

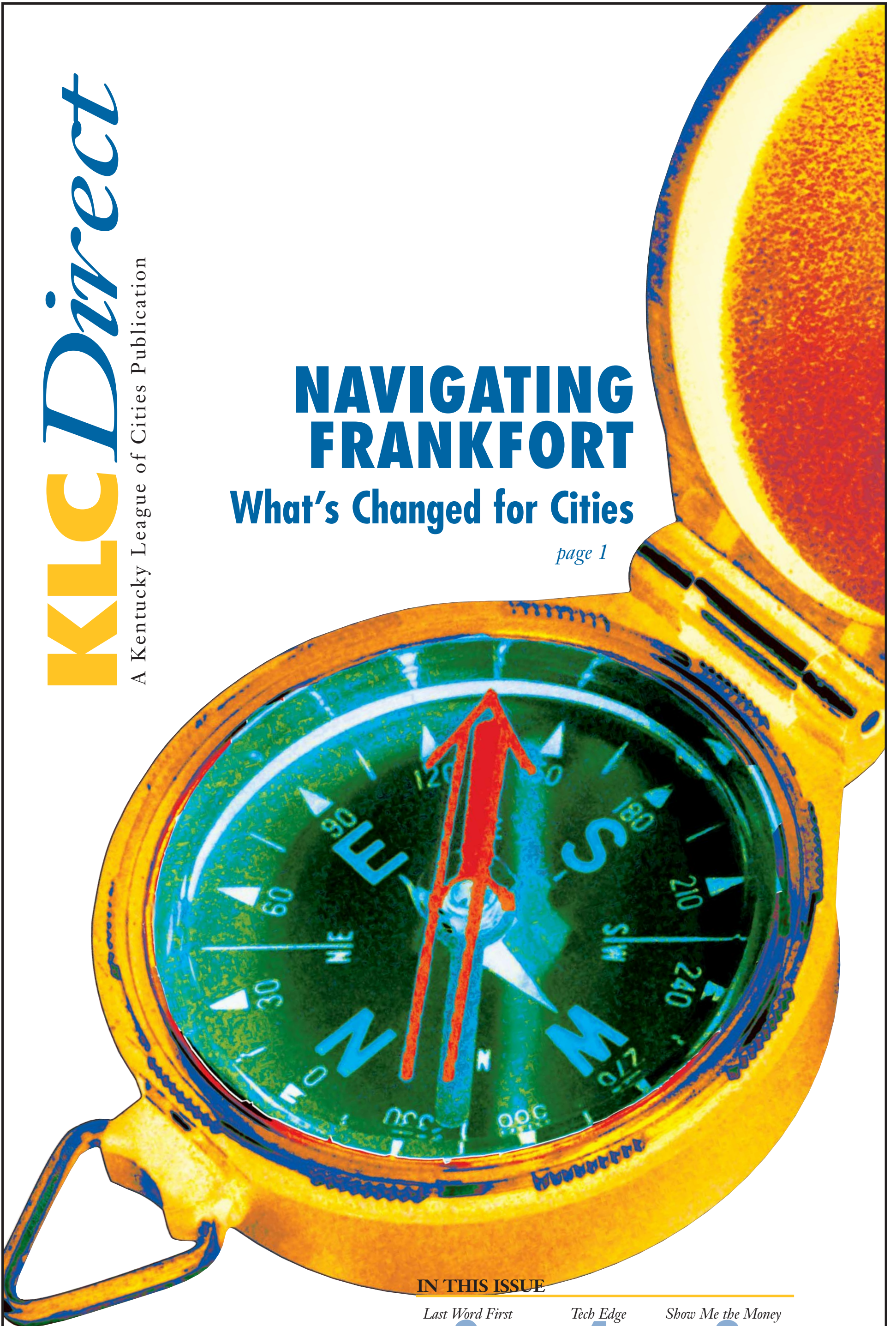
**KLCC** Direct

A Kentucky League of Cities Publication

# NAVIGATING FRANKFORT

## What's Changed for Cities

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March 2004

vol. 6 issue 2

Darrell D. Brock, Jr.



