

Junior Jaycees seek members

Kentucky Post, The (Covington, KY) (Published as The Kentucky Post) - April 16, 1997

- Edition: Kentucky
- Section: Postextra
- Page: 2KK

The Covington-Kenton County Junior Chamber of Commerce, a leadership training organization focusing on community service and individual development, will offer an informational program for new members Friday.

The free program will begin at 5:30 p.m. at Zipper's Bar & Grille, 604 Main St., Covington.

The event also will celebrate the accomplishments of the 1996-87 board of directors and welcome the incoming 1997-98 board.

The The Junior Chamber of Commerce Jaycees participate in such community projects as Humana River Hop run/walk for Kids Helping Kids, the Steinfeld Toy Distribution, Santaland, and Riverfest.

For information, call the group's hotline at 333-6799.

- Record: KNP041600070310170
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Marijuana No. 1 choice in drugs among teen-agers

Cincinnati Post, The (OH) (Published as The Cincinnati Post) - August 21, 1997

- Author/Byline: Carmen Carter, Post staff reporter
- Edition: Final
- Section: News
- Page: 16A

Marijuana has surpassed alcohol as the drug of choice among teens, say the 12,725 adolescents in state-funded drug treatment programs.

In 1996, 57.6 percent of adolescent patients treated said their drug of preference was marijuana, compared to the previous year's 48.9 percent alcohol preference, according to the Ohio Department of Alcohol & Drug Addiction Services.

"Anything's accessible in the suburbs . . . buys are taking place at school, work or wherever kids congregate," said Penny Walker, executive director of Kids Helping Kids, a private non-profit substance abuse program. "The dealers are (often) the kids themselves," she added.

The national trend of rising heroin use among youth also is beginning to hit the tri-state, she said.

"I'm not seeing much heroin use, but 10 years ago I never saw a kid with heroin," said Ms. Walker.

"The kids are snorting it . . . smoking it . . . Almost always kids who progress to using drugs like heroin started on marijuana and alcohol." The Coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati expects to release statistics on youth drug use next month, said Tamara Sullivan, coalition executive director.

With 1960s drugs like both heroin and LSD making a come back, it's important that parents who feel conflicted over marijuana use because they've used it themselves talk honestly to their children, said Ms. Sullivan.

"Two things to realize is that the drugs are so much stronger than in the 1960s and 1970s, and kids are trying drugs earlier and earlier," she said.

She emphasized that "parents need to be prepared (to talk to their kids) about drugs and their own experiences. Don't glamorize or glorify any of their own experiences."

Results of the national 1996 survey of students in grades six to 12 by the National Parents' Resource Institute for Drug Education revealed that drug use can be reduced by as much as 30 percent if parents talk to their children about drug use, said Ms. Sullivan.

"Surprisingly, kids still listen to their parents," she said. "That's what the kids tell us."

- Record: CNP082100146000158
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Top volunteer honored - Michael Gibbons wins Frontiersman

Kentucky Post, The (Covington, KY) (Published as The Kentucky Post) - September 18, 1997

- Author/Byline: Mary Friedberg, Post contributor
- Edition: Kentucky
- Section: Marketplace Extra
- Page: 8K

After climbing to the top of his profession, Michael Gibbons started a new career helping other people find rewarding jobs. At the same time, he continued to devote himself to volunteer work and his family.

The Lakeside Park resident's long history of outstanding service to the community and his profession, and commitment to his family, put him in the spotlight last week.

The Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce presented Gibbons with the Frontiersman Award at its annual dinner Sept. 11.

Gibbons is the 28th person to win the chamber's most prestigious community award. The award is named after former chamber president Walter Dunlevy.

Gibbons, 58, is president and chief executive officer of Schonberg Associates of Kentucky. He chaired the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport board from 1995-97 and was a member of the chamber's board of directors from 1989-96.

He is currently serving on the board of directors for the airport, Schonberg Associates of Kentucky, Peoples Bank of Northern Kentucky, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and the Diocesan Financial Council for the Bishop. He's also on the Audit Committee for the American Red Cross.

Gibbons is hailed as one of only two people who have chaired the Northern Kentucky United Way Fund Drive twice.

"The Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce should be congratulated for selecting Mike, and Mike should be congratulated for this honor. ... It is well-deserved," said Jackson Randolph, chair of Cinergy Corp.

Randolph chaired the Greater Cincinnati United Way Fund Drive when Gibbons first chaired the Northern Kentucky portion in 1976. Gibbons also chaired the campaign in 1989.

During his term as chairman of the airport board, the airport grew faster than any other U.S. airport, brought in its first foreign carrier and expanded international flights, Gibbons said.

Gibbons also contributed significantly to the completion of the airport's master plan, said Robert Holscher, director of aviation.

"It has been said that there are two kinds of people: people who do things and people who get the credit. With (this award presented to) Mike, it's gratifying that this person is one and the same," he said.

John Finnan, president of Peoples Bank of Northern Kentucky, has known Gibbons for more than 10 years. They served on a number of committees together and used to live in the same neighborhood.

"He's a real nice guy with a great family. He's a hard worker, very thorough.

If he tells you he's going to do something, he'll do it, and he'll get it done effectively and successfully," Finnan said.

Gibbons and his wife, Judy, have been married for 30 years. Mrs. Gibbons is vice president of finance at Schonberg Associates of Kentucky. She is a member of the board of directors of the chamber and Northern Kentucky Foundation, and chairman of the Fine Arts Committee for Northern Kentucky.

