



February 16, 2006

COMING PROGRAMS

February 23 - Don Robinson - GBT Realty Construction

March 2 - Mark Applin, Kentucky State Police

March 9 - Gary West - "King" Kelly Coleman

Rotary's 4-Way Test

Is it the **TRUTH**?

Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?

Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?

Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

Herb McKee announced that we will have a Membership Recruitment Day on March 9th. This is an opportunity to bring a prospective new member and Rotary will pick up the tab for the meal.

There will be a Red Badge Meeting at Mike Hazelwood's home on Wednesday, February 22nd at 6:00 p.m. Mike will be sending out letters to all of the Red Badge Wearers, if you don't receive a letter with the details, let Mike know.



George Warren introduced the guest speaker as Dr. Thomas Richey, Superintendent of Henderson County Schools. The Henderson County School System, according to Dr. Richey, with it's 1,092 employees is facing many challenges. One of those is that the student population is dwindling. In 2001 there were 6,400 students enrolled, in 2005 there were 6,208 students enrolled. This causes revenues to be decreased, which causes teacher positions to be cut.

Dr. Richey told Rotarians that Henderson County Schools are one of a few districts to initiate full day kindergarten. This move has cost the school system an extra \$983,000, though he believes this was still a good move. He relayed that he is a

big supporter of early childhood education and would like to see pre-kindergarten classes initiated. He is also in favor of increasing the number of school days for students from 175 to 185.

Other issues the school system faces include transportation costs as they have risen well above the allowance, the rising cost of utilities, the cost to enact the No Child Left Behind legislation and the IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) programs. The federal government had promised more than it has actually given.

Despite all of the challenges and obstacles facing Henderson County Schools, they have still managed to improve test scores. Henderson County was ranked 79 out of 176 school districts in 2002 and climbed to rank 55 in 2005. Dr. Richey feels this is great improvement, but there is much work to be done to meet the goals established.

If you have to miss a meeting, remember that you can still do makeup meetings on line at <http://www.rotaryclubone.org/> Just print it out and bring it in to Secretary Tom Lett. You can also make up meetings by attending another club. Evansville, Owensboro, Madisonville and Morganfield are close by and would welcome a visiting Rotarian. Just be sure to get a makeup card.

Absent February 16th: Alexander, Babb, Beck, Bradley, B. Campbell, Carter, Chumbler, Clements, Cabbage, Dear, Dunaway, Glidewell, Haag, J. Hodge, J. Hoffman, Johnson, Keach, King, Lake, Lett, McFarland, Neel, Mac Neel, Newberry, Newman, Payne, Predmore, Ridley, Shields, Smith, Stagg, Stanley, Stoke, Street, Sullivan, Thomason, Utley, West, Wilkerson, Wilkey, Wilson