

# SALLISAW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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



The Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce proudly celebrates their 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the Annual Banquet on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

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### Chamber Ends Busy but Successful Year

The Chamber of Commerce started November with the Annual Bassanza Fishing Tournament and the very next weekend, headed into the Veteran's Day Ceremony, after that, the popular Evviva! fundraiser. All three, in their own rights, were extremely successful. Bassanza has become a favorite of fishermen for many years and especially now that we have moved the weigh in to the **Cherokee Casino, Sallisaw**. The level of hospitality shown to the crowd makes a hard day of fishing a real treat. Veteran's Day is always a day of great emotion and gratefulness for all of us as we remember and honor those who died for our freedoms. Our sincere thanks go out to **Frank Sullivan, III** for being our Master of Ceremonies once again and to **Gunnery Sergeant, Daren Fowler**, our keynote speaker for the ceremony. In its seventh year of success Evviva!, reached a whole new level of popularity this year by moving it to the **Cherokee Casino & Hotel, Roland**. We had a record crowd of over 200 in attendance and our income from the auction certainly showed success! The net proceeds from Evviva! this year will be used for the purpose of "quality of life" here in Sallisaw and Sequoyah County. Our sincere thanks to the staff of the **Casino/Hotel** for taking care of our every need in a professional and friendly manner. 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. 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 an added treat, the Chamber made sure every child had a goody bag filled with apples, oranges and candy to take home. This was made possible by donations from **Wal Mart and Shoppers Value Foods**. As we moved into December, the Shop Sallisaw Cash Giveaway which is held on the Library Lawn brought the usual huge crowd. We appreciate the new Chamber Members who chose to participate this year, many of which are not retailers but see the need to help increase our sales tax revenue while encouraging our residents to **shop local!** The winning tickets came from a wide variety of merchants with the grand prize ticket of \$1,000 coming from Shoppers Value Foods. Our thanks to the 52 Chamber members who made this annual event possible! That same evening, December 9<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 Nation Tribal Council, 360 Communications, Sequoyah County Times, Merrill Bonding, and George and Holly Bormann** for sponsoring the parade this year. Total prize money of \$900 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.

## December Membership Meeting Featured Select Vocalists

The December Chamber Membership Luncheon was held on Wednesday, December 13th 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 Green House, Violet's Flowers & Gift, and Stem & Leaf** from Vian 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. The first place winners were; East

Division: -**Sallisaw Tag Agency**  
Central Division-**Old SHS Assoc.** and  
West Division- **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 Northeastern Health System-Sequoyah

We are pleased to have Mrs. Julie Ward, CEO of our hospital as our keynote speaker for the January Membership Luncheon which will be held on Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 noon in the People, Inc. Conference Center. As always, lunch will be provided for a cost of \$10 per person. Please make plans to join us and hear from Mrs. Ward on the progress of our hospital.

## 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 2017 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: **Cherokee Casino, Sallisaw, Sequoyah County Times, A-Ok Printing & Perfectly Posh Boutique, Aromas Coffee Shop, McDonald's, Charlie's Chicken, National Bank of Sallisaw, Health & Wellness Center, Anchor Finance.** 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!

## 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: **Dr. Chris Orendorff, Premier Primary Care, Dr. Aubrey Henshaw, Aesthetic Dental Institute, Mr. David Hadley, McDonald's, and Mr. Marley Abell, First Financial Center.** The existing eight Board Members look forward to working with each of these new members as we begin 2018. 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 14<sup>th</sup>. Understanding the role of the Board and planning the 2018 Program of Work is the main goal of the Retreat.

### **Executive Board – 2018**

**President** – Mr. Jeff Mayo, Sequoyah County Times  
**President Elect** – Mr. Marley Abell, First Financial Center  
**Treasurer** – Mr. Gary Schaefer, BHC of Oklahoma Insurance  
**Past President** – Mrs. Cheryl Mills, Seven Oaks Ranch

### **Board Members – 2018**

**Mrs. Terri Daniels** – Armstrong Bank  
**Mr. David Hadley**-McDonald's  
**Mr. David Martin** – Health & Wellness Center  
**Mrs. Holly Bormann** – Belmont Management Co.  
**Mrs. Nan Stites** – Tom Stites and Associates  
**Mrs. Rhonda Nicholson** – Perfectly Posh Designs & A-OK Printing  
**Mr. Mike Meece** – Clif's Pharmacy  
**Dr. Chris Orendorff** – Premier Primary Care  
**Dr. Aubrey Henshaw** – Aesthetic Dental Institute  
**Mr. Keith Skelton** – **Ex-Officio Member**-City Manager  
**Mr. Jim Hudgens** – **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