**Vital Stats on DLG Commissioner Brock:**

**Age:** 38

**Home City:** Lives in Henderson, originally from Bell County

**Education:** bachelor's and master's degrees in Business Administration from Eastern Kentucky University

**Family:** Wife, Beth, and children, Grace, age 5 and Spencer, age 3

**Background:** In the private business sector - automotive. Involved in economic development with the Henderson Chamber of Commerce, Evansville, Indiana Chamber of Commerce - something he sees as a major emphasis for DLG.

March 2004

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## FRONT PAGE NEWS

# Navigating Frankfort: What's Changed for Cities

## Getting to Know Him: New DLG Commissioner Aims to be User-Friendly to Cities

"This is Darrell," said the voice on the phone—just the sort of inviting and informal hello you might expect of someone who wants his department in state government to be more user-friendly and receptive.

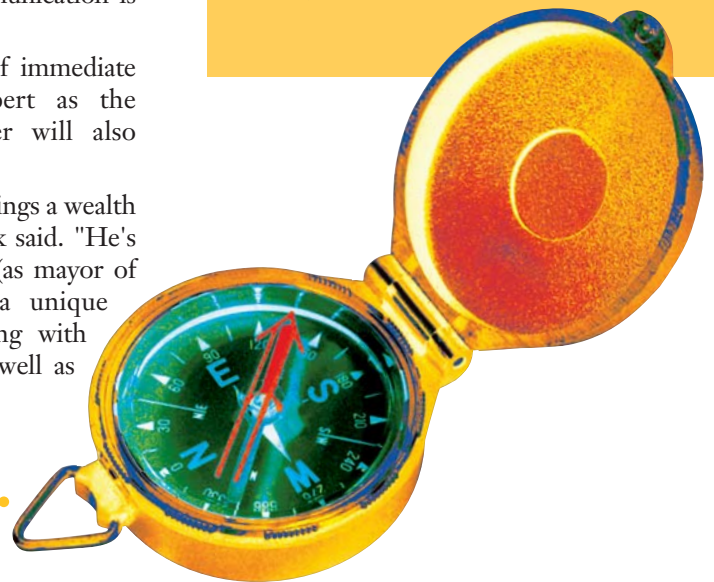
The voice belonged to Darrell D. Brock, Jr., who was named by Governor Ernie Fletcher as commissioner of the Department for Local Government (DLG). In a recent interview with *KLC Direct*, it didn't take long to see just how much the new commissioner believes in openness and a mission predicated on service.

"We have a twofold approach," he said. "One, our department is going to be more available, not only locally in Frankfort but with traveling training sessions throughout the state. And the

second part is all about information. We're going to have a lot more information sent out on what grants are available to cities. Communication is key."

Brock believes the appointment of immediate past KLC President Bill Nighbert as the department's deputy commissioner will also enhance responsiveness to cities.

"Bill's role is very important. He brings a wealth of experience to the position," Brock said. "He's been on the other side of the coin (as mayor of Williamsburg) and he gives us a unique perspective, a city perspective, along with what he's done with the county as well as being a successful businessman."



## Q & A with Commissioner Brock

**You've talked about the department being more user-friendly and responsive? How do you see that happening?**

**Brock:** This department is about opportunity. For example, there's the block grant program. The criteria for application looks like a Sears catalogue. What I'm trying to do is get it where the actual processes to apply are simplified. We're trying to remove some of the bureaucracy and want to make it easier for cities to apply for grants.

**What is your biggest challenge?**

I think it's gaining cooperation between all the entities - KLC, KACO...all the entities working together toward goals.

The prime example of that is the tax modernization plan that the governor is trying to achieve. At some point there'll be one suit that we're all wearing at the end of the day. There'll be one tax plan. But there are a lot of components to this engine. So we're just trying to get them going in the same direction.

**Historically, there has been friction between many city and county governments. In what ways can your department help foster more cooperation?**

We're going to be open with people, for one, certainly. And being more user-friendly will be an advantage. Having Bill Nighbert as our deputy commissioner is important. It gives us an inside person from the city angle as well as the historical perspective we have from a lot of judge executives.

But quite honestly, what we seek to do is raise it above the political realm where we are truly a service organization of government, because that's really what we are. We're an extension of the governor's office and we want to give everybody a full level of service.

**And the more often you can get cities and counties working together on projects, all the better?**

Oh yes, all the better. In fact, I'm advocating teamwork. A prime example: There's a large water project being undertaken by Manchester and Clay County that we funded a few weeks ago, and the total for that project is almost \$8 million.

