



## *Claiborne County Chamber of Commerce*

Issue 127

February Meeting  
Tazewell, TN

February 12, 2007

### CALL TO ORDER

The Claiborne County Chamber of Commerce met on Monday, February 12, 2007 at Harrogate City Hall. President Betsy Maples called the meeting to order and Seth Butner led invocation.

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

President Betsy Maples welcomed everyone and introduced new Chamber member Aileen S. Craft, Phillip Mabe, and Will Ledbetter of WNTT, Inc. Ms. Craft announced that WNTT, Inc. has developed a new website that can be found online at <http://www.wntt1250am.com>. The website includes information such as school closings, road conditions, weather updates, local and national news, and play by play action of Claiborne Bulldog and Lady Bulldog sports. Website visitors can also listen to WNTT radio music online. Betsy Maples thanked Ms. Craft for providing a new membership benefit. Each new business that joins the Chamber is given five, thirty second advertisements on WNTT radio station: one ad per day for five days during morning work drive time.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After reviewing the minutes from the January meeting, Ms. Maples asked for a motion of approval. Pat Anstett made a motion to approve the January minutes. Mitch Burke seconded the motion. The motion was voted and passed.

### APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT

After reviewing the January financial report, Ms. Maples asked for a motion of approval. Juanita Honeycutt made a motion to approve the January financial report. Kim Large seconded the motion. The motion was voted and passed.

### LINCOLN MEMORIAL REPORT

Derek Markley reported on the following:

- 1) LMU will host College Goal Sunday on February 18<sup>th</sup>. The program aims to assist students and families in applying for financial assistance to attend college. LMU Director of Financial Aid Celena Rader-Lambdin will lead to two-hour moderated session that will assist prospective students in completing the FAFSA form.
- 2) The Appalachian Children's Home in Barbourville, Kentucky has established an endowed scholarship at LMU. The scholarship will be awarded to a student majoring in social work who has a 3.0 GPA. The student will be selected by the social work faculty and the University Awards Committee.
- 3) Registration is now open for the 2007 Mountain Heritage Literary Festival which will be held June 22-24 at LMU. For more information please visit the LMU website or call 869-6432. There are only eighty spaces available so call soon if you are interested in attending.
- 4) LMU has pledged support for Governor Bredesen's initiative to support registered nurses who wish to earn a graduate degree in nursing. LMU president Nancy Moody attended a press conference with the Governor at the State Capitol and announced that LMU would become the first college or university in the state to support the initiative. Dr. Moody presented a check and letter of intent for a total of \$10,000 to the Tennessee Center for Nursing for the Tennessee Graduate Nursing Loan Forgiveness Program.

- 5) The DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine has received over 1,900 applications. Student interviews continue as DCOM administrators work to identify students who will comprise the inaugural class.

#### LEADERSHIP CLAIBORNE REPORT

Pat Anstett reported that the 2006-2007 Leadership Class toured England, Inc., Volunteer Knit Apparel, DTR Tennessee on Business, Industry, and Banking Day that was held on January 18<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Anstett reported that the class had sent out surveys to the local schools and the hospital regarding a safety committee, which was their class project. Class member Lindsey Cole announced that the class had received 1,000 to 2,000 responses from the surveys sent to the schools.

#### ANNUAL AUDIT

Betsy Maples said that she had contacted local CPA firm Barnett & Williams regarding an annual audit for the Chamber. Ms. Maples said that Barnett & Williams stated that they would be sending a proposal letter to the Chamber. Seth Butner reported that he was waiting to hear back from a firm in Knoxville and one in Johnson City. All proposal letters will be brought before the board at the next meeting for a vote of approval.

#### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**Hospital Groundbreaking:** Claiborne County Hospital held a groundbreaking ceremony for the new 30,000 sq. ft., three story medical office building. The facility will house physicians, specialists, along with clinics.

**P-16 Council Meeting:** The Claiborne County P-16 Council held a meeting on January 31<sup>st</sup> at Claiborne High School. During the meeting, reports were given on the additional programs implemented into the school system and the continuing improvements in the student's academics.

**Award of Excellence:** Members of the 2005/2006 Leadership Claiborne Class traveled to Nashville on February 5<sup>th</sup> to the TDOT and Keep America Beautiful Annual Conference. Commissioner Gerald Nicely presented the class with an Award of Excellence along with a check for \$1,000 for their Adopt-A-Highway project.

