



Annual Membership Matters Luncheon

2011 Mid-Year Report
August 29, 2011

2011 Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Jeff Agee, 2011 Chairman of the Board
Joe Emery, Immediate Past-Chairman
Larry White, Chairman Elect
Allen Hester, President/CEO
Joe M. Enoch, Treasurer
Eddie Anderson, Vice Chair Agribusiness
Don Crews, Vice Chair Business Dev.
Joe Yates, Vice Chair Downtown Dev.
Paul Carson, Vice Chair Community Dev.
Dr. Karen Bowyer, Vice Chair Education
Bill Reffert, Vice Chair Existing Industry
Bob Kirk, Vice Chair Governmental & Legislative
David Taylor, Vice Chair Industrial & Economic Development
Danny Watson, Vice Chair Membership & Organizational Dev.
David Hayes, Vice Chair Regional Dev.
John Ford, Vice Chair Transportation
Russell Pigg, Vice Chair Healthcare
Ben Edwards, Vice Chair Retail Dev.

Board Members

Whitney Allmon	Tracy Latham
Walt Bradshaw	Rhonda Lee
Matthew Gant	Ray Lowrance
Penny Guthrie	Pollyanna McClure
Carol Harris	Mike Pennington
Andrew Harrington	Scott Self
Vince Haymon	Cathy Strawbridge
Ricky Torain	York Walker

Ex-Officio Members

Mayor Richard Hill, Dyer County
Mayor John Holden, Dyersburg
Mayor K.W. Dennison, Newbern
Mayor James Davis, Trimble
John Lannom, Legal Counsel
Brian Collins, TN Vocational Training Center
Neel Durbin, City Schools Superintendent
Dr. Dwight Hedge, Dyer County Superintendent
Debbie Bradshaw-Hart, Dyer County Fair Board
Steve Lane, Power Board
Eddie Burks, Planning Commission
Jimmy Williamson, NWTN Regional Port Authority Chairman

I. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & MARKET GROWTH

- Have worked on **15 industrial projects** so far this year and have **shown the Expect II** building a total of **seven times**
- Have mailed out over **580 direct mailings** to industry consultants and prospects.
- Assisted with expansion of **NSK Steering Systems, 180 new jobs** created
- Assisted with pending expansion plans at three local industries; over **100 new potential jobs** to be added.
- Met new plant managers at Caterpillar, Sara Lee, PolyOne and new CEO of Briggs & Stratton
- Have an average of **225 unique visitors to our website** each day, **8,300 monthly**, and **100,000 annually**
- Have held **2 Industry Roundtables**; held an Existing Industry Roundtable on **Workers' Comp Law**
- Supported the **Foreign Trade Zone** application process
- Two Retail Action Team meetings held, went to **ICSC meeting in Louisville to recruit new retailers**
- Held the **Industry Appreciation Golf Tournament** on May 13th with golfers enjoying great golf and great food
- Held the **2011 Industry Appreciation Cookout** in May with over 75 attendees
- Traveled to Atlanta, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, Asheville, Nashville, and Johnson City to promote Dyersburg/Dyer County and **meet with various site selection consultants** and other **economic development professionals**

