

Kentucky Commission On Human Rights

Protector of Civil Rights. Voice for Equality. Catalyst for Positive Change.

Newsletter

“Live Free - Without Housing Discrimination”

April is United States and also Kentucky Fair Housing Month. The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights and many of its fair housing partners will conduct educational, training and promotional events this month to increase understanding and compliance to laws that protect people from discrimination in housing.

Announcing Fair Housing training in Pikeville and Prestonsburg, Kentucky

The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights and the Lexington Fair Housing Council are sponsoring training on the Kentucky Fair Housing Act on April 6 in Pikeville. The training will take place at the Pikeville Public Library, 119 College Street, Room 125, from 2 to 4 p.m. CST. Real estate licensees, landlords, social service providers and government employees are strongly encouraged to attend. The training is open to the public.

In Prestonsburg, the commission along with the Big Sandy Area Development District and the Lexington Fair Housing Council will conduct similar training on on April 7. The training will take place at the Big Sandy Area

Development District, 110 Resource Court, from 1 to 3 p.m. CST.

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has stated that denying housing or evicting a victim of domestic violence may have basis to file a discrimination complaint based on sex (gender). The foresaid training will provide information on reasonable accommodations and modifications for qualified individuals with a disability, and will cover HUD's guidance to refrain from discrimination against a victim of domestic violence.

The Kentucky Human Rights Commission is the state government agency that enforces the Kentucky Civil Rights Act and federal civil rights laws. The Kentucky Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination in public accommodations, employment, housing, and financial transactions on the bases of race, color, religion, national origin, disability, and sex. Discrimination is further prohibited on the basis of familial status in housing, the basis of age (40 or over) in employment, and the basis of a person's tobacco-smoking status in employment.

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Evers-Williams has Unbridled Spirit for Justice

An evening with Myrlie Evers-Williams on Saturday, on April 2 at Georgetown College, will include a

presentation to her by the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights of one of its Unbridled Spirit for Justice awards.

The commission will present the award and thank Myrlie Evers-Williams for her work to gain civil rights and equality for minorities. The commission began selecting recipients of the Unbridled Spirit for Justice awards in 2010 to people who act as “foot soldiers” and who do the ground work to push for equality and a better life for all people.

The event will be in the John Hill Chapel on the Georgetown College Campus at 6 p.m. EDT. The Central Kentucky Alumni Chapter of Alcorn

State University in conjunction with Georgetown College, Toyota Motor Manufacturing Corp. and other local businesses will sponsor the event.

Mrs. Evers-Williams will share candid moments of her life story. The Evers family persevered through fear and intimidation while fighting for voter registration, economic advancement and other issues in the fifties and sixties. Her late husband Medgar Evers was Mississippi field secretary of the NAACP when he was assassinated outside his Jackson home in 1963. She continues work in civil rights and is a publisher and business professional.

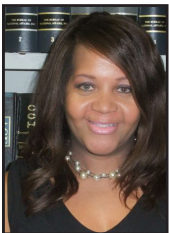
In Recognition of the Women's Month of March

-Commission Women in Action-

In honor of the National Women's Month of March, we proudly recognize the women of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights for their volunteer commitments. These individuals go the extra mile by being involved in community enrichment activities beyond their employment or commission board service.



Karen Crooks-Davis, Executive Secretary: Parent representative of Kentucky Alliance of Black School Educators - KABSE



Sherita Davis, Enforcement Branch Supervisor: Has coached cheer-leading for over 10 years and was featured in the local athletic magazine - VIBE (January 2011), is a parent volunteer at duPont Manual High School in the guidance counselors office and an active member of the PTSA



Milly Hudson Diehl, Commissioner: CASA of Kenton County Board Chair



Aneeka Ferrell, Enforcement Officer: PTA president, volunteers with Black Achievers, Crums Lane Elementary School, a peer mentor program, is an SBDM parent representative, and is Chair of Crums Lane Elementary Parent Advisory Council



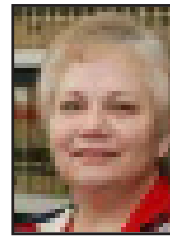
Alteata McWilliams, Mediation Attorney: Board member of the Girl Scouts, committee member for the Black Family Conference



Leslie Marlin, Enforcement Officer: Long time activist in the civil rights community. For the past seven years active in service dog training activities. Became involved in training service dogs as a result of disability/service dog cases she investigated at the commission. Previously served as service dog trainer and secretary of the board for Paws with Purpose (PWP), currently fosters dogs for the Kentucky Humane Society and Metro Animal Services, teaches dog training classes at the Kentucky Humane Society and gives private dog training for service dogs and pets



V. Ann Newman, Commissioner: president of the Boyd and Greenup County Branch of the NAACP, secretary of the Kentucky State Conference of the NAACP, commissioner to the Ashland Planning and Zoning and the Ashland Human Rights boards, and treasurer, usher, and trustee of New Hope Baptist Church



Patty Nipper, Intake Officer: volunteer at The Healing Place, Men's and Women's campuses, administrates and reads Tuberculin Skin Tests and gives flu vaccine for a community health provider



Alma Randolph Patton: Founder of the Alma Randolph Charitable Foundation (ARCF), Inc., which was established in 1993. The ARCF's mission is to provide new back-to-school clothing for disadvantage children



Sandra Powell, Commissioner: Has volunteered to serve on the Richmond Human Rights Commission for more than 7 years and as chair for four years, is a very active member of the Diocesan Pastoral Council for the Catholic dioceses of Lexington



Erin Spalding, Paralegal: Basketball coach and Metro Disabilities Coalition Board Member

Georgetown College Racial Incidents

The Kentucky Human Rights Commission met with Georgetown College officials on March 8 to discuss how the state agency could help the university in light of two racial incidents that occurred on campus earlier this year.

The incidents occurred in February after an African American student was called a racial slur by a white student. Later, another African American student was disciplined after he frightened some white students when he tried to find the white student who uttered the slur at his friend.

Commission Field Supervisor John C.K. Fisher met with Darryl Callahan, vice-president and general counsel at Georgetown College, and other staff members to offer the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights help with students, faculty and staff. Fisher explained that state human rights commission, which enforces the Kentucky Civil Rights Act, could provide diversity training for Georgetown College. Mr. Callahan said he would send the information from the Human Rights Commission to Georgetown College President William H. Crouch Jr. and check with the commission later on how the commission could help his organization.



Morgan Ransdell, Commission Managing Attorney, says farewell

Morgan Ransdell, managing attorney of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, has resigned for a post as special attorney in the Kentucky Attorney General's Office. His new job will focus on civil litigation. "I'm excited about my promotion and the opportunity to continue in public service," he said.

He served the commission for 12 and 1/2 years and was managing attorney since 2005. He was acting executive director for six months in 2004-2005. At a meeting in March, the agency congratulated Morgan and presented him with a commission resolution in appreciation of his excellent service to the agency and to Kentucky (See above photo with Mr. Ransdell, left, and Executive Director John J. Johnson). Commission attorney Mark Cambron will serve as acting managing attorney.

Two of Mr. Ransdell's happiest memories of the commission are, "winning a big victory in the Kentucky Supreme Court in 2004 in a case that focused on the commission's authority to investigate alleged discrimination at the Pendennis Club, the Idle Hour Country Club, and the Louisville Country Club, and getting to drive the golf cart to transport attendees around the KSU campus during our Civil Rights Hall of Fame event (even though some of my passengers expressed concerns regarding my driving!)."

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The U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division Disability Rights Section has written updates on understanding civil rights laws for people with disabilities. Read more about it on the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights Facebook and Twitter pages. To find the commission on Twitter, go to www.Twitter.Com. Type in the search engine, KyHumanRights.