The other day we did another project in Jamestown with its county people as well, and it's also about \$8 million. It's just so much easier when you get all the players on the same team. I think all they needed was the encouragement and to see the vision. It's easy once you appreciate what you can do together.

You can look around the state and see instances where it's happened and people are saying, "Hey,

working together, pooling resources...it's much easier this way."

**How has your experience been thus far? Any surprises?**

No, no real surprises. The pace is what I'm used to because I was formerly in business. I'm just thrilled to be here and proud to be part of Governor Fletcher's team.

To reach Commissioner Brock, contact the Department of Local Government at 1-800-346-5606 or online at [www.dlg.ky.gov](http://www.dlg.ky.gov).

### Frankfort: Who you going to call?

**Dept. for Local Government**  
1-800-346-5606

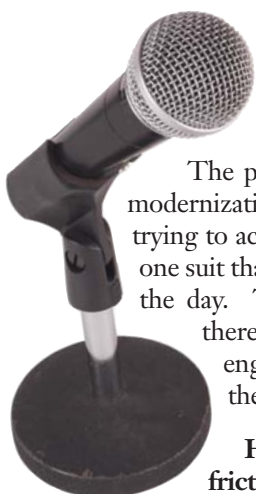
**Kentucky League of Cities**  
1-800-876-4552 or 859-977-3700

**KLC Frankfort (& Legislative Team HQ)**  
1-800-876-4552

**LRC (Legislative Research Commission)**  
1-800-372-7181 or 502-564-8100

**Governor Fletcher's Office & Staff**  
502-564-2611

**Lt. Governor's Office**  
502-564-2611



## LAST WORD FIRST

### As "Cities United!" Gains Momentum, A Big Thank You is Due



It's only when you see the tireless efforts of so many KLC staff and city representatives during the current General Assembly that you fully realize the great work being done to advance the cause of Kentucky's cities.

The efforts made by each of you over the past several weeks are making our voices heard by our legislators in Frankfort. With our "Cities United!" battle cry (and our buttons proclaiming the message), we're definitely raising the profile of cities. Our "City Night" reception held in mid-February in Frankfort was a particularly effective way.

As we continue to garner support for key legislation, we want to thank the countless number of people who have contributed so far, and issue a call to the rest of you to join us in calling legislators or visiting Frankfort in person. It can make a difference!

Your legislative team, spearheaded by our very own Mayor David Cartmell of Maysville, has been relentlessly touting our position on several issues, including the smoking ban and law enforcement fees.

It's important to remember that while some issues might not impact your city in particular, it is vital that we are "Cities United!" so that our voice remains strong and our influence substantial.

What we do to raise the presence of cities among our state lawmakers has long-term ramifications, for the people in my hometown of Madisonville just as much as for those in Pikeville or Covington or Somerset. The stronger front we present, the better our chances to get positive results, both now and when new issues arise in the future.

By seeing firsthand how vital the advocacy process in Frankfort is, I have learned how important it is, as both president of KLC and as mayor of Madisonville, to be available in the capital city and be seen and heard by our legislators, particularly those from my home district.

By serving as KLC president, I've had the opportunity to meet with the Speaker of the House as well as the President of the Senate to discuss the issues that are important for Kentucky cities and our citizens. I can tell you firsthand that they have listened to us and have a much better understanding of the plight that local governments face.

This is an ongoing struggle, and the good fight we wage today lays the groundwork for the successes of tomorrow. To our local officials, I thank you for taking time from your busy schedules at home to be with other city representatives from around Kentucky as dedicated public servants, looking out for the best interest of our constituents back home.

And I welcome more of you to join us as "Cities United!" continues to gain momentum.

Sincerely,

Karen L. Cunningham  
President, KLC Board of Directors  
Mayor, City of Madisonville



## KLC Direct

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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](http://www.klc.org).

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## LEADERSHIP ADVANTAGE

### Nighbert, Fox Assume Key Positions in New Fletcher Administration

Two people who have made great contributions to the Kentucky League of Cities and the NewCities Foundation have been named to key positions in the Fletcher administration.



Bill Nighbert

Congratulations are in order for **Bill Nighbert**, immediate past president of KLC, and **Virginia Fox**, chairman of the board of the NewCities Foundation.

