#### UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549 Form 8-K

## CURRENT REPORT

#### PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of report (Date of earliest event reported): October 12, 2009

Kirby Corporation (Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

1-7615

(Commission File Number)

Nevada (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

55 Waugh Drive, Suite 1000 Houston, Texas (Address of principal executive offices) 74-1884980 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

> 77007 (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (713) 435-1000

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

o Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

o Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 5.02. Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers

On October 12, 2009, Kirby Corporation ('Kirby') announced that C. Berdon Lawrence, Kirby's Chairman of the Board, would retire as Chairman effective April 27, 2010, the date of Kirby's 2010 Annual Stockholders and Board of Directors Meetings. Mr. Lawrence has served as Chairman of Kirby since October 1999. A copy of the press release announcing Mr. Lawrence's retirement is attached as Exhibit 99.1.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits

(d) Exhibits

99.1 Press Release dated October 12, 2009

### SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

# KIRBY CORPORATION (Registrant)

By:

/s/ Norman W. Nolen Norman W. Nolen Executive Vice President, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer

Dated: October 13, 2009

# EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit <u>99.1</u> Press Release dated October 12, 2009