

Meriden/Ozawkie Area Chamber of Commerce
Chamber Meeting Minutes
October 15th, 2015

Announcements/Updates

Halloween Trunk or Treat – Chamber President Scott Stanley explained that this event, scheduled for Friday, October 30th, at Countryside Square in Meriden, is generally attended by upwards of 500 area elementary school students and members of their family. Chamber members are invited to be present as a business to distribute candy or other treats to participants, to volunteer for any of the behind-the-scenes tasks required to make the event successful, and/or to donate cash or other items suitable for raffle prizes. To participate, email the chamber at *Meriden_Ozawkie_Chamber@yahoo.com*.

Jeff West Career Day – On behalf of Jeff West Middle School principal John Hamon, Chuck Wilson distributed an invitation for area businesspeople and business employees to participate in a Career Day for 7th and 8th grade students on Thursday morning, November 5th. For more information, contact John at *john.hamon@usd340.org*.

Chamber Pancake Feed – Chuck Wilson declared this fall's pancake feed "the best yet." He noted that—in part because of social media promotion before the event and excellent help at the event—the chamber was able to serve a record 364 guests. Receipts totaled just shy of \$2,000 which, after expenses, should result in an addition to our scholarship fund of around \$1,500. This bi-annual event funds (4) annually-renewable college scholarships of \$500 each to deserving graduates of Jeff West High School while providing a great opportunity to interact with the community at large.

Facebook Update – In this month's update, Heather Williams noted that...

- The Chamber Facebook page has 237 "likes"—up 3 from last month.
- Our Spotlight Ad featuring Davis Publications garnered 91 "likes."
- The Pancake Feed post reached 911—and prompted this comment: "It was amazing!"
- The monthly meeting reminder reached 107 people.
- The current FB contest asks readers to comment by identifying the "ickiest, yuckiest, grossest" Halloween candy they've ever had. The name of one commenter will be chosen at random as the winner of a \$25 chamber gift certificate.
- Submissions for Facebook are welcome. Send these to *heatherlwilliams@live.com*.

Taste of Elegance – On behalf of the Friends of Hospice of Jefferson County, DeDee Skaggs reminded the chamber of the "Taste of Elegance" event to be held at the Perry-Lecompton High School on Saturday, October 17th at 5:30 PM. This fund-raising gala features delicious food, enticing auctions (both silent and live), the opportunity to connect with others throughout the community, and a great occasion for supporting hospice care in Jefferson County. Only a few tickets remain available at \$35.00.

December Chamber “After Hours” – Diane Shaw, chamber board member, announced that the December “After Hours” gathering is set for Saturday, December 19th, from 5:30 to 7:30 PM at Lake Ridge Bar & Grill (located in the Lake Perry Country Club). A taco bar and beverages will be provided by the chamber. Members of area chambers are invited to this event and donations for door prizes of any kind are always welcome.

Board Election Nominating Committee – The terms of three board members (Pat Happer, Diane Shaw, and Chuck Wilson) expire this December. A nominating committee chaired by board member Stuart Bach is being formed and interested chamber members are encouraged to volunteer either to (1) serve as a member of the nominating committee or, if interested, (2) to express interest in being considered as a board nominee. Stuart will also send an email to the chamber members inviting interested parties to submit their names. Chamber elections will be held in November—new board terms begin in December.

“Promotional Video Displays” Committee – A committee comprised of Alexa Surritt, Charlene Sams, Scott Stanley, and Doug Norman are meeting to consider the idea of chamber operated promotional displays in area businesses. Alexa explained that, specifically, the committee is investigating the best process for keeping the displays updated, the specifics of agreements to be worked out between business owners and the chamber itself, and the particulars of purchasing necessary equipment.

Anniversary Celebration at Farmers State Bank – Judy May announced that the board of directors would be manning the grill for “free lunch” being served at the Farmers State Bank of Holton on Tues, Oct 27th from 11 AM until 2 PM. The bank will be celebrating 115 years of service to the community. Chamber members are encouraged to stop by!

Economic Development Update – In Brittany Chaplin’s absence, County Commissioner Wayne Ledbetter noted that the “revitalization group” is preparation to transition to more of a “Housing and Redevelopment Commission” similar to the current “food council” structure. Brittany will have more to say on this in the future, but a first step, Wayne noted, will be to at least identify “critical stakeholders”—anyone with a particular interest in seeing housing and redevelopment concerns addressed in the county. Wayne invited anyone with interest to contact Brittany at (785) 863-5262 or (785) 764-6609.

Special Guest

June Hilbert, Author “From High Heels to Gum Boots One Cow Pie at a Time”

Author June Hilbert was present to give an entertaining overview of the experiences that led to her authoring “From High Heels to Gum Boots One Cow Pie at a Time.” June’s presentation details life-experiences from her unique perspective as a “city girl” turned farm wife—something explored in even more detail in her book. June’s book is available through Amazon at <http://www.amazon.com/From-High-Heels-Gumboots-Time/dp/1490353062>.

Upcoming Meetings

Chamber – Thursday, November 19th – Countryside Square Community Room