Nighbert was recently named deputy commissioner in the Department for Local Government while Fox was the first person selected to Governor Ernie Fletcher's cabinet when she was named Secretary of Education.

Fox served as executive director of Kentucky Educational Television (KET) from 1991-2002 and began her career as a teacher. She oversees one of the largest departments in the state, with 176 school districts and 1,265 schools



Virginia Fox

that serve 650,000 children and employ 41,000 teachers.

Governor Fletcher said Fox was an individual "who demonstrates the type of experience, talent and leadership that I want to be a part of our new administration."

Fox has been a valuable leader in the NewCities Foundation, which is what one would expect from a visionary who received a lifetime achievement award from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Virginia is a native of Campbellsville.

When she left KET in 2002, the Lexington Herald-Leader noted that people would tell you "she's passionate, flexible, whip-smart, has the energy and stamina of the Energizer bunny."

Nighbert, who was named to the Department for Local Government on Feb. 3, resigned his post as mayor of Williamsburg to take the position. He was a three-term mayor.

"I am excited about coming to work for the Fletcher and Pence administration," Nighbert said, "but I'm also saddened to leave my job as mayor of Williamsburg. I believe in Governor Fletcher's vision of uniting Kentucky and bringing more efficiency to state government



DLG Commissioner Darrell Brock with Deputy Commissioner Bill Nighbert.

while being more responsive to the needs of local leaders."

Nighbert, who began his post on Feb. 9, was a strong advocate for Kentucky cities during his 2003 term as KLC President.

"Mayor Nighbert has first-hand knowledge of the challenges local leaders face," Fletcher said. "I'm confident that Bill will be successful in identifying ways to add efficiency to the department and in assisting Local Government Commissioner Darrell Brock in improving the services provided to DLG's constituents."

## TECH EDGE

### Cities United to Save!

#### Hopkinsville and Bowling Green: Cities United to Save!

The city of Hopkinsville and the city of Bowling Green were interested in purchasing bulletproof police vests through the reverse auction process. Both cities wanted to use the same vendor but had their own specs. No problem!

The market price for the vests run \$700 to \$800. Both cities set benchmark prices at 20% lower than market. The online bid event lasted almost one hour, with two suppliers lowering their bids 27 times.

- ♦ The low bid on vest for **Hopkinsville** was \$498 each, a 29% savings below market and 9.5% below Hopkinsville's benchmark price of \$550.
- ♦ The **Bowling Green** low price was \$549, 31% below market price and 8.5% below their benchmark price of \$600.

#### Cities Big and Small Benefit:

Louisville Metro, the nation's 16th largest city, conducted its first online bid event for the purchase of a Cisco Catalyst for the IT Department. Seven suppliers participated, with bids lowered 175 times!

After the dust settled, Louisville Metro received a low bid of \$130,150 a savings of \$29,850 from their current price contract with a savings of 18.7 percent.



#### Latest Reverse Auction Players:

- ♦ Morehead
- ♦ Ashland
- ♦ Brandenburg
- ♦ Northern Kentucky Water District
- ♦ Lawrenceburg (purchase of sewer camera)
- ♦ Murray (purchase of a boring machine)
- ♦ University of Kentucky
- ♦ Western Kentucky University

#### Reverse Auction Comeback Cities:

- ♦ Bowling Green - Four total online auctions each, with recent auctions for the purchase of 70 golf carts for Crosswinds Golf Course
- ♦ Hopkinsville - conducted their fifth, sixth and seventh online bids involving two sanitation trucks and a dump truck.

#### Want to Join Us?

Want to receive our monthly online *Tech Support* online newsletter? Email us at [tjohnson@klc.org](mailto:tjohnson@klc.org). In each issue we highlight success stories in Kentucky and share information on scheduled online bids for the month.

*If you want more information on reverse auctioning or other IT services, please contact the KLCIT Team at 1-800-876-4552.*

## MEET ME AT KLC

### Staff Profile

#### Barb Pace

Resource Librarian  
Joined KLC July 2003



**Barb Pace** joined KLC as an intern in 2001 and became the full-time Resource Librarian in July of 2003. She is responsible for consolidating the vast wealth of information available at KLC. Barb has established a library of books, magazines, newspaper articles and training videos making KLC a primary resource for cities throughout Kentucky.

