



Sallisaw welcomes **Mike Mass**, Former Chairman of the Full Appropriations Committee of the State House of Representatives as our Banquet Speaker

**JANUARY/FEBRUARY  
2017 ISSUE  
Sallisaw Chamber of  
Commerce  
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# SALLISAW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

*Racing Toward the Future, while cherishing the Past.*

## Chamber Ends Year on Positive Note

The Chamber of Commerce started November with the Annual Veteran's Day Ceremony and then the popular Evviva! fundraiser. Both, in their own rights, were extremely successful. Veteran's Day is always a day of great emotion and gratefulness for all of us as we remember and honor those who die for our freedoms. Our sincere thanks go out to **Frank Sullivan, III** for being our Master of Ceremonies once again and to **Former State Representative Bud Smithson**, our keynote speaker for the ceremony. In its sixth year of success Evviva!, once again proved to be an evening of great food, entertainment, social time and wonderful auction items to purchase. The net proceeds from Evviva! this year will be used for the purpose of "quality of life" here in Sallisaw and Sequoyah County. In the area of quality of life events, the Annual Downtown Christmas Lighting was a great success this year and Santa brought joy to all the children as he sat and heard their Christmas wish lists. We had a record **180 kids** share their Christmas wishes with Santa. Our thanks goes out to the City of Sallisaw Electric, Streets and Parks Departments for making sure all the lights were working and putting everyone in the holiday spirit. As we moved into December, the Shop Sallisaw Cash Giveaway which is held on the Library Lawn brought possibly the largest crowd, yet. With the addition of several new retailers who participated, we feel this year's event was maybe the best, thus far. The winning tickets came from a

wide variety of merchants with the grand prize ticket of \$1,500 coming from Wal-Mart. Our thanks to the 56 Chamber members who made this annual event possible! That same evening, December 12<sup>th</sup>, we had perhaps the largest Christmas Parade in many years. We had over 50 entries with almost half of those being floats. As always, cash prizes were given in three places for three categories. The Chamber would like to thank **Cherokee Casino, Sallisaw** for sponsoring the parade once again this year... Total prize money of \$1,000 was given to float winners. The Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce takes great pride in being able to bring great quality of life events to all of our residents, regardless of age! Events such as these are what make small communities great.

## Chamber Banquet Planning Begins!

**"Perseverance"** - That's the theme of the 2016 Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Banquet which will be held Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, in the Sallisaw Middle School. As in the past, the Social Time will start at 6:00 p.m. with the Banquet starting at 6:30 p.m. We are pleased to welcome **Mr. Mike Mass, Former Chairman of the Full Appropriations Committee of the State House of Representative** as our keynote speaker. Mike is now the author of **"Beneath the Vines"** which tells the story of his rise and fall within the State Legislature and also of his time in prison for accepting a bribe. Many who have read this book say it is an eye opening experience to read of the inside workings of our state government. You won't want to miss Mike's presentation!

## **December Membership Meeting Featured Select Vocalists**

The December Chamber Membership Luncheon was held on Wednesday, December 14th at the First United Methodist Church. The members were treated to a wonderful lunch catered by Cazadore's Mexican Restaurant. This year's meeting was very lighthearted and fun for all as we were entertained by a select group of vocal music students from Liberty Elementary. Their instructor, Mrs. Melanie Drummond has done an amazing job with these students. If those kids didn't get the crowd into the Christmas spirit, nothing could! Our sincere thanks goes to: **The Flower Cottage, The Green House, and Violet's Flowers & Gift** for preparing lovely table arrangements for us. We would also like to thank The Methodist Church for their continued hospitality in allowing us to meet in their facility. The Store Front Decorating Contest winners were also announced. This year we

had 18 entries! The first place winners were; Large Market-Sallisaw Police Dept., Small Market-Greenleaf Properties. We greatly appreciate all who took the time to decorate and enter the contest. It appears the competitive nature of people is starting to come out! Hopefully, next year we will have even more participation in this event! We would love to be able to advertise this event to people throughout our region and have them come to Sallisaw just to see what we do to celebrate the Christmas season!

