

SALLISAW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Racing Toward the Future, while cherishing the Past.



Bassnanza Planned!

SEPTEMBER -OCTOBER
Sallisaw Chamber of
Commerce
Judy Martens, Executive
Vice-President

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SALLISAW

A CITY OF CHARACTER!

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Bassnanza Fishing Tournament Planned

This year will mark the 7th anniversary of a very successful fundraiser for the Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce, **Bassnanza!** While bringing much needed income for the Chamber, it also gives local as well as professional fishermen the chance to win some big prize money. The tournament has been set for Saturday, September 17th on Kerr Lake/Arkansas River. The Chamber is excited to announce that the weigh in and free dinner will once again be held at **Applegate Cove Marina**. We sincerely thank Jeff and April Voyles for opening their facilities to us. The Marina has a great place to hold the meal, announce the winners and also gives the fishermen ample space to tie up their boats. The entry fee for this year's tournament has not been increased and the "Big Bass" portion of the event is still intact. For each boat, the entry is still \$150 with an additional \$25 for those entering "Big Bass". The prize money to be given away is \$10,000 with the Big Bass prize dependent upon the number of entries. Without the following sponsors this tournament would not be possible: **Cherokee Casino, Sallisaw; Grand River Dam Authority; AT&T, People, Inc.; Sequoyah County Times; Blue Ribbon Auto Group; D & R Dozer and Backhoe; Casey's Motor Services; Armstrong Bank; PradcoFishing; Cox Exterminators; Valley Land Title Company; Sallisaw Ford; State Farm Insurance; First National Bank and Sallisaw Lumber Company.**

August Meeting Featured New Leadership

At the August Membership Luncheon the Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce was proud to feature Mr. Scott Farmer, the new Superintendent of the Sallisaw School District as our keynote speaker. Mr. Farmer presented a power point of information regarding the current status of the district and explained that future budget cuts will be necessary due to the fact that 70% of the district's funding comes from the state, 16% comes from federal funding leaving only 14% coming from local ad valorem taxes. He also pointed out that 70% of our students qualify for the free or reduced lunch program which indicates that many of our families fall at or below the poverty level. He discussed the five major funds of the school district, the source of those funds and explained how the money is used from each. One of the most important facts that he brought to the group was that besides our desperate need for a new middle school, all of our other sites are aging and are in need of repairs. The building fund money will not cover these costs which we are facing in the very near future. However, on a positive note, he explained that the students in the Sallisaw Public School system rank above the state average on their API (Academic Performance Index) scores and also above the state and national average on our high school ACT scores. On the local front, he added that there has been an increase in the instructional time for the elementary classes, a new focus on literacy, new technology has been introduced to administrators and many staff members, a new scholarship assistance & PFL class has been added at the high school and the district's website is new and enhanced.

Chamber Committee's Continue Progress

All of the committee's formed by the Chamber in 2010 are still very active including the newest one, the Character Council which is chaired by Holly Martens of Sequoyah Memorial Hospital. This committee has already had several informative meetings with great speakers and is planning a workshop type event for October 5th. Ideas on how to implement good character into the workplace and school system will be shared along with success stories and case studies from other institutions. More information on this event will be published at a later date. The Retail Committee, chaired by Michelle Mings is in the process of holding a special contest during the holiday season that will hopefully boost the Christmas spirit throughout the community. Be watching YourTIMES for more information on this contest and how to enter! After hosting a very successful Legislative Luncheon in June, the Legislative Committee, chaired by Cheryl Mills, is taking a break until the next session of our legislators begins in January. At that time, they will once again begin

meeting with our local legislators on a regular basis. The Tourism Committee, Chaired by Gary Schaefer, has been extremely successful with the production of two new Sallisaw brochures and the highlight of this committee being the new tourism video that can be seen on Diamond Net Channel 19. We have asked all motel owners to make sure the TV's in the rooms are placed on that channel so visitors can see what wonderful attractions await them in Sallisaw. The Membership Committee, chaired by Dr. Bob Wells, has been very busy educating prospective members on the value of belonging to the Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce. Two events have been held for these prospects with great results. Another luncheon will be planned for early fall. After taking a break for the summer, the Education Committee chaired by Dr. Kathy Harrell, will soon resume their efforts with the Tip Top Group designed as a mentoring program for young entrepreneurs in our local high schools. The mentors have been assigned to the students and now the process will begin shortly. The Sallisaw Young Professionals, chaired by Amanda Trudeau, has planned their next event for Thursday, Oct. 6th at the

Cherokee Casino, Sallisaw. We are beginning to see a great number of young people taking part in the leadership of Sallisaw. If you feel led to be a member of this committee or any of these other committees please feel free to contact Judy at the Chamber. All input and support is welcomed and encouraged.

September Meeting Brings Vital Health Information

The Chamber of Commerce is excited to welcome Dr. Margaret Tremwel, MD; PhD as our September Luncheon Keynote Speaker. Dr. Tremwel is a Vascular Neurologist located in Fort Smith. She received her medical degree from the University Of Florida College Of Medicine in 1997. She is licensed in both Arkansas and Oklahoma. She is certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology and is currently on the medical staff of Sequoyah Memorial Hospital as a consulting Neurologist. She is also the Medical Director for Sparks Stroke Early Intervention and Treatment Program. Dr. Tremwel will be bringing to us vital information regarding stroke prevention and the importance of early intervention treatment for strokes. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 28th, 12:00 noon at the ICTC Campus in the Seminar Center. Lunch will be provided for \$8, each. We invite the general public to come and hear Dr. Tremwel's presentation as strokes are one of the major causes of death and disability in this area of the country. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend.