Originally from Washington State, Barb spent twenty years as a military wife traveling throughout the United States and Germany. She moved to Lexington to attend the University of Kentucky pursuing a Master of Library Science degree and completed her degree in July 2003. Barb believes that providing information to help people make wise decisions is her highest calling and working at KLC allows her to do just that.

In her spare time, Barb enjoys doing needlework and genealogical research.

Contact Barb at 1-800-876-4552, ext. 3773 or [bp@klc.org](mailto:bp@klc.org).

## LAW ABIDING

### Amicus in Action: Protecting Home Rule

In support of home rule authority for city governments, KLC's Member Legal Services Department filed an *amicus curiae* ("friend of the court") brief with the Kentucky Supreme Court in the case of *Lexington-Fayette County Food and Beverage Association v. Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, et al.* The case involves a challenge to Lexington's ordinance that bans smoking in most enclosed public buildings.

The suit raises two important concerns for city governments. First, the Court will be required to examine the ability of city governments to legislate in areas of public health. Second, the Court must address the issue of the state's

preemption of local control under the home rule statute. The Court's ruling on these matters will have a far-reaching impact on the powers of city governments possibly for years to come. KLC did not take a position on whether or not it is good for a city to ban smoking. Rather, KLC argued that under home rule and the traditional police powers of city governments, the policy decision should be left to the city governments and not interfered with by the state.

*For more information on this or other legal issues, contact the KLC Legal Department at 1-800-876-4552 or email [jD.Chaney@klc.org](mailto:jD.Chaney@klc.org).*

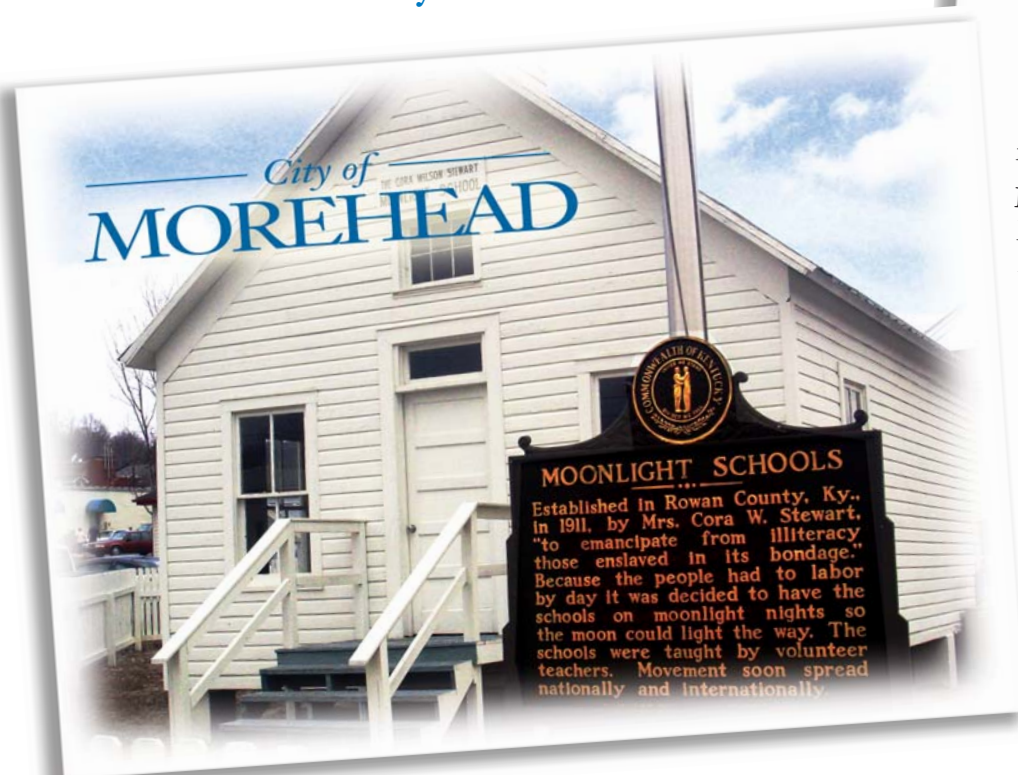
## STAFF NOTES

**Colleen Blouin**, Member Relations Manager, was named one of Lexington's Rising Stars by the Lexington Young Professional's Association and Ace Magazine.

