

# **COVINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

## ***Program of Work 2009-2010***

**AMBASSADORS:** Dianne Ambrosier, Chairman; Betty Hollingsworth, Dot Donavan, Ginger Kirkley, Frieda Whiddon, Keena Hull, Barbara Harris, Laura Ross

- Enlist a designated ambassador from each local bank
- Enlist ambassadors from each community
- Encourage and promote attendance at all ribbon cuttings, open house, meetings or special events that would benefit the county
- Committee members to visit businesses to encourage their participation in chamber programs and events and express appreciation for their membership

**BUSINESS & INDUSTRY COMMITTEE:** Roy Arnold, Chairman; Jim Brewer, Angie Cognevich-MDA, Charlie Sullivan, Marie Shoemake

- To sponsor small business development workshops in conjunction with Jones County Junior College Small Business Development Center
- To increase the number of business memberships in the chamber
- Co-sponsor the “Salute to Business & Industry” Banquet with the Economic Development Authority
- Committee members visit business and industry
- MDA representative visit local businesses and industry to confirm value of chamber membership

**MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCE:** Mary Ann Shoemake, Chairman; Sylvia Kelly, Crystal Kimbrough

- Prepare 2009-2010 Covington County Chamber of Commerce budget
- Renew chamber members for 2009-2010
- Involve chamber board in recruitment of new members
- Promote chamber benefits and “value” of membership

**CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK:** Shirley Boyd, Chairperson; Charles Beasley, Herman and Annie Ruth Campbell, Clay Ebarb, James Arrington Goff, Joyce Pickering

- Expand Christmas in the Park with the additional displays and memorials.
- Relocate light on globe
- Place angels on light poles leading to park

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY:** Mayor V.O. Smith, Chairman; Mayor Billy Karolyi, Mayor Bob McNair, Dr. Shannon Campbell, Staci Cothran, Charles Fairley, Alan Fulton, Stanley Williams

- Work with state and regional programs and entities for promotion of Covington County
- Help local business and industry to grow and expand
- Coordinate Council of Government
- Co-sponsor the “Salute to Business & Industry” Banquet with the Chamber

**EDUCATION:** Susan Deen, Chairman; Gwen Hitt, Maxine McGowan, Jamie Rogers

- Enhance and promote Partners in Education Program to include more recognition of corporate sponsors and the utilization of corporate sponsors as resource speakers in the classroom
- Implement recognition of special accomplishments of students, teachers, and partners of each school at the Okatoma Festival and at other times during the year

- Promote increased participation from students, teachers, and staff in community functions, i.e. Art Expo, 5-K Run/Walk, Relay for Life, etc.
- Promote the Education Foundation through the Chamber newsletters and continue to increase the participation of teachers in the Creative Classroom Grants Program
- Solicit increased education membership in the Chamber among staff and faculty of each school to represent 10% of district employees in school year 2009-2010
- Continue promoting the Mississippi Scholars program through educating school counselors and encouraging 100% participation among schools. The MS Scholars program will begin with 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- Sponsor Career Day

**ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND BEAUTIFICATION: Colin Jones, Chairman; Kyle Davis, Mark Davis**

- Maintain the four Welcome to Covington County signs at the entrances to the county
- Continue anti-litter program in the county, partner with the local Sheriff's Department and MDOT
- Promote revitalization of downtown areas in Collins, Mount Olive and Seminary by partnering with JCJC Technology Center and Mississippi Main Street

**GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS: Barbara Harris, Chairman; Wallace Allred**

- Set February meeting for "Meet Your Legislatures" during the legislative session
- To foster a closer working relationship with elected officials and community leaders to address matters concerning the communities and county

**OKATOMA FESTIVAL: Jay Baggett, Chairman; Wren Baggett, Dr. Kyle Bass, Kathe Bryant, James Clark, Carolyn Cogner, Susan Deen, Brian Dickens, Babette Duty, Colin Jones, Tanya Lofton, Wryn and Tommy Morgan/Lisa Taormina, Ronnie Robinson, Wayne Thaxton, Frieda Whiddon**

- To promote Covington County by sponsoring the 21st annual Okatoma Festival
- Enlist festival honoree, entertainment, exhibits, booths, etc.
- Solicit festival sponsorships and workers
- Meet with community officials for promotion and support
- Coordinate and encourage cooperation of local officials, volunteers, educators and city/county employees for setting up, implementing and closing the festival

**PUBLIC RELATIONS AND HOSPITALITY: Tanya Lofton, Chairman; Keena Hull Chris DaQuila, Marie Shoemake**

- To prepare the designated facilities for general membership meetings
- To register those who participate in general membership
- To welcome new business and industry
- To assist with the Covington County Miss Hospitality Program

**TOURISM: Jo Lynn Mitchell, Chairman; Linda Sanford, Joyce Pickering, Greg Saulters, Angie Lee, Michelle Revette, James Arrington Goff, Frieda Whiddon**

- Promote "Places to see in Covington County"
- Encourage all tourism businesses in county to be involved with the Chamber of Commerce
- Keep all tourism racks in county filled with the latest brochures of businesses
- Work with local service stations to educate workers on attractions in the county and encourage workers to give out county brochures to visitors
- Work with chamber to make sure website is updated with listings of new businesses

**"PEOPLE WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE YOUR COUNTY BETTER"**