## **January Features Cherokee Nation Dignitary**

We are pleased to have Mr. Chuck Hoskin, Jr., Secretary of State for the Cherokee Nation as our speakers for the January Chamber Luncheon. Mr. Hoskins will be speaking to us from the Cherokee Casino, Sallisaw on Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, and 12:00 noon. Lunch will be provided courtesy of the Cherokee Casino, Sallisaw. The hospitality of the Casino is always greatly appreciated. We hope you will attend.

## **Chamber Member of the Year to be Chosen**

Very shortly you will be receiving a ballot so that you can cast your vote for the 2016 Chamber Member of the Year. The winner will be announced at the Annual Awards Banquet. Until that time, the winner will remain undisclosed. Below is a recap of those chosen as candidates for this prestigious award: **Blue Ribbon Auto Group, Scoufos Law Office, BHC Insurance of Oklahoma, The Green House, Sallisaw Public Schools, Sallisaw Lumber Co., Carl Albert State College, Wal-Mart, and State Farm Insurance.** 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 and our community very successful!

## **Executive Board – 2017**

**President** – Mrs. Cheryl Mills, Seven Oaks Ranch  
**President Elect** – Mr. Jeff Mayo, Sequoyah County Times  
**Treasurer** – Mr. Gary Schaefer, BHC of Oklahoma Insurance  
**Past President** – Mr. Shannon Vann, State Farm Insurance

## **Board Members – 2017**

**Mrs. Terri Daniels** – Armstrong Bank  
**Mrs. Glenda Callahan** – National Bank of Sallisaw  
**Mr. David Martin** – Sequoyah Memorial Hospital  
**Mrs. Holly Bormann** – KXXM 105.1 The Mix  
**Mrs. Nan Stites** – Tom Stites and Associates  
**Mrs. Rhonda Nicholson** – Perfectly Posh Designs & A-OK Printing  
**Mr. Mike Meece** – Clif's Pharmacy  
**Mr. Bryan Warner** – Carl Albert State College  
**Mr. Clayton Lucas** – Ex-Officio Member-City Manager  
**Mrs. Julie Ferguson** – Ex-Officio Member-Mayor  
**Mr. Scott Farmer** – Ex-Officio Member-Superintendent of Schools  
**Mr. Buddy Spencer** – Ex-Officio Member-SIC Pres. - Blue Ribbon Auto  
**Mrs. Judy Martens** – Executive Director  
Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce

## **Chamber Welcomes New Board Members**

The Chamber of Commerce would like to welcome the four new board members who were elected by you, the Chamber members. They are: **Jeff Mayo, Sequoyah County Times; Holly Bormann, KXXM; Terri Daniels, Armstrong Bank; David Martin, Sequoyah Memorial Hospital.** The existing eight Board Members look forward to working with each of these new members as we begin 2017. A Board Retreat for training and educating the new Board Members will be held in conjunction with the February Chamber Board Meeting on Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. Understanding the role of the Board and planning the 2017 Program of Work is the main goal of the Retreat.

## **Community News**

### **Diamond Daze Planning Begins!**

Plans are already in the works for a great Diamond Daze Festival for 2017! The festival will once again be held on the Sallisaw High School complex. As always, we are most grateful to the school board and Mr. Farmer for always being so generous and accommodating to us. This event will give us a chance to show off our Sallisaw Middle School to all who attend the festival. At this time, no entertainers have been booked for Diamond Daze, but after the great success of the choices for 2016, the committee is working hard to repeat that success. Bringing **Brothers Osborne**, voted **Vocal Duo of the Year** at the CMA's to the people of this area was perhaps the best advertising we could ask for! The festival will run this year on Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. The High Steaks Rollin' contest will once again be on the agenda for Saturday. The event will once again be sanctioned through the Steak Cookers Association which brings cooks from a three state area. The Chamber is already 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, for kids of all ages to enjoy. The success of the Battle of the Bands on Thursday will ensure us to hold that event once 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.

