

SALLISAW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Racing Toward the Future, while cherishing the Past.



Sallisaw welcomes Todd Huston as our Banquet Speaker

**JANUARY/FEBRUARY
2012- ISSUE**
Sallisaw Chamber of
Commerce
Judy Martens, Executive
Vice-President

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SALLISAW

A CITY OF CHARACTER!

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2011 Fall and Christmas Events Were Successful

Starting with the Veteran's Day Ceremony, then the Annual Downtown Christmas Lighting, proceeding with Shop Sallisaw and ending the season with the Annual Christmas Parade, it would appear that Sallisaw's fall and Christmas events were very successful. As always, the Annual Lighting is really the kick-off of the season and this year was no different! Hot chocolate, cookies and of course Santa Claus made the event enjoyable for everyone who attended. Thanks goes to the **City of Sallisaw Electric, Streets and Parks Departments** making sure everything ran smooth for the event. The Shop Sallisaw Cash Giveaway was the largest, ever, partly because shoppers were given an extra week to collect their red tickets. Once again this year \$6,000 was given away in 10 cash categories. **Our thanks to 60 Chamber members for making this possible!** With the weather cooperating this year, our Annual Christmas Parade brought a huge crowd to Cherokee Street. Our hats are off to the 40 parade entries who helped put kids of all ages into the Christmas spirit. As was done in past years, cash prizes for award winning floats were given by generous Chamber Members. The Chamber would like to thank **Cherokee Casino, Sallisaw** for sponsoring two of the parade categories and the Chamber sponsored the schools. By all accounts, the efforts of many groups brought joy and smiles to the people of Sallisaw during the 2011 Christmas Season. Thanks to all who participated!

Chamber Banquet Planning is Underway

The Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday, February 4th at the **People, Inc. Conference Center** on J.T. Stites Boulevard. The event will begin with the Social Time at 6:00 p.m. and the banquet beginning promptly at 6:30 p.m. The theme for this year's banquet is "**Our Future's so Bright, we Gotta Wear Shades**". We all know that 2011 wasn't the brightest in regards to prosperity for our businesses, but we think 2012 will bring a bright and prosperous future for everyone! We have once again invited **Mr. Todd Huston**, a motivational speaker from Tulsa who is an amputee due to a boating accident on Lake Tenkiller when he was 14 years old, to be our keynote speaker. Last year the inclement weather kept Mr. Huston from attending the banquet, so we sure hope Mother Nature cooperates with us this time! We think everyone will be uplifted by hearing Mr. Huston's presentation. Corporate Tables are now available at the Chamber office to any Chamber member wishing to purchase one. The cost is \$250 each. The purchase affords the member several advertising advantages along with the ability to have a dignitary seated at your table for the evening. As last year, **space is very limited!** If you wish to purchase a table please do so as soon as possible. Contact Robin at: 775-2558.

Character Trait for January

AVAILABILITY

Making my schedule and priorities secondary to the wishes of those I serve

December Membership Meeting Features Officers

The December Chamber Membership Luncheon was held on Wednesday, December 11th at the First United Methodist Church. The members were treated to a wonderful lunch catered by **Aroma's Coffee Shop**. This year's meeting was very informative as the School Resource Officers from the Sallisaw Police Department presented the program to the Chamber members in attendance. They explained what their duties are while at the school sites and also explained what their limitations are according to the Laws of Oklahoma. Comments were given by several attendees' of how much they appreciate what these officers do and the fact that they feel their children are safer at school because of their presence on the campuses. The Chamber would like to thank the follow businesses for donating beautiful centerpieces that were given away at the end of the meeting: **The Green House, The Flower Cottage, Jody's Buds and Blossoms**.

