

FEBRUARY

The Center holds annual Full Board meeting: On Monday, February 16, The Center held its **annual Full Board Meeting**. In addition to being presented a report on the state of The Center, attendees participated in **brainstorming break out sessions** where they provided valuable information from their home counties that will be used in The Center's ongoing **strategic planning process**. Also during the meeting, **three new full board members were appointed:** Mr. John Chowning of Taylor County, Ms. Molly Turner of Owsley County, and Mr. Dennis Karr of Laurel County.

Ron Crouch, Director of the **Kentucky Data Center** provided an excellent, fast-paced, informative presentation on the **current condition of Southern and Eastern Kentucky** in comparison to similar regions in the United States, dispelling many commonly held myths.

Preparation begins for PRIDE Spring Cleanup: On February 17 & 18 PRIDE held its annual Coordinator Workshops. Although the focus was on preparing PRIDE Coordinators for the **Spring Cleanup** to be held **April 10-24**, they were also presented with information on the many grant programs available, including **SuperGrants** that make cities and counties eligible to receive up to \$1 million to clean up **illegal dumps**.

Interesting presentations by Jeff Crowe of the Southern and Eastern Kentucky Tourism Development Association regarding the National Scenic Byway Program and Mark Lee, Kentucky Division of Forestry regarding the Kentucky FireWise council were **highlights of the workshops**. Mayors from the region as well as county judge executives attended and received 4.25 hours in continuing education credit.

Major revamping of The Center's website underway: Visitors to The Center's website will soon see a totally new look and more easily accessible information. The major redesign will result in a website that **better communicates the mission** of The Center and **tells the stories of its many accomplishments**. While the web address will stay the same, the **innovative site** will have a **totally original, more colorful, dynamic look** with access to The Center's current and past program information, press releases from the **NewsRoom**, Community and Business Education courses, Lake Cumberland Performing Arts and special events schedules, Affiliate information, **Rogers Scholars** youth program information, and much, much more! Stay tuned to find out when the new website will **go live!**

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- During the month of **February**, The Center awarded six regional businesses a total of \$63,088 in **C-TRAIN** Phase II grants to provide technology **training for 54** of their employees. **Businesses receiving grants were:** Cornerstone Properties of KY, LLC and RJ Corman of **Jessamine County**, Duo County Telephone Cooperative Corp. of **Russell County**, Employee Resource Group, LLC of **Perry County**, Southeast Telephone of **Pike County**, and Driftwood Electrical Contractors, Inc. of **Lincoln County**.
- **Successful shows** presented by LCPA at The Center in the month of February included an **Owen Lovell** classical piano concert, **Jonathon Thompson** photography show, and **Titanic—The Musical**.
- The Center's **South Kentucky Sport, Boat, and Fishing Show** recently brought in **3,621 visitors!**
- In February, the **Policy and Planning** department at The Center worked with the Events department to submit an application for the **Kentucky Arts Council's Challenge grant** for Lake Cumberland Performing Arts. This **grant** program matches a percentage of unrestricted revenues developed and maintained through broadbased fundraising initiatives. **Good luck!**

MARCH

LCPA has lots to offer in month of March: The month of March brings several **exciting opportunities** to sample the high quality arts presentations that **Lake Cumberland Performing Arts** presents at The Center.

On **Thursday, March 4th at 7:30 p.m.** the **U.S. Air Force Band of Flight** will perform a **free concert** at The Center. Since its founding in 1942, the USAF *Band of Flight* has performed for Presidents and Vice-Presidents, cabinet officers, U.S. and foreign military leaders, and **millions of Americans** and foreign citizens. General admission tickets are now available and can be **picked up in advance** at The Center Box office (no reserved seating).

The next show in the CenterStage series, **Spirit of Ireland's Dance of Desire**, will be presented by LCPA at The Center on **March 19th at 7:30 p.m.** (please note date change from March 23). Based on the power and passion of the **Celtic legends** of Erin, *Dance of Desire* is a folk tale about a **love that defied time**, told through stirring Irish **step dancing** made popular by the *Riverdance* production. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased by visiting The Center Box office or calling 606-677-6000.

A new visual arts display by local talent **Rose Marie Mikolajczyk** will adorn The Center's walls during March and April. An extraordinary local artist **aspiring to start her own gallery and studio**, Mikolajczyk enjoys **whimsical** and mixed media painting.

Rogers Scholars 2004 moves forward: The January 31 deadline has come and gone and the Community and Business Education department is pleased to announce that **more applicants** showed interest this year than last! The **Rogers Scholars selection committee** recently met and will be **announcing the 2004 scholars** by the end of March. Of course, much work is also being done to finalize speakers and program content. For more information, visit www.rogersscholars.com.

Puss 'n Boots is first School Time Theater show of 2004: On Tuesday, March 16th, LCPA will present the first **School Time Theater** performance of 2004, **Puss 'n Boots** at The Center. In this colorful and hilarious musical tale, the clever cat transforms his **penniless master into a prosperous landowner** and ruler of the kingdom. How does he do it? Well, you'll have to wait and ask one of over **1,500 school children** who are scheduled to attend the performances of this fun favorite children's tale, as the pluckiest of heroes demonstrates that **friendship and justice** deserve to win the day.

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- Do you know someone that is **Mother Earth's best friend**? Or maybe you know a group of someone's or a school that **deserves recognition** for their contributions in cleaning up **Southern and Eastern Kentucky**? If so, take notice of the following application deadlines: **March 5** – Deadline for submitting nominations for the **2004 Tony Turner Volunteer of the Year, Rogers-Bickford Environmental Leadership and College/Community Program of the Year** awards. **March 19** – Deadline for submitting nominations for the **2004 Campus of the Year** awards. Finalists will be chosen in each of the following categories: elementary, middle, and high school. Finalists and winners will be honored at the **2004 PRIDE Envi Awards**, May 17 at The Center. For more information, visit www.kypride.org.
- **UP TO \$1 MILLION TO BE AWARDED!** On March 29, Congressman Rogers will announce the recipients of the **2004 PRIDE SuperGrants** and Corps of Engineers Section 531 funding. Stay tuned!
- March computer classes are: **Excel 2000- Adv**, Mar 2 & 4, **Word 2000- Adv**, Mar 9 & 11, **Using Outlook for More Effective Time Management**, Mar 16, **Internet Explorer 5.5**, Mar 18, **Windows XP**, Mar 25.