KLC's **Information Technology Services** brochure received an Addy Award in the "best brochures" category from the Lexington Advertising Club and is now being used as a model for marketing materials by leagues throughout the country.

## CITY POSTCARD

### A Look at the City of Morehead



**Mayor:** Bradley Collins

**Population:** 5,914

**Location:** Rowan County in northeastern Kentucky

**History:** The city of Morehead is located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains in the midst of the Daniel Boone National Forest, and serves as the educational, medical, recreational, and cultural center of rural northeast Kentucky. Known for their endeavors to educate people, in 1911 Moonlight Schools were formed for people who worked during the day. The

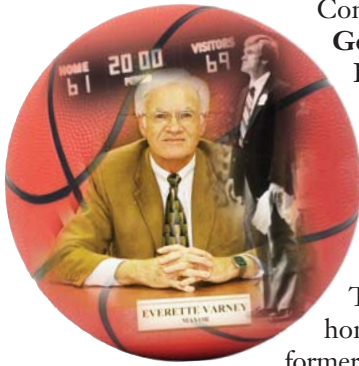
evening classes were taught by volunteers and soon were emulated across the country.

**Attractions:** Cave Run Lake, spanning 8300 acres, draws visitors from several states, promoting a large tourism industry. Morehead is home to a regional university and state vocational education institution and St. Claire Medical Center.

Morehead is the home of the Kentucky Folk Art Center, as well as the Cave Run Rock 'n' Blues 'n' BBQ Fest on May 28 - 29, 2004.

## FROM THE FIELD

### City Officials Recognized



Congratulations to **Georgetown Mayor Everett "Mutt" Varney**, who was selected into the **Kentucky Association of Basketball Coaches Court of Honor**. The Award Program honors coaches or former coaches who have brought honor to the high school coaching profession.

**Mayor Dodd Dixon** and the **City of Winchester** recently played host to **Winchester, England Mayor John Steel**. The visit was through the Sister Cities program. Mayor Dixon visited Winchester, England a few weeks prior to hosting Mayor Steel.

The **National League of Cities (NLC)** recently named the following Kentucky leaders to national committees:

KLC President **Mayor Karen L. Cunningham**, City of Madisonville and **Councilmember Jacques Wigginton**, Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, *Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations Steering Committee*;

KLC First Vice President **Mayor David Cartmell**, City of Maysville, *Community and Economic Development Steering Committee*;

**Commissioner Robert Coleman**, City of Paducah, *Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Steering Committee*;

**Mayor Brad Collins**, City of Morehead, *Small Cities Council Steering Committee*;

**Mayor Clay Foreman**, City of Jeffersonton, *Human Development Steering Committee*;

**Mayor Thomas E. Holocher**, City of Fort Mitchell, *Transportation, Infrastructure and Services Steering Committee*;

**Councilmember Kevin Kramer**, Louisville-Jefferson County Metro Government, *Information Technology and Communications Steering Committee*;

**Councilmember Albert Mitchell**, Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, *Public Safety and Crime Prevention Steering Committee*, appointed as *Vice Chair*;

**Councilmember David Stevens** of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, *University Communities Caucus*, appointed as *First Vice Chair*;

**Councilmember George Brown** of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government will continue to serve on the *Advisory Council and the International Task Force*;

**Covington City Commissioner Jerry Bamberger** will continue to serve on the *Advisory Council*.

In addition, **KLC Executive Director/CEO, Sylvia L. Lovely**, serves on the *Municipalities in Transition Panel on Democratic Governance (Vice Chair)*, *International Task Force*, *Working Group on Homeland Security*, *Community and Regional Development Panel and Democratic Governance Panel*.

## SNAPSHOTS OF SUCCESS



Participants in the **Kentucky Municipal Environmental Safety & Health Association** toured Mammoth Cave during a field trip on safety. **KMESHA's 2004 conference** was recently held in Cave City.



**KLC Executive Director/CEO Sylvia L. Lovely** presents Governor Ernie Fletcher with a framed cover of **KLC Direct** during the February 18 **KLC Mayor's Reception** at the Governor's Mansion.

