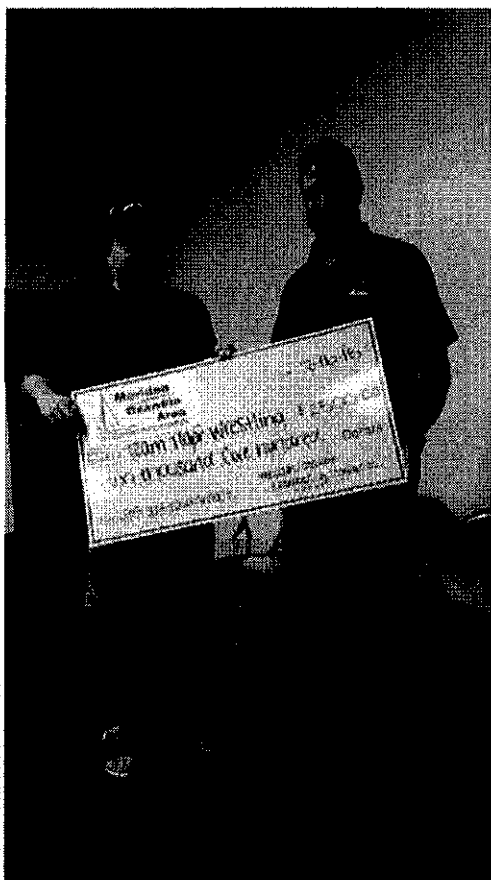




## Announcements/Updates

**2015 Golf Tournament** – Another great year – Between 20 hole sponsors, 18 tournament teams, and a lively auction, net receipts totaled nearly \$5,100.



**Special Presentation** – As a result of the successful golf tournament, the chamber was able to present a \$2,500 check to the Team Tigers wrestling program. From November through March each year, Team Tigers involves some 50 youth from ages 3 years old through high school. John Thelen accepted the check on behalf of Team Tigers and announced that the organization planned to purchase a “take down dummy” with the funds. The training tool will be stored at the high school so as to be available to the wrestling program there, as well.

**2016 Golf Tournament** – The Jeff West baseball team has been named the “participating partner” for next year’s golf tournament!

**Facebook Update** – the Chamber Facebook page added 32 “likes” in June, for a current total of 206. Kylee Skahan is our first “gift certificate drawing” winner! June also included two “Friday Feature” posts—“Bowers Meat Processing” and “Chuck’s Heating and Air.” Both of these posts each reached over 250 people.

**4-H Auction (Aug 3-6)** – The Chamber has committed \$500 for the livestock auction. DeDee Skaggs will bid on behalf of the chamber.

**Meriden Fall Festival (Sept 12)** – The Chamber will provide and staff the watermelon feed at this community event featuring a parade, carnival games, a pulled pork dinner (benefitting the JW

Educational Foundation). Chamber member Top Post Winery will offer wine tasting and the Watering Hole will host a beer garden.

**Economic Development** – Brittany Chaplin reports good progress on all fronts. The revitalization committee will soon meet with representatives from Osage County. The food council is working on grants that will facilitate assessment and capacity building.

The “Think Local First” committee is looking at ways of tying in communities who do not have Chambers (e.g., Nortonville and Winchester).

**Library Summer Reading Program** – Jerie Tichenor reported that this summer’s program boasted 250 participants—with 150 kids/adults at closing celebration!

**Vacation Bible X-perience** – Jefferson Assembly of God will host this year's VBX on July 20-24. Over 200 students ages 3 years through 5<sup>th</sup> grade expected.

**Hometown Teams – A Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit** – will visit Perry, Kansas on Thursday through Sunday each week from August 15<sup>th</sup> through September 27<sup>th</sup>. County Commissioner Wayne Ledbetter noted that Perry is one of only 6 Kansas communities selected to host this display celebrating the community impact of "small town teams."

## Special Guest

**Jess Noll** – Meriden Antique Engine and Threshers Association

Jess Noll was present to fill the chamber in on plans for the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Meriden Threshing Show scheduled for July 17-19<sup>th</sup>. Jess announced that, with the acquisition of adjoining ground, the show expanded from 10 acres (only 8.5 usable) to 35 acres. The added acreage is used to produce hay and sorghum for use as part of the show and then, during the show itself, for parking. All available ground was necessary for parking at last year's show.

The threshing show is hosted at "Cottonwood Station, a reproduction living history of an early day Kansas town." The grounds are owned and maintained by the Meriden Antique Engine and Threshers Association (MAETA), established in 1977. The organization's purpose is "to preserve, through living history, early farming techniques, the appreciation of antique engines, occupations and cultures in small towns and rural areas of early Kansas."

In addition to the summer show, the Meriden Threshers host a "Kids Day" in the fall, where all the 5<sup>th</sup> graders in Jefferson County are invited to visit the grounds, a fall show the 4<sup>th</sup> weekend in September, and an old-fashioned church bazaar every November. Guests have come from as far as Sweden to attend these shows!

Activities begin at 10:00 AM on Friday this year and continue throughout the weekend. An "admission button" valid for the entire weekend costs only \$6.00. The public is invited!

## Upcoming Meetings

Chamber – Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup> – Countryside Square Community Room