**New Membership:** Three new members have joined the Chamber. Those members are WNTT, Inc, Tri-State Connection, and Do Drop In.

**Annual Banquet:** The Chamber Annual Banquet will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at Lincoln Memorial University dining hall. Tickets are being sold in advance only for \$20 each and are available at the Chamber office. WBIR-TV Channel 10 "Live at Five" Co-Anchor Russell Biven will be the guest speaker. LMU Jazz Ensemble will provide the musical entertainment.

#### GRAHAM KIVETT HOUSE

Betsy Maples reported that it was brought to the Boards attention at the January meeting that a decision was soon going to be made about the Graham Kivett/John Kivett house. A suggestion was made at the meeting that the Chamber could lease or buy the house to use as a Chamber office and in turn would be securing the house and preserving a part of the county's history. Along with the Chamber of Commerce, the Historical Society was also interested in the house. Ms. Maples, Dennis Shipley, Zeka Brooks and two representatives from the Historical Society met with Danny Stone, attorney of the estate, and Chancery Court Judge White to discuss their interest in the house. Judge White stated that the house would not be sold at this point. Ownership of the house would be left in the Kivett

trust with a possible lease to the Chamber, the Historical Society, or both depending on what each organization approved to do. Mr. Stone suggested that the ownership of the house stay in the trust with a six-month joint lease to the Chamber of Commerce and the Historical Society. The short term lease would give each organization time to assess the state of the house and have someone to assess the cost of repairs. After the six-month lease ended, a long-term lease would be prepared for the two organizations. Ms. Maples noted that after touring the house, it was obvious that there had been some vandalism and that the house would need a lot of repair work. Seth Butner reported that if the Board agreed to the joint lease, there would be some debt to assume when leasing the house. With the estate being insolvent, there was a tax debt of \$1,896.93 and other debt of approximately \$5,000. Mr. Butner was informed that the \$5,000 could be paid at a later time but insurance on the house would need to be obtained when the lease was signed. Ms. Maples read the lease agreement to the Board. After a lengthy discussion, Betsy Maples asked for the Board's position on the lease agreement. Pat Anstett made a motion for the Chamber to decline entering into the lease agreement of the Kivett house. Glenn Bowling seconded the motion. The motion was voted and passed by the Board.

#### GOLF TOURNAMENT

John Stewart announced that the date of June 15<sup>th</sup> has been secured at Woodlake Golf Course for a Chamber golf tournament. Mr. Stewart said that he had designed an advertisement for the local paper and provided examples of a "Save the Date" postcard and a registration pamphlet that would be mailed and given out at the Chamber Banquet. Mr. Stewart said that if the Board approved the golf tournament, volunteers will be needed to obtain sponsorship, public relations, organizing contests, obtain gifts and prizes and help with the course management. Kim Large made a motion to proceed with the golf tournament as a fundraiser for the Chamber. Juanita Honeycutt seconded the motion. The motion was voted and passed.

#### MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Betsy Maples stated that the next agenda item was membership drive but due to time constraints, this item would be tabled until the next meeting.

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

#### Board Members Present

Betsy Maples	Rose Kiser	Derek Markley	Mayor Joe Duncan
Dennis Shipley	Pat Anstett	John Stewart	Lindsey Cole
Mitch Burke	Zeka Brooks	Seth Butner	Jeff Lewis
Jennifer Hernon	Steve Walker	Kim Large	Juanita Honeycutt
Glenn Bowling			

#### Membership Present

Aileen S. Craft	Phillip Mabe	<u>Guests</u>
Erlinda McMeel	Randy England	Will Ledbetter
		Sue England

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

**WNTT, Inc.**

P.O. Box 95  
Tazewell, TN 37879  
(423) 626-4203

**Aileen S. Craft**

[www.wntt1250am.com](http://www.wntt1250am.com)

**Tri-State Connection**

P.O. Box 980  
Harrogate, TN 37752  
423-869-7976

**Lynn Earls**

**Do Drop In**

Hwy 33 South  
New Tazewell, TN 37879  
423-626-8960

**Alan Jessie**

**Coldwell Banker**

3009 Tazewell Pike  
Knoxville, TN 37918  
865-687-1111

**Billie Cole**

[www.cbww.com](http://www.cbww.com)

**The April meeting of the Claiborne County Chamber of Commerce  
will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 9, 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

# Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet

Diamond Awards



Gold Awards



Platinum Awards



LMU Jazz Ensemble



Russell Biven



Retiring President  
Seth Butner

Table Sponsorship