Two New Events Proved Successful

This year the Chamber of Commerce implemented two new events in an effort to bring holiday excitement and a renewed spirit of community involvement. With the cooperation of the Sallisaw Improvement Corporation, **Evviva!** was held on Saturday, November 19th in the Sequoyah Building. This was a great evening out for over 165 people. Delicious food prepared by Cherie' Spencer was enjoyed as well as live entertainment from Otis Elevator. A wide array of silent auction items were available as well as 13 live auction items, all donated by very generous Chamber of Commerce members. Some of the items included were; a trip valued at \$1,200 to the destination of the purchasers choice, a week-end hunting trip to Casey Tippett's cabin, everything included, and a 36" HD TV donated by Wal-Mart. These are just a few of the great items that were sold. Money raised from the event will aid in scholarships for students attending CASC and ICTC. The second event that was implemented this year was the Store

Front Decorating Contest. This was initiated in an effort to build holiday spirit within the business community. There were 16 entries, which is great for the first year. Entries were divided into three categories within the City limits of Sallisaw. They were: west, central and east. Trophies were given to 1st and 2nd place in each division. 1st Place-West Division was National Bank of Sallisaw, 2nd Place-West Division was Aroma's Coffee Shop. 1st Place-Central Division was Hamilton-Morgan Bail Bonds, 2nd Place-Elaine's Beauty Shop. 1st Place-East Division was National Bank-Express Point, 2nd Place-Total Eye Care. The Chamber would like to thank everyone who participated in this event and we hope they will do so again next year along with many more entries!

Chamber Member of the Year to be Chosen

At the Annual Awards Banquet the 2011 Chamber Member of the Year will be announced. Until that time, the winner will remain undisclosed. The winning business will be chosen by you, the Chamber member from the list of those who were selected by the Chamber Board of Directors for each month that a Membership Luncheon was held. Below is a recap of those chosen as candidates for this prestigious award: **Armstrong Bank, City of Sallisaw, BHC of Oklahoma, State Farm Insurance, Aviagen, CASC-Sallisaw Campus, Wendell & Cheryl Mills, and Dr. Bob Wells, D.D.S.**

Each of these were chosen because of their dedication to the Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce through the giving of their time, talents and treasures. The Chamber would like to once again thank each of these candidates for providing essential services that make the Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce very successful! This, along with several other special awards, will be a large part of the program at this year's banquet.

Executive Board – 2012

President – Dr. Curtis Shumaker, Campus Director, ICTC
President Elect – TBA
Treasurer – TBA
Past President – Dr. Bob Wells, Wells Family Dentistry

Board Members – 2012

Susan Chandler – National Bank of Sallisaw
Gary Winton – BHC of Oklahoma
Marley Abell – First Financial Center
Jeff Mayo – Sequoyah County Times
Michelle Mings – First National Bank
Dr.Amanda Trudeau – Total Eye Care
Terry Nation – Armstrong Bank
Holly Martens – Sequoyah Memorial Hospital
Eric Riggs – ARVEST Bank
Jimsie Looper – Valley Land Title Co.
Dr. Curtis Shumaker – Indian Capital Technology Center
Bill Baker – Ex-Officio Member-City Manager
Shannon Vann – Ex-Officio Member-Mayor
Scott Farmer – Ex-Officio Member-Superintendent of Schools
Buddy Spencer – Ex-Officio Member-SIC Pres. - Blue Ribbon Auto
Judy Martens – Executive Vice-President
 Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce

TEAMWORK

Bridging our differences builds a strong foundation for progress

Community News

Diamond Daze Planning Begins!

Plans are already in the works for an even bigger and better Diamond Daze Festival for 2012! After reaching a record setting attendance of approximately 7,500 festival goers last year, the Chamber Board and Festival Committee are hopeful of bringing at least 10,000 spectators to Sallisaw this year. The festival will once again be held on the Sallisaw High School complex, for which we are most grateful to the school board and Mr. Farmer for always being so generous and accommodating to us. No offers have been submitted to any Nashville entertainers at this time, but the entertainment committee has already begun collaboration on possible acts for the entertainment portion of the festival. The festival will run this year on Thursday, May 31st, Friday, June 1st and Saturday, June 2nd. As in the past, the KCBS BBQ Cook-Off will be held, and taster kits will be added back by popular demand. On Saturday, June 2nd, the BBQ contest will be judged by only KCBS Certified Judges. This change will bring a larger number of cooks to our event. Chamber Office is already receiving requests for judging opportunities from certified judges. The Chamber is also receiving inquiries from arts and craft vendors and of course, many food vendors. Great Plains Amusements has already been booked as our carnival for Thursday through Saturday, May 31st – June 2nd. We will also be hosting the Tori Mills Talent Showcase once again this year, coordinated by Mr. Chad Jasna. Plans for Thursday, May 31st are still in the works, but thanks to the generosity of **Cherokee Casino, Sallisaw**, a new event designed for the local chefs and their braggin' rights has been added. "High Steaks Rollin" will give

