

**ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET
WILL FEATURE CONGRESSMAN**

BOREN



JANUARY 2008 ISSUE
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Commerce
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Vice-President

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SALLISAW

A CITY OF CHARACTER!

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SALLISAW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Racing Toward the Future, while cherishing the Past.

February 9th has been chosen for the Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Banquet which will be held again at the Choctaw Blue Ribbon Downs Banquet Hall. The theme for this year's banquet will be "Celebration in the Heartland" using decorations of red and white. As has been done the past few years, there will be a social time from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. with light refreshments catered by Elegant Edibles by Alta. The banquet will start promptly at 7:00 p.m. The meal consisting of beef tenderloin, baked potato, salad, hot bread and desert will be catered by Charlie's Chicken. Banquet goer's will be entertained by live entertainment during the social time and Mrs. Rhoda Wilson during the meal. The highlight of the evening will our keynote speaker, U.S. Congressman Dan Boren. Congressman Boren is well acquainted with many Sallisaw and Sequoyah County residents. For this reason, we expect a larger crowd than in the past. Congressman Boren will be speaking to us about the great accomplishments of Oklahoma in the past, the great things that are currently happening in our state and what we can look forward to in our bright future. The tickets for the banquet will go on sale Monday, January 14th through Friday, February 1st. The cost of individual tickets are \$25 each. Corporate tables are available to all Chamber of Commerce Members for a cost of \$250, which seats eight. This is a great way to treat your employees or customers to a great evening out. Corporate table purchasers will also receive special advertising recognition in the local newspaper

and in the program the night of the banquet. Chamber members who purchase the corporate tables will be given the best seats in the banquet hall, on a "first come, first serve" basis. The Chamber will also recognize businesses and individuals who went above and beyond in their service to the Chamber of Commerce and the community of Sallisaw during the 2007 calendar year. Many special awards and gifts will be given to show the Chamber's appreciation. The banquet is open to the general public. Anyone wishing to purchase a ticket should call the Chamber Office at 775-2558 anytime after January 14th. We look forward to seeing all of you at the banquet on February 9th.



Lieutenant Governor Visits Chamber

All Chamber of Commerce Members are invited and encouraged to come and visit with our Lieutenant Governor, Jari Askins on **Tuesday, January 15th at 4:00 p.m. in the Chamber Conference Room**. She will be in town that day addressing the Sequoyah BPW and the Sallisaw High School students along with our Chamber members. Please take a few minutes from your day and make it a point to come and give her a warm Sallisaw welcome.

Diamond Daze 2008 Planning Underway

The 2008 Diamond Daze Festival has been scheduled for June 6th and 7th. This is a change from the first week-end of May. Moving the festival to the Sallisaw High School grounds last year proved to be an excellent idea, but now the festival committee is also improving on this idea by holding the event after all school activities are complete for the year. This will allow the festival to be a full two day event bringing even more people to the Sallisaw area. All the same activities from last year are planned with the exception of the Centennial events. Several new events are being discussed at this time such as a talent show and antique tractor show. Even the possibility of bringing in three headline entertainers rather than just two is a possibility. The Chamber is once again asking for sponsors of this event. Without those sponsorship dollars this event would not be possible. Last years event was successful enough to put Sallisaw on the State map by winning the

Oklahoma Tourism Department's Redbud Award for the 2007 Outstanding Centennial Project. It is the hope of the Chamber to once again produce this type of festival. Last year over 5,000 spectators attended the festival bringing valuable tax dollars into the community. With the continued support of you, the Chamber member, we can do this again, only bigger! All Chamber members were mailed a sponsorship packet in December if you haven't responded with your level of contribution there is still plenty of time to do so. Please support this yearly festival that not only brings money and tourists into our community, but gives us all a true sense of pride and boosts the morale of all our residents. Please contact the Chamber Office today at 775-2558 with your sponsorship contribution.

Chamber Gives Report of Activities

As a valued member of the Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce, you are entitled to know where and how your Chamber Investment is being used. Some of our success and hard work within the community is quite

evident through the continued coverage we receive from The Sequoyah County Times and several of our other advertising venues. But, there is so much more that goes on behind the scenes that most of you never see. For example, did you know that the Chamber Office answers an average of 500 phone calls each month from people requesting various community information or asking for business referrals? We also send an average of 12 relocation packets to families planning to move to Sallisaw and we have an average of 180 visitors to our office each month inquiring about a number of things relating to Sallisaw and Sequoyah County. Where do you think businesses looking to relocate come first? The Chamber of Commerce, of course. This is where most of your Chamber investment is going; giving visitors to our community a friendly, professional first glance at what we're offering in Sallisaw. Now, after accommodating all the visitors we also focus on making Sallisaw a better place to live by coordinating and producing most all of the community activities like the Diamond Daze Festival, 4th of July Celebration and all of the holiday events. But your investment doesn't stop there. The Chamber has put thousands of dollars back into the community in 2007 by sponsoring things such as: The Centennial Clock, a scholarship to a high school senior, aiding Help in Crisis, coordinating the Angel Tree Project, etc. Again, all these activities enhance the quality of life for all Sallisaw residents. In 2008, your Chamber of Commerce is making plans to become more active in all state tourism activities, do even more advertising of the Sallisaw and Sequoyah County area, and work with Cherokee Enterprises on perhaps bringing more tourist attractions to our area. The Chamber has always played an active role in economic development through the SIC and the City of Sallisaw. This role will be increased in 2008. Please be assured your Chamber Investment is hard at work for you by making Sallisaw the best place to live!

