



Claiborne County Chamber of Commerce

Issue 127

April Meeting
Tazewell, TN

April 9, 2007

CALL TO ORDER

The Claiborne County Chamber of Commerce met on Monday, April 9, 2007 at First Century Bank's Operations Center in Tazewell. President Betsy Maples called the meeting to order and Seth Butner led invocation.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

President Betsy Maples welcomed everyone and introduced Leadership class member Amanda Mayes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After reviewing the minutes from the February meeting, Ms. Maples asked for a motion of approval. Glenn Bowling made a motion to approve the February minutes. Juanita Honeycutt seconded the motion. The motion was voted and passed.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT

After reviewing the February and March financial reports, Ms. Maples asked for a motion of approval. Glenn Bowling made a motion to approve the February and March financial reports. Seth Butner seconded the motion. The motion was voted and passed.

TOURISM REPORT

Tom Mackie reported that the Tourism Commission had several projects that they will be working on this year. The projects include; upgrading tourism marketing and tracking, redesigning the county brochure, and developing an annual festival. Mr. Mackie stated that the committee is looking at different areas of advertising that would be more beneficial to the county, cost effective, and provide better tracking. Mr. Mackie stated that the Tourism Committee met with East Tennessee Tourism Regional Manger Dave Jones to discuss an annual festival and request help in finding an advisor to help begin the planning of the festival.

LEADERSHIP CLAIBORNE REPORT

Betsy Maples reported that Leadership Claiborne will be attending Agricultural Day on April 19th. Amber Mayes stated that this year's Leadership class project was developing a safety committee. Ms. Mayes said that the class had sent out surveys to get input on the type of safety concerns that were in the county. Ms. Mayes said that the surveys have been collected and are now listing the major concerns of the area residents. Lindsey Cole is currently developing the by laws for the safety committee.

ANNUAL AUDIT

Betsy Maples said that she had received a proposal of \$1,500 from Barnett and Williams CPA firm to conduct the Chamber Audit. Ms. Maples said that she and Past President Seth Butner had contacted several firms about doing an audit for the Chamber and that all of the quotes from the other firms exceeded the proposal of \$1,500. After a discussion about all quotes, Seth Butner made a motion to accept the firm of Barnett and Williams to conduct the Chamber audit. Juanita Honeycutt seconded the motion. The motion was voted and passed. Ms. Maples noted that Gary Barnett suggested that the audit begin from the previous physical year.

HEALTH COUNCIL SURVEY

Betsy Maples announced that the Claiborne County Health Council was currently conducting a survey throughout the county to determine the county's needs and priorities are. Ms. Maples provided each Board member with a survey and asked that each Board member complete a survey at their convenience. Ms. Maples noted that the surveys could be turned into her, Brenda McPherson, or Betty Davis.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Three-Star Priority Grant: The Chamber has applied for a \$2,500 Three-Star Priority Grant. If approved, the funding will be used for the Community Connections program and obtaining 501 (C) (3) non-profit status for the Annual Festival. The grant is a 50/50 matching grant.

Three-Star Workshop: The Three-Star Strategic Planning Workshop will be held on Tuesday, April 10 at 10:00. The workshop will be held at the Claiborne County Courthouse in the small court room. The workshop will include reviewing and updating the county's strategic plan priorities. Regional Three-Star representative Shan Harris will facilitate the workshop.

Retiree Committee: A Retiree Committee has been formed to focus on recruiting retirees to the area. The committee will begin with identifying what the county has to offer to retirees and develop a plan how to market the information. Ramay Winchester will be meeting with the Committee on May 1st to help to advise the committee on a community assessment and marketing strategy. The Retiree Committee is a component of the Three-Star program. Betsy Maples stated that if anyone interested in serving on the Retiree Committee can contact Dennis Shipley.

Workforce Employers Outreach Committee: The WEOC provides two-way communication between the Department of Labor and Workforce Development and the employer community. The WEOC held a workshop on March 21st at the Gathering Place in New Tazewell. The topic of discussion was workers' compensation. Representatives from Wimberly, Lawson, Seale, Wright, and Daves, attorneys and counselors at law facilitated the meeting. The WECO workshops are held quarterly and are very beneficial in providing the local employers with information on updated labor laws and policies.