the local boys the opportunity to see who really can cook the best steaks and also give festival goers an opportunity to purchase a steak meal with all the fixin's! More details will be released on this at a later date. But, rest assured, there WILL be prize money for the best cooks in Sallisaw! We also hope to keep the "battle of the Bands" on Thursday night. Again, as always, the success of this festival depends on you, the Chamber member and your willingness to sponsor it. When you receive the letter along with the request form, please be generous and help us, once again, produce a quality event that now receives recognition and attention from people throughout the entire region, not just Sallisaw and Sequoyah County! Remember, many of your contributions may be tax deductible, too! Be watching your upcoming newsletters for Diamond Daze Festival updates!

County Livestock Show Coming Soon

The Sequoyah County Junior Livestock Show will be Thursday, February 23rd and Friday, February 24th. This event has been sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce for over 35 years and is very important to the 4-H and FFA students of this county. If you have advertised in the Livestock Show Book in the past, you will be contacted within the next few weeks about doing so once again. If you have not done so in the past and are interested in this inexpensive way to advertise your business, please contact the Chamber Office for rates. Prior to the sale on Friday night, a BBQ dinner will be provided for a cost of \$5 per person. Make plans to support these young people by purchasing an ad, coming to the dinner and of course, bidding on their animals! These are the future leaders of our county. Let's give them the support and encouragement they deserve. For more information contact Roger Stites at 775-7761, or Tony Yates at 775-4838

HERE WE GROW AGAIN! NEW MEMBERS FOR: Oct., Nov. & Dec. 2011

South Oak Dental – Rick Agent
Bootleggers Discount Liquor
Horizon Hospice
18 Wheeler Diner
The Bake Shoppe
Ro & Larry Poindexter

Thank you for joining the Chamber. Your commitment to making Sallisaw a better and more prosperous community is appreciated.

RENEWING MEMBERSHIPS

Arvest Bank – Felts Shoes
Merrill Bonding & Check Cashing Service
Cherokee Nation Commerce
Cookson Hills Electric Coop
Century 21-Clinkenbeard Agency
Bud & Annette Smithson
Aviagen
Dept. of Human Services
TRAC, Inc.
Health and Wellness Center
I-40 Information Center
First Assembly of God Church
Armstrong Bank
Wight Office Machines
Oakridge Assembly of God
Paul Johanning, Attorney
J.T. and Mary Jo Stites
Sallisaw Main Street
Stanley Tubbs Memorial Library
Western Sizzlin'
First Assembly of God Church

Thank you for renewing your membership with the Chamber. With your continued support, we can work together in the growth and development of our great community.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce is to enhance the economic vitality of the Sallisaw area while striving to create the best quality of life possible for our citizens.

Upcoming Events

January – February 2012

- January 11 Monthly Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting- Chamber Conference Room – 12:00 noon
- January 18 Monthly SIC Board Meeting- Chamber Conference Room – 12:00 noon
- January 25 Monthly Chamber Luncheon – People, Inc. Conference Center – 12:00 noon
- February 4 Annual Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet – People, Inc. Conference Center – 6:00 p.m. Social Time 6:30 p.m. Banquet
- February 8 Monthly Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting – Chamber Conference Room – 12:00 noon
- February 15 SIC Board Meeting – Chamber Conference Room – 12:00 noon
- February 23-24 Annual Sequoyah County Junior Livestock Show and Sale

*Thank you to our
“Chamber Champs” for
sponsoring our Character
Banners
December:
First United Methodist
Church
&
Abundant Life Church

January:
People, Inc.
&
Professional Home
Hospice
The Character Program
continues because of
members like you!*

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED