



Annual Membership Matters Luncheon

2012 Mid-Year Report
August 27, 2012

2012 Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Jeff Agee, 2012 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
Larry White, Vice Chair Healthcare
Ben Edwards, Vice Chair Retail Dev.

Board Members

Whitney Allmon	Tracy Latham
Walt Bradshaw	Rhonda Lee
Bill Reffert	Ray Lowrance
Penny Guthrie	Pollyanna McClure
Carol Harris	Mike Pennington
Andrew Harrington	Scott Self
Scott Shipferling	Cathy Strawbridge
Ricky Torain	York Walker
Jason Roberts	Ben Youree

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 Technology Center at Newbern
Neel Durbin, City Schools Superintendent
Dr. Dwight Hedge, Dyer County Superintendent
Jeremiah Hollingsworth, Dyer County Fair Board
Steve Lane, Power Board
Eddie Burks, Planning Commission
Jimmy Williamson, NWTN Regional Port Authority Chairman

I. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & MARKET GROWTH

- Dyersburg was ranked among the **Top 100 Micropolitan areas** in the March issue of *Site Selection*. We are ranked **tops** in **West Tennessee** for Economic Development.
- We have worked on **10 new industrial projects** so far this year and have **had site visits by several companies** interested in locating a facility in Dyersburg.
- We assisted with pending expansion plans at three local industries; over **100 new potential jobs** to be added.
- The Chamber has an average of **228 unique visitors to our website** each day, **7,250 monthly**, and **87,000 annually**.
- Our Existing Industry group has held **1 Industry Roundtable** at PolyOne so far this year.
- We supported the **Foreign Trade Zone** application process which is now near completion.
- One Retail Action Team meeting was held; went to **ICSC meeting in Nashville to recruit new retailers**
- We held the **2012 Industry Appreciation Golf Tournament** on May 11th with an upturn in participation and sponsorship.
- We held the **2012 Industry Appreciation Cookout** in May with Arnold Perl as the speaker.
- Continue to support and promote the development of the **Port at Cates Landing**; have held **eight meetings** to assist
- Started process of the **Select TN Certified Sites Program** to certify two industrial sites.
- Traveled to Atlanta, Austin, Nashville, to promote Dyersburg/Dyer County and **meet with various site selection consultants** and other **economic development professionals**

II. REGIONAL ADVOCACY & COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

- **Maintained accreditation** in the TN Three Star program by **meeting requirements for Benchmark II**
- Hosted annual West Star session on Education
- **TEP Phase II/III** is ending with the completion of the downtown Dyersburg streetscape project. New period appropriate lighting is ordered and should complete the project on schedule. **The communications plan** involving the merchants, engineering, construction, Main Street and the City of Dyersburg was **successful**.
- In the second season of the **Main Street Farmers Market, growers only format**, customers and growers increased. Actual **profits** are **near** the predicted **10% increase**. The first **Certified Domestic Kitchen baker** joined the growers this season.
- Continuing to partner with the Dyer County YMCA and Y-USA for the **Pioneering Healthy Communities** to advocate for healthier lifestyles
- Have held **107 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
- Staff members Hester and Hall **served as instructors** for the **TN Chamber Institute**
- **Dyer County Adult Leadership** held graduation for **13 new community leaders**; **Dyer County Youth Leadership** graduated **39 tenth graders**
- Supported efforts of **Mississippi River Corridor** Tennessee Chapter
- **Provided funding** for Big River Bowl, Halls Air Show, The Big Deal, Hoopfest, Duckfest
- Held a **Legislative coffee** which was attended by about **100 people**
- Held a **Community coffee** on March 9, where **Mayor Holden** gave a presentation of the **“State of the City”**
- **3rd Annual Duckfest** broke previous attendance and vendor records. A **record number** of attendees registered for the TWRA Blind Drawing in Tigrett.
- The **Agribusiness Committee** has met two times this year. **Lobbied** members of **Congress** with letters addressing **trade issues**.

III. BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS

- **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.
- Annual **Destination** publication was published in June.
- Held **five 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.
- Continue a **bi-weekly "At Work" News Brief** to keep members informed on important Chamber news and events.
- Held the **2012 Business Expo** on May 24th with **record attendance and 56 vendors**
- Print **advertising** done in *Site Selection*, *Area Development* and *Business Facilities* magazine, as well as *State Gazette*.
- Received **new retail marketing** materials from **Shopping Center Group**
- Purchased a **mobile phone app** for our members
- Held a **Business After Hours** at **Professional Realty Group's** new office

A message from your 2012 Chairman of the Board

For the past two years, it has been my privilege to serve as Chairman of the Dyersburg/Dyer County Chamber of Commerce. It's a volunteer task that I really have enjoyed. I like everything about it—the community planning, the business networking, the pursuit of new business and industry and the challenge of keeping our business climate positive here in Dyer County. Once again this year, our staff and volunteers have been diligently working on multiple fronts to advance our community, put our best foot forward and build our assets through a broad spectrum of activities, programs and initiatives.

Please take a few minutes to read this report. You'll see how busy we have been, in everything from agribusiness to tourism, and hopefully you will share my view that this chamber of commerce is strong, active, effective and goal-oriented. I urge you to communicate these positive accomplishments to your colleagues, to continue to support this organization, and to say and do things that contribute to our spirit of collaboration and community pride. If we continue this work, as we have for over 65 years since the chamber was founded, great things will continue to happen in Dyersburg and Dyer County!

Sincerely,

Jeff Agee

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