II. REGIONAL ADVOCACY & COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

- **Retained our memberships and participation** in the International Economic Development Council, Southern Economic Development Council, Industrial Asset Management Council, TN Economic Partnership and International Council of Shopping Centers, as well as the American Chamber of Commerce Executives, TN Chamber of Commerce Executives and TN Chamber of Commerce & Industry; Dyersburg's Chamber CEO is president-elect of the TCCE.
- Supported the realignment of **Workforce Board Area 12** to include **four additional counties**
- Supported the **Advanced Manufacturing Study** done by the Local Workforce Board Area 12
- **Enhanced accreditation** in the TN Three Star program by **moving up to Benchmark II**
- As **TEP Phase II construction** begins, merchants and engineers will meet weekly to plan demolition of sidewalks and curbs.
- **Main Street Farmers Market** became a **growers only market** this season; **profits have increased** as the buyers have come to know the growers.
- Continuing to partner with the Dyer County YMCA and Y-USA for the **Pioneering Healthy Communities** to advocate for healthier lifestyles
- Continue to support and promote the development of the **Port at Cates Landing**; have held **eight meetings** to assist
- Have held **146 events** at **The Lannom Center** thus far
- Renewed the **biannual contract with City of Dyersburg** for Tourism & Economic Development
- **Retained accreditation** in the U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- Produced **video promo** for the **Mclver's Grant Library** fundraising project
- Staff members Hester and Hall **served as instructors** for the **TN Chamber Institute**
- Supported Senator Bob Corker's **CAP Act legislation**; one of 15 chambers in TN to do so
- **Dyer County Adult Leadership** held graduation for **12 new community leaders**; **Dyer County Youth Leadership** graduated **30 tenth graders**
- Did videos to support the **Grain Conference** and **Pioneering Healthy Communities** efforts
- Supported efforts of **Mississippi River Corridor Tennessee Chapter**
- Presented program on **Regionalism to the Mid South Economic Summit** at DSCC
- **Provided funding** for DSCC basketball tournament, Dixie Youth baseball team, Halls Air Show

III. BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS

- **2nd Annual Duckfest** entertained a **record crowd** for the yearly TWRA Blind Drawing in Tigrett
- Annual **Destination** publication was published in June.
- Held **nine Ribbon Cuttings** thus far with assistance from our Diplomats, Mayors, and other dignitaries.
- Held **8 12@12 luncheons** for Chamber and prospective members to learn about current programs and member benefits.
- Have started a **bi-weekly "At Work" News Brief** to keep members informed on important Chamber news and events.
- Have sent out over **52 eBlasts** to our Chamber database
- Held the **2011 Business Expo** on April 28th with **record attendance and 49 vendors**
- Print **advertising** done in *Area Development* and *Business Facilities* magazine, as well as *State Gazette* and *Southern Outdoors*.
- Online **membership established** in *Location Advisors* network for site Selectors
- **Videos produced** for a variety of events in 2011, including the Expect II video, Walking Downtown with Mark Fenton, Walkability Tour, 2011 Annual Chairman's Awards Banquet, Dyer County Veteran's Day Parade, Wings Over Halls Airshow, the Industry Appreciation Cookout, and the 2011 Golf Tournament

A message from your 2011 Chairman of the Board

Wow! Take a look at all the activity and effort that is reflected in this brief report. Our staff, board and volunteers have been busy this year doing some amazing work on behalf of the community. From economic development to existing industry, tourism, downtown development, membership services, governmental affairs, transportation, agribusiness, education, regional development, workforce development, retail development, and on and on – and we're not done yet.

Since I became Chairman, I have really come to appreciate like never before the scope and the depth of our Chamber's activities. I hope you all share my strong belief that these efforts are worthy of our continued support.

Sincerely,
Jeff Agee

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Upcoming Events for Fall 2011

- September 5th-10th**—Dyer County Fair
- September 10th**— "The Way We Worked" exhibit opens at the Dyer County Museum
- September 17th**—Newbern Depot Days
- September 23rd-24th**—Main Street Fall Festival/
Forked Deer Car Club Antique Car Show
- September 24th-25th**—Wings Over Halls Air Show
- September 30th**—Community Cancer Fund BBQ
- October 15th**—Mission March Downtown
- November 11th**—Veteran's Day Parade
- November 28th**—Dyersburg Christmas Parade
- December 1st**—Newbern Christmas Parade

Chamber Staff

- Allen Hester**, CCE, CEcD, President/CEO
- Tammy Hall**, Vice President, Finance & Administration
- Steve Guttery**, Director of Downtown Development/
Leadership Dyer County
- Ellen Shelton**, Membership Director
- Tiffany Pride**, Administrative Assistant
- Judy Gregory**, Receptionist
- Doris Smith**, Event Staff
- Bart Jowers**, Event Staff

Event
Sponsors

