# Volume 102, No. 44, May 29, 2015

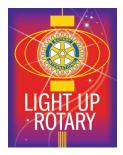


# **SPARKS**

# Next Meeting: Thursday, June 4, 2015

Guest Speaker: Ray Burse President of Kentucky State University Introduced by: Robin Jennings

Grand Ballroom C, Galt House East, 2nd floor Buffet Opens: 11:30 am / Meeting Begins: 12:10 pm





Raymond M. Burse was named 14th president Kentucky State University on October 24, 2014, after serving as Interim President since July 1, 2014. A native of Hopkinsville, Burse has a long record of achievement in academics, athletics and community service. From 1982 to 1989, he oversaw record enrollment, more than \$60 million in capital improvements and significant enhancements in the academic and financial operations of the institution, including the establishment of the Whitney M. Young College of Leadership Studies. He later became an executive at General Electric Company from which he retired in 2012 after 17 years. He initially served as GE Appliance's senior counsel and then became a corporate officer as vice president and general counsel. Before joining GE, he was a partner in the law firm of Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs in Louisville, Ky.

Burse received his law degree in 1978 from Harvard Law School, and he received a bachelor's degree in chemistry and mathematics in 1973 from Centre College, where he was named to the Deans' List for four years. He also excelled in

sports from high school through college. He was named to the All-College Athletic Conference Football Team as well as Centre's Most Valuable Offensive Player in football. He assumed leadership roles as founder and president of Centre's Black Student Union and, active in student government, he was a student adviser to the president. His cumulative achievements in academics, athletics and student leadership contributed to his selection as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, where he studied organic chemistry. He also played sports at Oxford, including basketball, track, crew and rugby. Additional recognitions include being listed in Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities. He is also a recipient of the John W. Davis Award from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Legal Defense and Education Fund. He received honorary degrees awarded by Kentucky State University in 1989 and by Centre College in 2007.

Burse served on the boards of Centre College and Alabama A&M University. His other commitments have included serving on the boards of the Louisville branch of the St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank, the Frankfort/Franklin County Chamber of Commerce and the State YMCA of Kentucky. He served as chair of the Louisville Free Public Library Advisory Commission, chair of the Appeals Committee of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and vice chair of the Louisville Community Foundation Board of Directors. He also served with the Louisville Economic Development Corporation, the NCAA Council and the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage. Currently he serves on the Board of Governors of the Center for Creative Leadership.

He is married to Kim Burse, who serves as vice president of administrative services for Goodwill Industries of Kentucky. They have three sons, Raymond Jr., Justin and Eric.

Inside this issue:		Louisville Rotary / Goodwill BOOK PROJECT JUNE 4 at 6:00pm — 525 W. Broadway	
Meetings & Events	2	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Flyer w/ info at THIS LINK	Patrick Yates June 4 Brooks Wicker June 7
Make Secure Pay- ments Online!	2	effort will help children read this summer.	Jerry Greenwell June 8 June 4 Birthday Table
Greet Veterans on return Honor Flight June 6 at 10pm!	2	May 30 was the Literacy Food Project Rotary Service Day	
May 28 Meeting with Raza Ahmad Rumi	3		
Repair Affair 6/13	3		
Behind the Scenes Tour at Louisville Zoo!	3		
SIP 'n SWAP Wine Party at Barney's!	3		
4 FREE Ballpark Tix!	3	Thank you, Volunteers	Landston States

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# May 28, 2015 Rotary Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Wardell, followed by the invocation provided by Clint Scharff. Ben Talbott III led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Rotary Four-Way Test. Guests were introduced, and Dr. Babar introduced seven special guests he had invited. Kristin Willard introduced one birthday celebrant, Past President & District Governor Woody Northup. President Kevin thanked John Jennings for a successful Business Synergy event. Clint Scharff announced the upcoming Book Project on June 4, and Mike Fallot announced the Repair Affair on June 13. Volunteers are needed for both of these projects. President-elect Nominee Alice Bridges provided a two-minute Health Snippet about the importance of organ donations.

