

**Marion County Chamber of Commerce**

**Board of Directors' Meeting**

**October 17, 2019**

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met at the Western Sizzlin at noon on October 17, 2019. Board members in attendance were Kathie Tierney, Shelby Potterfield, Vicki Messer, and Donna Sartin.

(Please note that a quorum of board members was not in attendance. In the absence of a quorum, a request for an e-vote for any motions made during this meeting will be sent to all board members.)

Others in attendance were Andrew Lawrence with Colonial Chemical, Terry Kerlin with First Choice Storage, Travis Hickman with The River 104.9, Marion County Mayor David Jackson, South Pittsburg City Administrator Gene Vess, Gina Pannell with Remax, Jake Wilbanks with Fast Pace Urgent Care Clinic, Dan McDermott with Dan's Handyman Service, Cody Fox with Tennessee Tub Factory, Tiffany Commons with RMHC, Alyson Riley and Jamie Bolton with Champion Commons, and Josh Brown with TSBDC.

President Kathie Tierney called the meeting to order and recognized those in attendance.

**Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Vicki Messer and seconded by Shelby Potterfield to approve the minutes from the September 19, 2019 board meeting. E-vote will be requested. Minutes are on file in the chamber office and will be posted on the chamber's website.

**Financial Report:**

Financial reports were presented and distributed to all present: "Banking Summary" for the month of September 2019 and "Account Balances as of 10/16/19". Shelby Potterfield made a motion to accept the financial reports as presented. Donna Sartin seconded the motion. E-vote will be requested. Copies of the financial reports are on file with the minutes.

**Old Business:**

A. Whitwell Middle School Career Day

In the absence of Dave Pestillo, President Tierney reminded the group that there will be a career day at Whitwell Middle School on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Information was included in today's meeting packet. See flyer for additional information or contact Dave Pestillo.

**New Business:**

A. Chamber Board Vacancies

President Tierney explained that two board members, both representing Kimball, have recently moved and will need to be replaced. The bylaws allow for the chamber president to fill board vacancies when they occur between annual meetings. President Tierney asked if there was anyone present who would like to serve on the board representing the Kimball area. Dan McDermott volunteered to do so. Mr. McDermott and President Tierney will discuss the responsibilities of board members before the board meets again next month.

While discussing board vacancies, President Tierney explained that all board members are expected to be on at least one chamber committee. She encouraged board members to make their committee preferences known and stated that she will make contact with all board members regarding committee assignments.

B. Request for Sponsorship/Donation

A letter requesting sponsorship has been received from the Distinguished Young Women of Marion County Scholarship Program. Copy of letter was included in the meeting packet. Vicki Messer made a motion to sponsor at the Platinum level in the amount of \$150. Shelby Potterfield seconded the motion. An evote will be requested.

**Speakers:**

Alyson Riley – Cornerstone Ministry Center/Champion Commons

The chamber was pleased to welcome Alyson Riley with Cornerstone Ministry Center/ Champion Commons. Located at 300 Cornerstone Drive in Jasper, Cornerstone has multiple social service programs. Champion Commons specifically works with women who are battling addiction, abandonment, poverty or hopelessness. A multi-discipline approach includes recovery, mentoring, job & life skills and Bible study. For more information regarding Cornerstone Ministries, including Champion Commons, contact Alyson Riley at 423-664-3288 or [alysonr.ministry@gmial.com](mailto:alysonr.ministry@gmial.com).

A men's group, "Guys Gathering of Champion Commons", meets at a Whitwell location. For more information, contact Mike at 423-596-1181.

Tiffany Commons – Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Chattanooga

The chamber welcomed a new chamber member, Tiffany Commons with Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Chattanooga (RMHC of Greater Chattanooga). "The mission of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Chattanooga is to provide families with the care

and resources they need when their child is sick and to offer programs and services that directly improve the health and well-being of children." ( From the RMHC of Greater Chattanooga 2019 – 2022 Strategic Plan.) Services include overnight stays at the Ronald McDonald House for a family who has a hospitalized child and a family room inside Erlanger Children's Hospital. An interesting statistic is that Marion County residents are the third most served through RMHC. For more information contact Tiffany Commons at 423-778-4338 Or [tiffanycommons@rmhchattanooga.com](mailto:tiffanycommons@rmhchattanooga.com) or visit their website at [www.rmhchattanooga.com](http://www.rmhchattanooga.com).

**Mayor's Report:**

South Pittsburg City Administrator, Gene Vess

The City of South Pittsburg will host downtown Trunk 'r Treat on Halloween night, beginning at 6:00 PM CDT. There will also be a Veteran's Day Parade on Saturday, 11/9/19, at 10:00 AM and a Christmas Parade on December 7<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 AM CST.

Mr. Vess stressed the importance of counting all South Pittsburg residents in the 2020 Census. According to Mr. Vess, the 2010 census resulted in an undercounting of residents; therefore, the 2020 census is an opportunity to provide a more accurate count which will impact money and programs for the next ten years. "The federal government bases a large amount of spending decisions, including on highways and low-income programs, on census data." (Rich Pedroncelli/Associated Press)

Marion County Mayor David Jackson

Mayor Jackson reiterated the importance of an accurate census head count not just for every municipality/community but also for the county as a whole.

Mayor Jackson reminded us that the burn ban is still in effect in Marion County until further notice.

Mayor Jackson explained that there has been a delay in sending out Marion County property tax notices this year but that they should be mailed to property owners soon.

On November 9<sup>th</sup> there will be a confiscated vehicle sale at the Lawson Building at 300 Ridley Drive in Jasper. On November 11<sup>th</sup> there will be a sale of delinquent tax property.

Marion County has been awarded a ThreeStar Grant for \$25,000 to be used for workforce development.

Representatives from "Project Outback" visited the New Hope area on October 16<sup>th</sup>. No commitment at this time.

“Project Water” has selected Marion County as the site for a new business. Announcement is expected the first or second week in November.

## **Miscellaneous**

Among information shared by Shelby Potterfield is that SVEConnect has now expanded into the Whitwell, Victoria and Griffith’s Creek area. On October 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM, there will be a South Pittsburg Mountain Fiber Update Meeting at Orme Mountain Church of God. All interested persons are invited.

Cody Fox announced that Tennessee Tub Factory had recently bought Baja Spa company and will be incorporating their products with existing Fox Brand Products.

Josh Brown with TN Small Business Development announced an upcoming training session for businesses interested in exporting goods and services. “Export Boot Camp” is scheduled for October 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM EDT until 11:00 AM at the Hamilton County Incubator, 100 Cherokee Blvd in Chattanooga. Mr. Brown will send information to the chamber office to be shared through the chamber’s email distribution list.

Jake Wilbanks announced that the new Fast Pace Urgent Care Clinic in Jasper will have a grand opening on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Details will be shared via the chamber’s email distribution list.

Next board meeting is November 21, 2019 at noon at the Western Sizzlin in Jasper.

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Minutes submitted by Judy Blevins

Reviewed by President Kathie Tierney