## SHOW ME THE MONEY

### Apply Now!

#### Cemetery Preservation Grants

The Kentucky DLG is accepting applications for grants from the **Kentucky Cemetery Preservation Fund** for maintenance, preservation and restoration activities.

Applications are due on March 31, 2004. Instructions are available on the DLG web site at [www.dlg.ky.gov](http://www.dlg.ky.gov) or contact Lee Creech at (502) 573-2382.

#### Firefighters Grants

Funds are available to be used by the nation's firefighters to increase the effectiveness of firefighting operations, to improve firefighter health and safety programs and to establish or expand fire prevention and safety programs.

For more information, visit [www.newcities.org/grants.asp](http://www.newcities.org/grants.asp). Deadline is April 2, 2004.

#### Technology Funds

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce, announced **Technology Opportunities Program Grants** funds are available for technology programs that provide education, health care or public information.

For information on how to apply, contact Wayne Ritchie at 202-482-2048, ext. 5515 or at [writchie@ntia.doc.gov](mailto:writchie@ntia.doc.gov).

Deadline for applications is April 27, 2004.

## LEGISLATIVE FLASH

### Bill Watch Allows Citizens to Track Legislation Online



Bill Watch lets citizens view and track Kentucky

legislation as it makes its way through the 2004 Kentucky General Assembly. People can either register for the free version or subscribe to an expanded version that allows users to track an unlimited number of bills and receive e-mail notices on changes in a bill's status.

legislation as it makes its way through the 2004 Kentucky General Assembly.

People can either register for the free version or subscribe to an expanded version that allows users to track an unlimited number of bills and receive e-mail notices on changes in a bill's status.

To sign up, visit [www.kentucky.gov/services/billwatch](http://www.kentucky.gov/services/billwatch).



**Sergeant First Class Christian Loftus** (third from left, standing) and husband of **KLC's Amy Loftus** displays a **KLC banner**, sent to the 1163rd Medical Company, stationed in Afghanistan. The **KLC team** sent the banner along with other items in a recent "care package."

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Educate, Celebrate, Participate

#### APRIL 2004

- 16 City Government Basics**  
Marion/Crittenden County Economic Development Corp.  
Marion, Kentucky
- 17 Planning & Zoning to Meet HB 55 Requirements**  
L & N Depot  
Stanford, Kentucky
- 21 City Government Basics**  
Paroquet Springs Conference Centre  
Shepherdsville, Kentucky
- 29 City Government Basics**  
Greensburg Fire Department Training Room  
Greensburg, Kentucky

For more information or to register online, visit KLC's website at [www.klc.org/leadership](http://www.klc.org/leadership). With questions, contact Doreen Caines at 800-876-4552, or [dcaines@klc.org](mailto:dcaines@klc.org).

## CITY NIGHT 2004

Frankfort, Kentucky - February 19, 2004

**1** KLC's Phil Huddleston (left) with Sen. Paul Herron, Jr. (D-Henderson) and wife, Mary Herron; **2** l-r Newport Mayor Thomas Guidugli, State Auditor Crit Luallen and Rep. Steve Riggs (D-Jeffersonton); **3** (left) Rep. Arnold Simpson (D-Covington) with KLC Immediate Past President and Fort Mitchell Mayor Thomas Holocher; **4** Nearly 500 local and state officials and guests networked at City Night 2004; **5** Rep. Jim Callahan (D-Wilder, second from left), Mayor Tom Guidugli and other guests from northern Kentucky; **6** l-r Rep. Jon Draud (R-Crestview Hills), KLC's Bert May and Erlanger City Administrator Bill Scheyer; **7** l-r Minority Floor Leader Ed Worley (D-Richmond), Attorney General Greg Stumbo and wife Mary Karen Stumbo; **8** Several of the many western Kentucky dignitaries in attendance at City Night; **9** City Night attendees signed issue cards that KLC will summarize and distribute to legislators; **10** Rep. Adrian Arnold (D-Mount Sterling) with Sylvia L. Lovely; **11** l-r Mayfield Mayor Arthur Byrn, Speaker of the House Jody Richards (D-Bowling Green) and Louisville Metro Mayor Jerry Abramson; **12** l-r Rep. Brandon Smith (R-Hazard), Sylvia L. Lovely and Secretary of State Trey Grayson



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