### **Chamber Growth and Business Retention Focus for 2017**

The Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce takes pride in having over 240 active members. However, there is always room for improvement in some areas. This year one of the main focuses of the Chamber will be to foster new growth for the Chamber by adding an **Ambassador's Club** to the 2017 Program of Work. In the past, the Chamber has done quite well in welcoming new members and new businesses to the area by holding Ribbon Cuttings and Grand Openings for these businesses. Many current Chamber Members attend these events, but to avoid complacency to occur, we need to make sure that every event of this sort is well attended and the new member feels very welcome to not only the Chamber, but the entire community of Sallisaw. If you, as a member of the Chamber, would like to participate in the new Ambassador's Club, please email Judy at:

[director@sallisawchamber.com](mailto:director@sallisawchamber.com)

your name will be passed on to the new Chairperson of the Club. The qualifications will be quite simple; dedicate a small amount of time to attend each Ribbon Cutting and/or Grand Opening planned by the Chamber of Commerce, when at all possible. This group may also choose to meet for lunch after some of the events to discuss possible new retailers to the community or visit current employers to make sure their needs are being met by the Chamber and also by the City of Sallisaw. Retention of current businesses to a community is the foundation of growth. These businesses are your best advertising to prospective new business and industry. Let's be proactive in this area. Sign up if you can donate your time.

*HERE WE GROW AGAIN!  
NEW MEMBERS FOR:*

*Oct., Nov., Dec., 2016*

Hometown Insurance  
Casey's General Store  
Oklahoma Farm Bureau, Angie  
Brinlee, Agent  
360 Communications  
Village West Apartments

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

### **RENEWING MEMBERSHIPS**

Sequoyah County District Attorney  
Eastern Workforce Board  
A-Ok Printing & Perfectly Posh  
Aesthetic Dental Institute  
GRDA – The Journey Church  
Sallisaw Pastor's Fellowship  
Viewpoint Counseling Center  
Prairie Sky Investments  
SCA Title, Co. – ARVEST Bank  
Charlie's Chicken  
Sonic Drive In  
Maple Street Storage  
AMPCO Electric  
Western Sizzlin – Rick Agent  
Roma's Italian Restaurant  
Cherokee Nation Commerce  
Cookson Hills Electric Coop  
Merrill Bonding & Check Cashing - Tom Stites & Assoc.  
Sallisaw Main Street  
Ro Poindexter - Aviagen  
First Financial Center  
Barry Spyres, CPA  
Health and Wellness Center  
Garden Walk Apartments  
Century 21, Clinkenbeard Agency  
Wight's Office Machines  
Matt & Kelsey Orendorff  
Premier Primary Care  
Oakridge Assembly of God  
Paul Johanning Attorney  
Forever Memories Funeral Services  
Cazadores Mexican Restaurant

*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.*

# Upcoming Events

January – February 2017

**The Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce is proud of their Mission:**

*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.*

**We feel that we have, and will continue to follow this mission as it meets the needs of our community.**

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|--------------------------|---|
| <b>January 18</b>        | <b>SIC Board Meeting – Chamber Conference Room, 12:00 noon</b>  |
| <b>January 25</b>        | <b>Monthly Chamber of Commerce Membership Luncheon – Cherokee Casino, Sallisaw, 12:00 noon. Keynote Speaker - Mr. Chuck Hoskin, Jr., Cherokee Nation Secretary of State</b> |
| <b>February 8</b>        | <b>Chamber Board Meeting – 12:00 noon, Chamber Conference Room</b>  |
| <b>February 18</b>       | <b>Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Banquet – Sallisaw Middle School – Social Time – 6:00 p.m., Banquet starts promptly at 6:30 p.m.</b>                                   |
| <b>February 23-24-25</b> | <b>Sequoyah County Jr. Livestock Show and Sale</b>  |

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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