Dr. Babar introduced our special guest, Raza Ahmad Rumi, a Pakistan policy analyst, journalist and author. In addition, Rumi is a consulting editor of The Friday Times, senior fellow at Jinnah Institute (a policy think tank), and is also affiliated with the National Endowment for Democracy. Raza Rumi expressed his passion about basic human rights, freedom and opposition to violence, not only in his country of Pakistan but across the Islamic world. He mentioned several examples of torture and unjust activities that are



Dr. Muhammad Babar, Raza Ahmad Rumi and President Kevin Wardell

occurring, such as the capture of young girls for prostitution by the Islamic State. These girls are mistreated, abused or even killed. Countless atrocious activities are taking place, all in the name of 'faith', forcing many people to flee their countries to escape for their lives. (An unsuccessful attempt on Raza's own life in 2014 resulted in the death of his driver.) Rumi's presentation included a variety of photos, depicting how different Pakistan was in the 1970s and earlier. A few photos included Jacqueline Kennedy who had visited Pakistan in 1958. Rumi went on to explain the connections between ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham) and Islam, and he described how the resurgence of literalist interpretations of Sharia and the worsening of sectarian cleavages within Islam have begun an ongoing cycle of violence that endangers the lives of ordinary Muslims everywhere. It is important to remember that Muslims are not a monolith he added. There are more than 1.5 billion Muslims across the world and an overwhelming majority of them seek a better life for their families and are opposed to violent ideologies.

Rumi stated that Muslims are actually greater victims of extremism, even more so than Christians, Jews and other faiths. Certain sects within Muslims are targeted and in many countries voices opposed to fundamentalists are attacked if they do not agree with the terrorists' ideology. He reported that over 80,000 people have died at the hands of terrorists in Pakistan most of whom were Muslims. Rumi commented that women are jailed for driving cars. A real issue is that Muslims need to challenge the extremists who have hijacked their faith. He said, many clerics and violent extremists think *"If you challenge them, you are challenging God"*, adding that there is no one 'high church' that can get them to reform. Rumi explained that the extremist ideas are based on 10th century texts and jurisprudence (containing a set of laws), and that this had been going on for seven centuries. Raza listed short-term and long-term strategies to prevent violent extremism by eliminating or minimizing the factors that lead individuals to join or support violent extremist organizations. He stated that his proposed long-term strategies (building democratic institutions, improving governance, rule of law, institutionalizing global human rights standards, freedom of media, and civil society mobilization) would be complicated and difficult tasks to achieve, and he stressed that education is key. He added that the transfer of knowledge and ideas are as important, or even more important, than simply throwing money. There are many critical and progressive voices among Muslims who challenge the extremist ideas but they get drowned in the media frenzy to make terrorism headlines. It is important that progressive voices and movements within the Muslim world be supported. But the most important task is that of Muslims themselves: to reinterpret their faith, apply reason and condemn violence in their name. The meeting was adjourned, after an unsuccessful Pot of Gold drawing.



#### SATURDAY, JUNE 13 (8a - 1p) Flyer w/ more info at <u>THIS LINK</u> Location will be provided NO SPECIAL SKILLS NEEDED!

Repair Affair is a community-wide program organized by New Directions Housing Corporation to provide basic home repairs to low income and elderly homeowners. To sign up, contact Mike Fallot

mike.fallot@ecomtek.com 400-3011

#### <u>SIP 'n SWAP Wine Party</u> June 20 (7pm to 10pm) \$25/person

Barney Sutton's home at 1233 So. 6th Street Individuals bring two identical bottles, take one home; couples bring two identical bottles, take one home (approx. \$25). Sample 20+ bottles of wine. Casual dress. Flyer at <u>THIS LINK</u>. To register, email: events@rotary45.org

Limited to first 40 who register by emailing events@rotary45.org!

Annual Rotary Evening at the Ballpark Tuesday, June 16, at 7pm A FEW FREE TICKETS LEFT!

Contact us at rotary@rotary45.org

# BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR at the LOUISVILLE ZOO! Wednesday, July 15 - SAVE THE DATE!

Join Rotarians/guests for a 'BEHIND THE SCENES' tour led by Louisville Zoo Director/Rotarian John Walczak. BBQ meal w/ sides included. Adults only. More details coming soon!



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