Executive Board – 2011

President – Dr. Bob Wells, Wells Family Dentistry
President Elect – Dr. Curtis Shumaker, ICTC
Treasurer – Gary Schaefer, BHC Insurance
Past President – Dale Wood, Woody's Diner

Board Members – 2011

Jimsie Looper - Valley Land Title Co.
Eric Riggs – ARVEST Bank
Holly Martens – Sequoyah Memorial Hospital
Mike Neer – National Bank of Sallisaw
Cheryl Mills – 7 Oaks Ranch
Dr. Kathy Harrell – Carl Albert State College – Sallisaw Campus
Michelle Mings – First National Bank
Dr. Amanda Trudeau – Total Eye Care
Terry Nation – Armstrong Bank
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

Character Trait for September

THOROUGHNESS

Addressing each detail that influences the quality of my work

*Our thanks to
Aviagen for sponsoring the
banners this month!*

Community News

Chamber to Sponsor Holiday Events

Soon it will be time for all the great holiday events that our community looks forward to in November and December. It is the hope of the Chamber of Commerce that we can once again bring these events to you for your enjoyment. First, we will begin with the **Annual Veteran's Day Ceremony** which will be held on Friday, November 11th and 11:00 a.m. on the Stanley Tubbs Memorial Library Lawn. The Chamber hosts this event in coordination with the American Legion Post #27 and the VFW Post #4518. This is always a very meaningful event for everyone who attends. We encourage you to mark your calendar and take part in this ceremony. Next, the local merchants will be holding their Annual Merchant's Christmas Open House which will be held on Sunday, November 13th from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. This is a great time for you early Christmas shoppers to find great bargains and new ideas for your holiday needs. Many of the specialty shops will be open that day with great discounts and plenty of goodies to share with you. Most of them will also be doing drawings for in store free items. Then, we move on to one of the most special events for kids of all ages; the Annual Christmas Lighting which will be held on Thursday, November 17th, 6:00 p.m. on the Library Lawn. As always, music, hot chocolate and cookies will be enjoyed by everyone in attendance and of course, Santa will make his first visit to Sallisaw that night to get a head start on those long Christmas lists from our kids! During the month of November and the first part of December, we will once again sponsor the ever growing **Shop Sallisaw!!** Where shoppers will have the opportunity to win cash prizes ranging from \$100 to

\$1500! This event has been proven to boost the sales tax revenue for Sallisaw during the holiday season. As we all know, sales tax money is what helps the City of Sallisaw provide much needed services to all of our residents. The prize money comes strictly from the generosity of the local Chamber members who believe in the positive progress of our community. Be watching for more information on where you can get your special colored tickets that will enable you to possibly win cash at the holidays! Then, we round out the holiday season with our Annual Christmas Parade which will be held on Saturday, December 10th at 6:00 p.m. This year's theme is "**Christmas in my Home Town**". Entry forms for the parade will be available at the Chamber Office in mid-November. All those wanting to enter the parade must complete a form! Cash prizes will once again be given away to the top winning floats. As we mentioned in an earlier article, the Retail Committee of the Chamber will be sponsoring a new event designed to get people out during the holidays and looking at great Christmas decorations. A store front/window decoration contest will be held for all businesses throughout the community who wish to enter. You do not have to be a member of the Chamber and this contest is not confined to just the downtown area. Huge trophies will be given to first and second place in three categories: East End (starting at Marvin's and ending at Ed's Truck Stop), Central District (Marvin's going west to Race Track entrance) West End (Kerr Blvd. south to Sallisaw Ford). Three sets of judges will be assigned to each district. Again, a form must be completed in the Chamber Office before your decorations will be judged. We encourage ALL businesses to take part in this fun event that should prove to be a holiday spirit booster for the community residents as well as the business community. Call the Chamber for more information on rules and how to enter.

HERE WE GROW AGAIN! NEW MEMBERS FOR: June, July & August 2011

Sallisaw Chiropractic Clinic
Triple Crown Realty
Lakeside RV Park - O.E.S.C.
Osburn Land Surveyors
AAA Business Systems
Sequoyah County HBA
Travis Southerland, CPA

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

RENEWING MEMBERSHIPS

Greenleaf Properties
Cox Exterminators
Aaron's Sales & Leasing
A Clean Potty – Total Eye Care
Applegate Cove Marina
Courtesy Realty – Hillcrest Auto
Sequoyah Memorial Hospital
Sallisaw Ford – Russell Cellular
AlternaCare – State Farm Ins.
Hog Creek Auto Sales & Salvage
Redbird Smith Health Clinic
ICTC – The Family Clinic
Sequoyah's Cabin
Steven O'Neal, CPA, PC
Sallisaw Public Schools
BoNita's Bibles, Books & Music
Casey's Service Motor Sports
Delia Medical Clinic
Downey Publishing
Law Office of Fourth Scoufos
People, Inc.

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

September – October

- September 14 Chamber Board Meeting – 12:00 noon – Chamber Conference Room
- September 21 SIC Board Meeting – 12:00 noon – Chamber Conference Room
- September 17 Bassnanza Fishing Tournament – Weigh-In starts at 3:45 p.m. Applegate Cove Marina
- October 5 Character Council hosts Character Implementation Meeting – location TBA 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- October 6 Casino Night for Sallisaw Young Professionals @ Cherokee Casino, Sallisaw
- October 12 Chamber Board Meeting – 12:00 noon – Chamber Conference Room
- October 19 SIC Board Meeting – 12:00 noon – Chamber Conference Room
- October 26 Chamber Membership Luncheon – 12:00 noon – Location and speaker TBA

EVVIVA!!
(Cheers!)

Mark your calendar now for Saturday, November 19th as the Sallisaw Chamber Board of Directors bring to you a night of great fun, food, drink and entertainment! This event will be held in the Sequoyah Building. Therefore, space will be limited. More details to come through special invitations! You won't want to miss this event!

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED