

Eastern Kentucky University Retiree Association Meeting
February 19, 2017

Location: Golden Corral

Time: 11:30

Guest Speaker: Ron Crouch, Former State Demographer

Topic: Interesting Facts Around Kentucky

Charles Hay, president of EKURA, opened the meeting by welcoming about 30 members and guests to our February meeting at Golden Corral. Following a buffet lunch, Charles welcomed Darlene May, recent EKV retiree, and Barb Shafer. Jackie Vance, Secretary, inquired about members' receipt of email reminders and encouraged those not receiving notification to preferred email addresses, please apprise an officer, so we can continue to try to correct the problems we have with notifying members of EKURA about activities. The treasurer, Pat Ridgley, reported a bank balance of \$3,479.13. Ron Wolfe reminded members of the March 21 trip to Museum Row in Louisville; a sheet to sign up was passed among attendees. Charles announced the annual KRTA meeting on April 24 and 25 in Louisville at Hurstbourne Holiday Inn. The registration of \$37 will be paid by EKURA for representatives of our organization; Ron Wolfe will attend, as will Charles Hay.

Charles Hay introduced Ron Crouch, former State Demographer, who has held many state level positions and is an expert in many facets of Kentucky history and population growth. From 1988 until 2009 he worked in work-force development, specifically working with Kentucky State Census Data at University of Louisville. He shared with our group significant data about Kentucky in four specific areas: Trends over time; magnitude of the data; necessity of thinking critically when looking at data; and things which impact census variations. He discussed the magnitude of Kentucky citizens who are dependent on "entitlement" programs such as Social Security and Medicare/Medicaid; many receive approximately \$10,000 per year with \$2000 having to be spent on healthcare.

He shared that while there are fewer kids in Kentucky than in 1930, there have been major population changes such as Madison County growing 17.2% between 2000 and 2010. Much of the population growth is due to retirees. He predicted many people running out of money before running out of life being where we are headed. The program of defined benefits as KTRS and KRS are designed is a safety-net for those involved in those systems; pensions such as these need to be restored rather than done away with, as is happening. We are a shrinking population with many of the younger people in Kentucky more likely being Hispanic. He spoke of those being born between 1930- and 1945 as being the "silent" generation while those born after 1946 being the "boomers" and the biggest group. In many Kentucky counties, e.g. Harlan, more are dying than being born. If one tries to understand what is happening it must be noted that generally the statistics are tied to education. Mr. Crouch pointed out that the tax system much raise enough to continue for the state to pay their part to the pension fund. Also, without tax dollars, there will be many fewer government services, such as major

research. He even referred to 401K as a fund for retirement is “a four letter word.” He closed his presentation by recommending that we read some of the powerful publications now available: AMERICAN AMNESIA (Packer); RACING TOWARD THE BOTTOM; SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST; WAITING FOR SUPERMAN (Diana Radevich); FREEDOMICS.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30. Our next meeting will be at Golden Corral on April 18, with a presentation by Dr. David McFadden. More information will follow.

Respectfully submitted, Jackie Vance, Secretary