The couple has three daughters: Beth, 27, a teacher in Wyoming Schools in Cincinnati; Amanda, 26, a former Peace Corps volunteer in Nicaragua who is working on a master's degree in public health at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore; and Michelle, 22, an assistant producer for a Lexington television station.

Gibbons was born and raised in Chicago, and earned a degree in English from Loyola University. He then went on to earn a law degree from William Mitchell College of Law in Minnesota. He first moved to Northern Kentucky in 1973 as general manager of the Levi Strauss & Co.'s distribution center. Four years later, Levi promoted him to national manager of U.S. distribution and he moved to California.

In 1982, he became president of Resistol Hats, a division of Levi Strauss. He engineered the company's sale in 1986 and returned to Northern Kentucky as executive vice president and chief operating officer for Corporex Cos.

Several years later, he decided to embark on a new career in the outplacement and career-transition business, after taking some personality-assessment tests.

"One of the characteristics that kept showing up on these assessment tests were personality traits of people who enjoyed working with and helping other individuals progress in their careers," he said. "Outplacement was a natural opportunity to do this."

Gibbons founded Schonberg & Associates of Kentucky in 1992, along with partner Ken Schonberg, who has since retired. His partner now is Kent Friel.

The outplacement and consulting firm had record sales last year, with a 50 percent increase in sales over the previous year. Gibbons expects to achieve record sales again this year.

Clients include some of Northern Kentucky's best-known corporations, including Toyota, Fidelity Investments and Star-Kist Foods.

Schonberg & Associates provides a variety of services, including helping companies prepare and implement reorganization plans, retirement planning and spouse relocations. The company has four employees at its Florence office.

Gibbons' other business and professional activities include membership in the American Bar Association and the Kentucky Bar Association.

He also has served in leadership and advisory capacities to Thomas More College, March of Dimes, Junior Achievement of Greater Cincinnati, Adult Literacy, Kids Helping Kids, Boone County school system, Kentucky Project 21, Northern Kentucky University Partnerships and the Tri-County Economic Development Corp.

As he accepted the Frontiersman Award - a foot-high metal sculpture on a wood block - last week, Gibbons told the audience he was "very proud and very humbled" by the honor.

"Proud that an organization of this stature that has done so much for the community would select me, and humbled because you are giving me an award for doing things that I felt it was a pleasure to do," he said.

FAX Previous winners of the award

Previous recipients of the Walter R. Dunlevy/Frontiersman Award:

1968 - Orie S. Ware.

1969 - Monsignor John Murphy.

1970 - W. Robert Ellis.

1975 - Henry E. "Bud" Pogue.

1976 - Wallace Lucas.

1977 - Ralph V. Haile.

1978 - Joseph Scanlon.

1986 - Walter R. Dunlevy.

1987 - Wayne and Fran Carlisle.

1988 - Paul W. Hemmer Sr.

1989 - Mer Grayson Jr.

1990 - Kenneth Lucas.

1991 - William T. Robinson III.

1992 - William P. Butler.

1993 - Judy Clabes.

1994 - Vera Angel, Dr. Leon and Nancy James Boothe, R.C. Durr, John Finnan, The Most Reverend William A. Hughes, Jack M.

Moreland, Dr. Patricia J. and Frank B. Sommerkamp Jr.

1995 - Ralph A. Drees.

1996 - Edwin (Ted) T. Robinson.

- Caption: PhotoDOROTHYJOHNSTON/for The Post -- Michael Gibbons, with award, won the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce's Frontiersman Award for 1997. The award was presented at the chamber's annual dinner Sept. 11, where chamber members, from left, Robert Cooper, Ted Robinson and Joe Von Lehman Jr. joined Gibbons for a photograph. Gibbons is president and chief executive officer of Schonberg Associates of Kentucky.
- Memo: NORTHERN KENTUCKY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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- Record: KNP091800333350166
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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Kentucky Post, The (Covington, KY) (Published as The Kentucky Post) - November 25, 1997

- Edition: Kentucky
- Section: Marketplace Extra
- Page: 8K

William T. Robinson III of Erlanger, a partner in the law firm of Greenbaum Doll & McDonald, has been named to the College of Mount St. Joseph's Board of Trustees.

Robinson will serve a four-year term. He holds a bachelor's degree from Thomas More College and a law degree from the University of Kentucky College of Law.

In addition to his new duties at the college, he serves on the boards of Athenaeum of Ohio, Boy Scouts of America Powder Horn District, the Greater Cincinnati Scholarship Association and Kentuckians for Better Transportation.

He also serves with the Kentucky Industrial Development Council; Kentucky Olympic Committee; Kids Helping Kids; Dorothy Wood Foundation; The National Conference of Christians and Jews, Greater Cincinnati Chapter; Tri-County Economic Development Corp.; and the United Way of Greater Cincinnati.

The College of Mount St. Joseph is a Catholic, co-educational liberal arts college of 2,242 students in suburban Cincinnati.

Kentucky Academy of Trial Attorneys honored Covington resident Robert E. Sanders with its Peter Perlman Outstanding Trial Lawyer of the Year Award.

The presentation was made during the academy's annual convention in September.

- Memo: BUSINESS BRIEFS

- Record: KNP112500248920064
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