

Marion County Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors' Meeting

March 16, 2017

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met at the Western Sizzlin at noon on March 16, 2017. Board members in attendance were President Jamie Lawson, Vice President Joyce Burkhalter, and board members Kevin Merrell, Kathie Tierney and Shelby Potterfield.

(Please note that a quorum of board members was not in attendance. Motions were made and seconded at the meeting with a follow-up evote to all board members the following day.)

Others in attendance included Spencer Wayne with Western Sizzlin, Andrew Lawrence and Jim Canestrari with Colonial Chemical, Marion County Mayor David Jackson, Audra Kelly and Todd Byrum with SETDD, Chrissy Seals with American Cancer Society, Kyle Holland with H & H Mgt and US Stove, Sonya McShan with Erlanger, Melissa Arkin and Cydney Brown with Parkridge Valley, Tommye Stanfill with Volunteer Behavior Health, Garret Fugot with Covenant Allergy, Deanna Stott with Hospice of Chattanooga, and Judy Blevins, administrative assistant for the chamber.

President Jamie Lawson called the meeting to order, recognizing guests and members in attendance.

A motion was made by Joyce Burkhalter and seconded by Kathie Tierney to approve the minutes from the February 16, 2017 board meeting. See addendum for results.

Financial Report:

Judy Blevins presented the "Income and Expense Report" for the month of February 2017 and "Account Balances Report" as of March 16, 2017. Copies were distributed to all present and are on file with the minutes.

Old Business:

A. Report from Website Revision Committee

Jamie Lawson reported that revision of the chamber website is still in development with a projected date of completion the end of March or sometime in April. President Lawson thanked each member of the committee for their help in submitting content. To see in development, go to dev.marioncountychamber.com. Remember that this is not the completed product and that some content seen now is simply a placeholder for additional material to be submitted.

B. Report from Existing Business Committee

Jamie Lawson, Joyce Burkhalter, and Patrick O'Hagan continue visiting chamber businesses. During the visits, employers are asked what is working for them, the challenges they are facing, and how the chamber could help the business community. Exit reporting indicates that employers are being frank and open during the visits. According to President Lawson, "The chamber wants to be more than just a sticker on a door."

C. Anti-Littering Campaign

A committee composed of Kathie Tierney, Donna Sartin, Andrew Lawrence, Patrick O'Hagan, Jamie Lawson and Judy Blevins, has met twice and is formulating ideas as to how to take the lead in bringing forth awareness of the problem of littering in our communities. The chamber applauds those individuals, organizations, and businesses who are working to reduce the effects of littering in our community and encourages others to join in the effort. The committee is open to suggestions.

New Business:

A. Request for Donations

- a. National Cornbread Festival – Joyce Burkhalter made a motion and Kathie Tierney seconded the motion to be a t-shirt sponsor in the amount of \$300. (See addendum for evote results.)
- b. Distinguished Young Women of Marion County – Kevin Merrell made a motion which was seconded by Shelby Potterfield to sponsor in the amount of \$150. (See addendum for evote results.)

Mayor's Report:

Marion County Mayor David Jackson reported that the ARC contract signed by the State of Tennessee has been received. Bids will be going out for the second building at Chattanooga State Kimball Site. Anticipated date for groundbreaking is the first week in May.

The county has received a \$10,000 health grant which will be used to build a public use walking track at Chattanooga State Kimball Site.

The Marion County Partnership for Economic Development has voted to give \$25,000 to Chattanooga State to establish a scholarship tuition fund for eligible students approved to attend the advanced manufacturing course at Chattanooga State Kimball Site. (This course is

sometimes referred to as Polytech Institute at Kimball.) The county is applying for a \$15,000 ThreeStar Grant that, if received, will be added to the scholarship fund. Mayor Jackson stated that Marion County industry is lacking in skilled workforce. It is hoped that students completing the advanced manufacturing course may help to meet the workforce need.

Mayor Jackson reminded attendees that on March 17, 2017 at 2:00 PM there will be a dedication of Denny Cove which is a great rock climbing and hiking venue adjoining Foster Falls. Directions to Denny Cove entrance: take 150 (Tracy City Hwy); the entrance gate is to the left after passing the Foster Falls Volunteer Fire Department on the right. This attraction should bring more tax dollars into the county thereby lessening the tax burden on Marion County property holders.

Miscellaneous:

At the conclusion of the business meeting, each person present shared information about their business or organization. This is a great example of networking and of the value gained when business and community partners meet together. The chamber board meetings are always open to members and guests.

Of particular note is the National Cornbread Festival on April 29th and 30th , “Relay for Life” on the square in Jasper on May 13th, and “Music on the Menu” at the Western Sizzlin Tuesday, March 28th at 6:00 PM.

Tommye Kaye Stanfill explained that Volunteer Behavioral Health has received a grant called “Project Aware” to educate teachers on the signs and symptoms of mental health issues – how to recognize the signs and being aware of available resources.

The chamber recognized Colonial Chemical for their most recent clean-up day along the 2- mile stretch of roadway adopted by Colonial. Colonial employees and family members have a clean-up day four times a year. The chamber encourages other businesses and organizations to adopt a highway as well.

Since two members of SETDD were with us today, Mayor Jackson asked to be allowed to publicly thank the Southeast TN Development District for their help in obtaining grants for Marion County, recruiting business, and otherwise assisting the county in accessing available resources.

Announcements

Announcements were reviewed as distributed. A copy is on file with the minutes.

Trivia Question

Question: According to legend, if the date of your birth can be added and then divided by seven, you will be lucky all your life. Example: If you were born on August 6, 1956, you would add 8+6+56 (don't include the century) = 70 which is a number divisible by 7– lucky! Can anyone claim fame to that?

Answer: Joyce Burkhalter was the only lucky person in attendance!

Because we were not sure there would be a lucky person identified with the question above, a second question was prepared.

Question: How many industrial sized garbage bags were filled during Colonial Chemical's most recent roadside clean-up?

Answer: 24 bags!

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Next monthly board meeting will be April 20, 2017 at noon at the Western Sizzlin.

Addendum: On Friday, March 17th, an evote request was sent via email to all board members . Votes were returned unanimously approving both motions. See motions under “New Business”, “Request for Donations”.

Minutes submitted by Judy Blevins

Reviewed by President Jamie Lawson