Executive Board – 2007

President – Debbie Edgmon, BorgWarner
President Elect – TBA
Treasurer – TBA
Past President – Matt Caldwell, National Bank of Sallisaw

Board Members – 2007

Larry Randolph – Charlie's Chicken
Buddy Spencer – President, SIC-Blue Ribbon Auto
Dale Wood – Armstrong Bank
Dwight Spencer – Blue Ribbon Auto Group
Kasey Moran – TRAC, Inc.
Darlene Pearson – First National Bank
Buddy Holt – Red Bird Smith Health Services
Bill Baker – City Manager, City of Sallisaw
Shannon Vann – Mayor, State Farm Insurance
Ron Wyrick – Superintendent, Sallisaw Public Schools
Jayne Hadley – McDonald's
Holly Martens – Sequoyah Memorial Hospital
Jeff Allred – Journey Church
Marley Abell – Edward Jones Investments
Judy Martens – Executive Vice-President
Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce

Community News

January Membership Meeting Combines Chamber and Character Council

The date for the January Chamber Membership Meeting has been set for Wednesday, January 30th, 12:00 noon at the CASC J.T. and Mary Jo Stites Multi-Purpose Room. We will be combining Chamber and The Character Council for this meeting. Mr. Tad Bohlen, Plant Manager for the Baker-Hughes Oil Company, Centrilift Operation will be our keynote speaker. The reason for combining these two organizations is because Tad not only manages a very success business, but he does it completely under the premise of The Character First! Program. He has over 1,000 employees in the plant who follow the traits of Character First! each day while on the job. We hope that all Chamber members and Character Council members will attend this meeting and be able to take away from it useful information that could increase your businesses productivity, attendance and trustworthiness of employee's and most importantly increase the 'bottom line' of your company. Make plans to attend this great informative meeting on January 30th.

Character Calendars Available

The 2008 Character First! calendars are now available at the Chamber Office for a cost of \$7 each. The calendar gives the trait for each month of the year with full definitions to accompany each trait. If you would like one of the calendars please feel free to contact Robin at the Chamber Office.

Chamber Welcomes New Businesses and Organizations

During 2007 the Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce proudly added eighteen new businesses and organizations to our Chamber group. This is an average of more than one per month. Since August of 2004, we've added over 80 new members. During the month of November we were pleased to add Help-In-Crisis as a brand new member and also hold a grand opening for Mobile MD (formerly CRS Mobile) in their new location located on Ruth Street. Anytime a business joins with us or expands their business, we find it extremely exciting for Sallisaw. This means we're growing and not becoming stagnant!



Mobile MD Grand Opening in new facility on Ruth Street



Help-In-Crisis joins Chamber in their new location corner of Chickasaw & Elm

"Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us daily"-Sally Koch

***HERE WE GROW AGAIN!
NEW MEMBERS FOR:
December 2007***

**Oakridge Assembly of God Church
Wright Home Services**

Thank you for joining the Chamber. Your commitment to making Sallisaw a better place is appreciated.

RENEWING MEMBERSHIPS

INFORMATION CENTER

BILL WILLIS HEALTH CENTER

WAL-MART

BASIN OIL AND TRANSPORT, LLC

ARMSTRONG BANK

PAUL JOHANNING-ATTORNEY

DEPT. OF HUMAN SERVICES

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.

January Character Trait Availability

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

Upcoming Events

January

- January 9** Chamber Board Meeting – 12:00 noon, Chamber Conference Room
- January 15** Lt. Governor Jari Askins keynote speaker for Sequoyah BPW – 12:00 noon – Western Sizzlin’
Chamber of Commerce hosts a visit with Lt. Governor Jari Askins - 4:00 p.m. Chamber Conference Room
- January 16** Annual Meeting of the SIC – 12:00 noon, Chamber Conference Room
- January 24** Chamber Board Retreat – Dwight Mission Camp – 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.
- January 30** Chamber Membership Meeting – ICTC Sallisaw Campus – 12:00 noon
- February 9** Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Banquet – Choctaw Blue Ribbon Downs 6:00 p.m. Social Time, 7:00 Banquet

Chamber Champs!

The Chamber would like to recognize GRDA for sponsoring the January, 2008 character banners. Thank you for your generosity and desire to see Sallisaw encourage good character.

Great Opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us daily.” Sally Koch

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED