at the juncture of I-75 and I-275, and its proximity to the area's international airport, puts it at the hub of the Greater Cincinnati region.

Festivals: Goodstock, a festival featuring numerous Christian Music bands, is held at the end of summer each year. Heritage Day is held each September at the Historic Railroad Depot and Museum park.

Special Attractions: Historic Railroad Depot and Museum dating from the late 1800's and featuring memorabilia tracing Erlanger's community history.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Kentucky Watershed Roundtable Planned

SITUATION: Flooded with questions about water and wastewater management.

IDEA/SOLUTION: Get information and discuss issues.

A diverse group of stakeholders and leaders have been busy planning the first Watershed Roundtable for Kentucky. The Roundtable will be held at the Holiday Inn North in Lexington, August 19-20, 2003. Mark the dates and make plans to attend and participate.

The Kentucky Watershed Roundtable will build on the experience and success of five years of Southeast Watershed Roundtables.

The Kentucky Roundtable will increase awareness and build consensus. It will include plenary sessions, as well as breakout sessions on topics including storm water permits, planning and zoning (smart growth), agriculture, urban and rural

forestry, construction and drinking water supplies, as well as watershed basics.



Scholarships are available to citizens groups if you need assistance in order to attend, please contact Judith Petersen, Kentucky Waterways Alliance at (270) 524-1774. You can find more information on the event and even print a registration form on-line at <http://kywatersheds.org/> or www.KWAlliance.org.

KBC-LEO - Get Involved!



The summer meeting of the Kentucky Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (KBC-LEO) was held July 12, 2003 in Bardstown, Kentucky. Keynote speakers were State Senator Gerald Neal of Louisville and Ms. Beverly Watts, the Executive Director of the Commission on Human Rights. Topics discussed included the critical need for citizens and community leaders to become much more actively involved in the political process and in every level of government.

It is also time to announce appointments for the Nominating Committee who shall have the responsibility of choosing nominees for KBC-LEO. Nominations will be announced and the election held during the October 3 KBC-LEO annual meeting in conjunction with KLC Annual Convention in Lexington. Members of the committee are



(Left) Senator Gerald Neal; (Right) Beverly Watts

Robert Jefferson, Jeanette Stephens, Doris Clark-Parham, Cleveland Parkins and Jacques Wigginton. Offices for which elections will be held are President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and six at-large board members.

For more information on KBC-LEO, contact President Commissioner Robert Coleman at (270) 444-8637.

From Russia . . . With Questions

On July 18, KLC was privileged to host a contingent of Russian dignitaries sponsored by U.S. Department of State, here to learn about how to start a municipal league of cities in Russia. KLC leadership and staff presented information and discussed issues with members of the group, all of which was simultaneously translated by three remarkable interpreters.

The leaders asked a number of questions, particularly about lobbying, insurance and finance services. Their Kentucky visit was organized through the Louisville International Cultural Center.

(Top) KLC's Sylvia L. Lovely and Neil Hackworth accept a gift on behalf of the group from Yuriy Chesnokov, Advisor, Department on Municipal Administrations, Vologda Oblast Government.

(Bottom) Eleven Russian dignitaries including mayors, vice mayors, city administrators and association managers, along with three interpreters posed with KLC leadership and staff after their dialogue.



MEET ME AT KLC

Staff Profile

Howard Rosewell
Loss Control Specialist
Joined KLC July 14, 2000



It's not exactly jousting or rescuing a damsel in distress, but Howard Rosewell enjoys the fact that his job can make a big difference. "Working in loss control enables me to be sort of a knight in shining armor," Howard says. "I get to help cities manage risks and save money that can be used for parks and reconstruction projects." Howard performs several duties in KLC's insurance and risk management department, everything from property underwriting to property loss control. "When I go out and evaluate property to make sure it is insured properly, I know I am making things better for the city and its people," he says. Howard helps member cities find innovative solutions to safety issues and property losses. "On an everyday basis I am able to see how my work has helped cities and communities," he says, "and that is a truly wonderful feeling." You can contact Howard at 1-800-876-4552, ext 3756 or by email at hrosewell@klc.org.

Welcome New Staff

Patrick Dame
Loss Control Specialist
Joined KLC July 14, 2003



Patrick can be reached at 1-800-876-4552, ext. 3774, or by email at pdame@klc.org.

STAFF NOTES

After passing her adjuster's test, **MacKinnon A. Butler** is now a licensed claims adjuster in addition to her role as a paralegal.

KLC Member Relations Manager **Colleen Blouin** shared information on the NewCities Foundation as one of twelve states presenting in the ideas showcase at the July 9-12 National League of Cities Staff League Workshop in Washington, D.C. At the same meeting, KLC Database Manager **Matthew Parsons** led a workshop on Information Technology Strategies.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Educate, Celebrate, Participate

SEPTEMBER

- 11 Sexual Harassment: Municipal Liability**
Kentucky League of Cities
Lexington, Kentucky
- 15 Nuts & Bolts of Personnel Law**
University of Louisville
Conference & Training Center
Louisville, Kentucky
- 23 Sharing the Target: Mayor/Council Relations**
Jenny Wiley State Resort Park
Prestonsburg, Kentucky
- 25 Risk Management Basics for Local Government**
Madisonville Technology Economic Center (MTEC)
Madisonville, Kentucky

OCTOBER

- 1-4 Kentucky League of Cities 74th Annual Convention**
Lexington Convention Center
Lexington, Kentucky
- 23 Basic Tips for Grant Writing**
Pontotoc Community Building
Fulton, Kentucky
- 30 Sexual Harassment: Municipal Liability**
Madisonville Technology Economic Center (MTEC)
Madisonville, Kentucky

MARK THIS DATE!

KLC City Night!
Thursday, February 19, 2004
Holiday Inn Capital Plaza
Frankfort, Kentucky

For more information or to register online, visit KLC's website at www.klc.org/leadership. With questions, contact Doreen Caines at 1-800-876-4552, or dcaines@klc.org.

We Want to Hear from You!

To submit a story or commentary for KLC DIRECT departments, please contact the KLC staff listed or go to www.klc.org. For overall feedback, contact Terri Johnson at 1-800-876-4552, ext. 3784, or tjohnson@klc.org.

LEGISLATIVE FLASH

Paducah Mayor Paxton Sets Example for Legislative Involvement



SITUATION: Mayor Bill Paxton has a vision of an improved parks and recreation system for his citizens. A task force was created to study the needs of the area, followed by a master plan with everything from ball fields to an indoor aquatics and fitness center to a community meeting facility with a \$34 million price tag.

IDEA/SOLUTION: Education for the business and general community about the benefits of a restaurant tax. Realizing what this project would do for the local restaurant business and understanding the original intent of the statute that allows fourth and fifth class cities to impose a restaurant tax, the Mayor set out to make a change. KLC has proposed a bill that will permit first through fifth class cities to exercise Home Rule, assess their own city's needs and allow the local Legislative Body to

impose a restaurant tax of up to three percent. The bill will let cities use up to 75 percent of the receipts for quality of life issues, with at least 25 percent going directly to the tourist and convention commission. The bill includes a hold harmless provision for the sixteen fourth and fifth class cities that currently have a restaurant tax to protect their tourist commissions.

Mayor Paxton then called a community meeting with chamber members, tourism leaders, restaurant owners, and every city official and every legislator in the Purchase Area. Reports were given by the Mayor, the Parks Director, a task force member, and a KLC staff member. When the meeting was over, three members of the House of Representatives were well

informed and were supportive of the city's needs. KLC can have the best respected, best informed lobbyists in Frankfort, but without the influence of our local officials back home, we are just a bunch of nice guys with a lot of good information.

A final version of the proposed legislation is expected to be approved by the KLC executive board upon a recommendation by the KLC legislative committee.

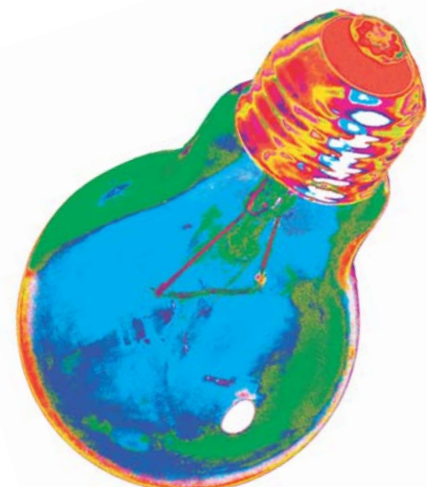
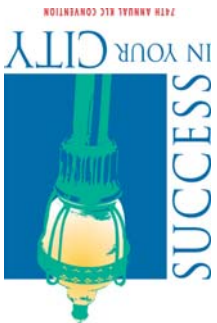
For more information on the restaurant tax, or about other KLC advocacy issues, contact Jerry Deaton, Director of Governmental Affairs at 1-800-876-4552, ext. 3786 or jdeaton@klc.org.

Proposed Restaurant Tax Bill Would:

- Allow cities up to a 3% restaurant tax
- Open this option to all size cities
- Produce revenue for quality of life/tourism projects
- Directly support tourism efforts
- Give local cities the right to exercise home rule decision making
- Decrease the strain on property and other tax sources

Go online to register at www.klc.org

Register Now
for Convention
2003!



KLC Direct
A Kentucky League of Cities Publication

KLC Direct is a monthly publication of the Kentucky League of Cities. Any comments or article suggestions should be forwarded to:
Kentucky League of Cities, 101 East Vine Street, Suite 600, Lexington, KY 40507-3700
859-977-3700 • 1-800-876-4552 • Fax: 859-977-3703 • www.klc.org

PRSR1 STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LOUISVILLE, KY
PERMIT NO. 1477