Annual Banquet: Dennis Shipley thanked everyone for their help in making the Chamber Annual Banquet such an enjoyable event. The tables were beautifully decorated and the meal was very good. Mr. Shipley stated that this was the largest crowd in attendance at an Annual Banquet.

KEEP THE BEAT CAMPAIGN

David Heath announced that The Claiborne County Hospital Sports Medicine Program has launched a Keep the Beat Campaign, an initiative to raise awareness about Sudden Cardiac Arrest and raise money to equip Claiborne High School and Cumberland Gap High School with lifesaving automated external defibrillators (AEDs). The Claiborne County Hospital Sports Medicine Program submitted a grant application to place an AED in the Claiborne High School gymnasium. One of the requirements for the grant is to have trained CPR and AED staff at the local schools. Mr. Heath stated that he was a CPR instructor and would be training school staff within the next two months. Claiborne High School was awarded the grant. Out of 200 applications, only 10 institutions were chosen to receive the grant and Claiborne High School was the only recipient in the southeast. The Claiborne County Health Council made a donation of \$1,000 to the Keep

the Beat Campaign and Dr. Roy Ellis donated an AED to Cumberland Gap High School. Donations can be made at www.keepthebeat.org using the assigned school codes M6A000 and M6A001.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

John Stewart reminded everyone that the Chamber golf tournament scheduled for June 15th was two months away. Mr. Stewart stated that the golf brochures had been mailed to Chamber members and Woodlake Golf members. More brochures will be mailed as a follow up including a letter. Mr. Stewart said that the next priority would be to obtain goody bag items, door prizes, and auction items. Mr. Stewart said that the Board needed to work on signing up golfers and sponsors.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Betsy Maples announced that the Chamber will begin a membership drive among the Board of Directors that will begin today and will run through July 1st. A prize packet will be awarded to the Chamber Director who recruits the most memberships. All new memberships will need to be turned into the Chamber office.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY PROGRAM

Betsy Maples announced that the last Chamber litter pick-up that was conducted on March 31st fulfilled the Chamber Board of Directors' obligation to the Adopt-A-Highway program. Ms. Maples noted that the Board would need to renew the application to continue to be involved in the Adopt-A-Highway program and keep the Chamber's sign. John Stewart mentioned that litter was a major concern in the county and that he felt that the Board should do their part in helping keep the county clean. John Stewart made a motion to renew the Adopt-A-Highway program. Carol Campbell seconded the motion. The motion was voted and passed.

With no further discussion, Seth Butner made a motion to adjourn. Carol Campbell seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Board Members Present

Betsy Maples	Rose Kiser	Lindsey Cole	Juanita Honeycutt
Dennis Shipley	Carol Campbell	John Stewart	Vickie Oakes
Seth Butner	Zeka Brooks	Glenn Bowling	

Membership Present

Tom Mackie

Guests

Amber Mayes
David Heath
Amanda Heath

**The Chamber of Commerce would like to welcome
the following new members:**

Realty Group II / Joyce Halcomb

Realtor & MLS Member
6144 Cumberland Gap Parkway
Harrogate, TN 37752
Cell: 423-912-3640

Sign Center

575 Oak Avenue
P.O. Box 1007
New Tazewell, TN 37824
423-626-1575

**The May meeting of the Claiborne County Chamber of Commerce will
be held at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 14, 2007 at First Century Bank's
Operations Center in Tazewell.**

Claiborne County Chamber of Commerce Officers & Directors

OFFICERS

Betsy Maples (President)
Dennis Shipley (Executive Vice President/Director)
Steve Walker (President Elect)
Mitch Burke (Vice President)
Rose Kiser (Treasurer)

DIRECTORS

Carol Campbell
Pat Anstett
John Stewart
Derek Markley
Steven Lewis
Vickie Oakes
Lindsey Cole
Jeff Lewis
Sheri Frost
Zeka Brooks
Juanita Honeycutt
Jennifer Hernon

Kim Large
Ann Shipley
Brilla Hansard
Rob Barger
Sherri Storer
Wayne Bridges
Glen Bowling
Robin McMurray
Mitch Burke
Betty Beeler
Wesley Stone
Melanie Espinoza