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Patriot, Hate, Separatists and Extremist Groups in Kentucky

Crimes of hatred and prejudice, from lynching to cross-burning to vandalism of synagogues, are a sad fact of American history, but the term, "hate crime," did not enter the nation's vocabulary until the 1980s, when emerging hate groups like the skinheads launched a wave of bias-related crime. According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, hundreds of incidents of abuse or intimidation apparently motivated by racial hatred or other class or group hatred, have been reported since the November 2008 presidential election, though most of the hate activities have apparently not involved violence, according to the center.

The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights is diligently working to discourage such incidents in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

According to the Kentucky State Police, in 2007, hate crimes based on race were at the top of hate crimes list in the state, bearing 68 percent of hate related incidents. Second were hate crimes based on sexual orientation, which accounted for 16 percent of hate crimes committed in the state. Hate crimes based on religion were third on the list, accounting for nine percent of the total, followed by ethnicity accounting for 7 percent.

In its Spring 2011 publication, "The Intelligence Report," the Southern Poverty Law Center identified 824 anti-government groups that were active in 2010. In Kentucky, they list 14 of the groups operating throughout the state. Driven by anger over the country's changing racial demographics, the continuing harsh economy and demonizing propaganda found increasingly in the political mainstream, the center said, the number of radical-right groups has expanded dramatically. For the second year in a row, the growth was led by the antigovernment, "Patriot," movement, which saw more than 300 new organizations appear over a 12

month period throughout the country.

The commission cannot imply that the groups operating in Kentucky advocate or engage in violence or other criminal activities, or that they are racist.


This partial list was compiled from field reports, Patriot publications, the Internet, law enforcement sources, and news reports. Also, groups have been identified in Kentucky over the past four years by the city, county or region where they are located.

Statewide Groups: Brotherhood of Klans, Imperial Klans of America, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, National Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Southern Nights of the Ku Klux Klan.

The Klan, composed of 34 named groups with a total of 164 chapters nationwide, was down by 15 chapters in 2008. That dip came after years of growth from 110 chapters in 2000 to 179 in 2005. The steep five-year rise probably came more in the number of chapters than in actual Klan members, according to the center.

The Kentucky based Imperial Klans of America, the largest Klan group in 2005, dropped by almost half, to 23 chapters in 2008. It fell behind the Illinois-based Brotherhood of Klans, which had 30 chapters in 2006.

Other groups found to be active at different periods in Kentucky are the: Supreme White Alliance, First Joint Public Militia, John Birch Society, Oath Keepers, We the People, American National Socialist Workers Party, and Take Back Kentucky.




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PROTECTOR OF CIVIL RIGHTS
GUARDIAN OF EQUALITY
CREATOR FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

Congratulations to our partners at the
Franklin Simpson Human Rights Commission on their
7th Annual Unsung Heroes Banquet!

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Contact us for more information.



George W. Stinson, Chair · John L. Johnson, Executive Director
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ON APRIL 4, 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, where he had gone to stand with sanitation workers demanding their dream: The right to bargain collectively for a voice at work and a better life.

JOIN US TO MAKE APRIL 4, 2011 a day to stand in solidarity with working people in Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana and dozens of other states where well-funded, right-wing corporate politicians are trying to take away the rights Dr. King gave his life for. It's a time to show movement. A time to be creative, but clear: **We Are One!**

WHAT: JOHN UNIONS, WORKERS, COMMUNITY, FAITH AND PROGRESSIVE GROUPS in the Kentucky "We Are One Rally"

WHEN: featuring Grammy Winners "HAPPY BIRTHDAY"

WHERE: April 4, 2011, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Jefferson Square Park at 6th Street & Jefferson Street

CONTACT: (502) 363-4074 x 25

CURRENT SPONSORS INCLUDE Kentucky State AFL/CIO, Kentucky Jobs with Justice, AFSCME, CWA, IUE-CWA, Teamsters, United Steel Workers, Firefighters, IBEW

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