

GAS CITY & JONESBORO CHAMBER NOTES

The Official Voice of the Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce

November 2006

President's Letter

In case you have not noticed, the seasons are changing. The days are getting shorter, the pumpkins are coming off the vine and the leaves are falling. This is also the time of year to decide if you desire political change or not. The right to vote is arguably your most powerful right under the constitution and I encourage you to exercise that right. Regardless of your preference, participation is the key. Your involvement either by voting or being a voice in your community, church or this chamber is the best way to see your thought and direction achieved. Be a part of the process, whatever process you decide and at whatever level. You will be surprised at what you learn and the great folks you are going to meet.

Mark Sullivan

New Members

- ◆ Eastern Woodland Carver's Club
- ◆ Ewer & Moritz
Welcome Back...
- ◆ The New Look

Important Dates

- 11/2/06 Board Officers Meet (7:30 a.m.)
- 11/9/06 Board of Directors Meeting (7:30 a.m.)
- 11/9/06 Library Open House (5:00-7:00 p.m.)
- 11/15/06 Director's Luncheon
- 11/21/06 Business Mentoring Group (8 a.m.)
- 11/22/06 Newsletter Article Submission Deadline

November 4 – Be one of the first 100 to attend the **Grand Opening at the Primitive Inn** and receive a handmade gift. Leilani Gouchenouer, Owner, is hosting her Grand Opening & Christmas Open House on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Primitive Inn has primitives, home décor and much, much more. Start your Christmas shopping early with Leilani.

November 8 – Be sure to attend the **Health Fair at York House**, 725 W. 50th Street. I'll be there getting my flu shot. Flu shots will be available that day from 2-5 p.m. for \$20 (or bring your Medicare card). There will also be door prizes, hearing tests, cholesterol screenings, PSA tests and blood pressure screenings. Refreshments will be served.

Director's Luncheon

Eastview Wesleyan Church welcomed the Chamber members back at the October luncheon with a fine meal of chicken and noodles, Chinese cole slaw, green beans, rolls/butter, dessert & drink. **The Ride and Leather Shop** provided several nice door prizes (T-shirts and a sweatshirt from the first annual Across the River Bike Show).

Mark Sullivan, President, invited the attendees to become involved in the Indiana Business Journal's "Best Place to Work" program. He thanked the Gas City/Jonesboro Map advertisers; the new addition of the map will be available in the near future. He invited everyone to attend the Grand Opening of **The Primitive Inn** on November 4th where the first 100 in attendance will receive a handmade gift. He advised the attendees of the Harris versus Hile debate that will be held this evening.

Two recent new members received their membership plaques: **Minnetrista** (Regional Cultural Center) and the **Community School of the Arts**. Several people attended the luncheon for the first time. If you are reading this article and have not attended a luncheon, please pencil it in on the third Wednesday of the month. You miss a lot and we miss out on getting to know you better.

Julie Niles of **Dulin, Ward & DeWald** brought everyone up to date on the services they provide for businesses and individuals. Candace Eck, of their Marion Office, distributed record retention guidelines and updated everyone on some new laws with regard to rolling IRA dollars over into a favorite charity to save state taxes and other tax tips.

Jack Brady addressed **Project Leadership**, its objectives and belief in transforming Grant County through your time, talent and treasure. Dawn Brown chimed into this theme by asking attendees to support Family Volunteer Day on Saturday, November 11, 2006. This is a special day for Grant County families to give back to their communities.

Member Update

M. Kelly Ailstock visited the Director's Luncheon, met a few members, and signed up Renbarger Insurance as a member. **Renbarger Insurance** deals with insurance/investments/financial services. Kelly says they write auto, home, business, life and health insurance policies and she is anxious to meet you. Kelly is originally from Louisville, Kentucky. Kelly enjoys meeting new people every day and when asked where she likes to vacation, she said the beach where she gets lots of rest and relaxation. Her hobbies are gardening, crafts and horseback riding. She is eager to become involved as a new member and is the newest member of the Diplomats and Annual Meeting Committee. If you see Kelly at the next luncheon, shake her hand and welcome her to the Chamber.

Business Owners: Use Caution

BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU REPORTS - International Profit Associates (IPA) solicits businesses nationwide for the purpose of providing consulting services primarily to small and medium size business. IPA offers an evaluation of the businesses and its financial activities. After the initial

evaluation IPA may recommend additional needed services. A contractual agreement is drawn up regarding certain specific services at an agreed upon price. These services include additional charges for each consultant required to complete the tasks along with their travel and lodging expenses.

Based on BBB files, this company has an unsatisfactory record. The Bureau has processed a total of 440 complaints in the last 36 months. One hundred forty-nine complaints have been closed in the last year. For a more detailed report about IPA, go to www.bbb.org. This type of complaints and other DBA information is included in the report.

You Be the Judge

A Truck Driver Speaks Out! Today the Chamber had a call from an over-the-road truck driver who wanted to express his opinion about a local restaurant. He said that he was totally disgusted with restaurants that allow their waitresses and cashiers to come to work with facial piercing and visible tattoos. He said he has walked out of many eating establishments due to that fact. In his opinion he said it is not appropriate business attire and asked that I convey this message: Businesses, consider your consumers – are you sure your employees present the image you want of your business? He said, “People are not speaking up and they need to – if it offends you, you should let the proprietor know”.

Editor’s Note: The business discussed is neither locally owned or a chamber member.

Historical Society Request

The Gas City Area Historical Society is seeking funding to upgrade the restroom facilities in the gymnasium (built 1924) of the Gas City School complex and bring them up to code. This facility will be used for various functions such as civic theatre, town meetings, concerts and educational events. Any business/individual that would like to write a letter of support should address it to the Community Foundation of Grant County, 505 W. Third Street, Marion, IN 46952. If you have questions, please call Jerry Long at 765.674.1428.

Speak Up!

Luncheon speakers are now being recruited for 2007. Chamber members are given the opportunity to schedule a presentation at the monthly luncheon. The cost is \$25 which includes the cost of one meal. This offers the chance to address a captive audience for 15 minutes. The luncheon is held the third Wednesday of each month, with the exception of April, at Eastview Wesleyan Church, 414 N. 10th Street, Gas City at 12 Noon and there are approximately 90 in attendance.

Businesses may provide handouts and a door prize (optional). Take advantage of this opportunity by calling the Chamber Office today (765.674.7545). Space fills fast so speak now to schedule the month of your preference.