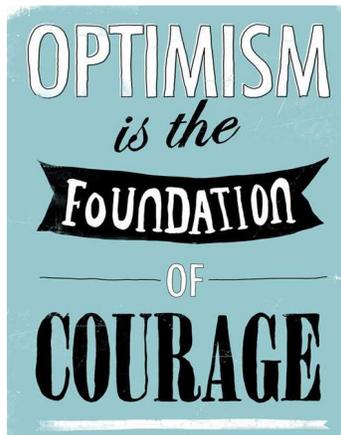
## **Community News**

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

Plans are already in the works for a great Diamond Daze Festival for 2018! 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 gives us a chance to show off our Sallisaw Middle School to all who attend the festival. We have changed the dates of Diamond Daze to the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of June to avoid the conflict of the Old Fort Days Rodeo and several dance recitals in our area. The dates for this year's event are June 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup>. At this time, no entertainers have been booked for Diamond Daze, but the search has already begun with several possibilities on the table for Friday, June 8<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. This will be the 13<sup>th</sup> year of the festival which carries a great deal of weight with the possible headliners as their booking agents look carefully at the stability of venues before signing on the dotted line. The High Steaks Rollin' Contest will once again be held with the only change being that it will not be sanctioned through the Steak Cookers Association. We will host a local cook off, but accept entries from any team who wants to enter, including those who have been here before through the SCA. 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, and your willingness to sponsor it.

### **Banquet will Feature Local Manufacturers**

This year at the Annual Awards Banquet along with presenting awards and recognizing our members, we hope to feature our local manufacturers, both large and small. Those who create a product or service that is sold across the country and perhaps the world. There is no more important economic driver in America today than a business, large or small, that creates a product that is sent out of our area, because with every sale, new dollars come back in our community to be spent here by either the company, it's employees, or vendors used by that company. Therefore, we feel it is important to highlight all those manufacturers in a setting with a large crowd of our Members. A letter is being sent to all who fall into this category, regardless of Chamber Membership. The Chamber Banquet will be held on Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, in the Sallisaw Middle School Commons Area, with the Social Time beginning at 6:00 p.m. and the Banquet beginning promptly at 6:30 p.m. This will be the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce. We will be celebrating our success with pride and great **optimism for the future.**



*HERE WE GROW AGAIN!  
NEW MEMBERS FOR:*

*Sept., Oct., & Nov.*

*Cowboy Cottage  
Oasis Coffee House  
O'Neal Real Estate  
Bootleggers Discount Liquor  
Morning Sky Boutique  
Joel Utley, Attorney  
Rose Rock Estates*

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

### **RENEWING MEMBERSHIPS**

**GRDA – Pastor's Fellowship  
Eastern Workforce Board  
A-Ok Printing & Perfectly Posh  
Aesthetic Dental Institute  
The Journey Church  
Forever Memories Funeral Serv.  
Viewpoint Counseling Center  
Prairie Sky Investments  
SCA Title, Co. – ARVEST Bank  
Charlie's Chicken  
Sonic Drive In  
Rick Agent – Barry Spyres, CPA  
Casey's General Store  
Maple Street Storage  
Stanley Tubbs Library  
Village West Apartments  
Tom Stites and Associates  
Cherokee Nation Commerce  
Cookson Hills Electric Coop  
Merrill Bonding  
360 Communications  
Sallisaw Main Street  
Ro Poindexter - Wal-Mart  
First Financial Center  
Health and Wellness Center  
Garden Walk Apartments  
Century 21, Clinkenbeard Agency  
Wight's Office Machines  
Matt & Kelsey Orendorff  
Premier Primary Care  
AMPCO Electric  
Oakridge Assembly of God  
Paul Johanning Attorney  
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 2018

**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 17</b>        | <b>Local Vo-Ag Teachers meet in Chamber Conference Room – 2:30</b>  |
| <b>January 24</b>        | <b>Monthly Chamber of Commerce Membership Luncheon – Northeastern Health System-Sequoyah, CEO, Mrs. Julie Ward, keynote speaker. People, Inc. Conference Center, 12:00 noon</b> |
| <b>February 14</b>       | <b>Chamber Board Meeting – 12:00 noon, Chamber Conference Room</b>  |
| <b>February 17</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 21-22-23</b> | <b>Sequoyah County Jr. Livestock Show Sale, and BBQ dinner</b>  |

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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