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Direction for Business

October 2011

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The Chamber and Business Advocacy

A Message from your Chamber President

With the 2012 Legislative session fast approaching and interest in recent local government issues that impact business growth and development, it is a good time to review the

Chamber's responsibilities associated with its business advocacy role.

Advocacy has consistently been identified by the business community as an expectation of their Chamber of Commerce. As a result, the Chamber's Governmental Affairs Committee developed a "Business Focus" that steers our involvement with legislative issues. The Business Focus concentrates on:

- Ensuring Vitality of Agricultural Industry
- Ensuring Educated and Trained Labor Pool
- Improving Education
- Supporting Economic Development
- Reviewing Tax Structure
- Enhancing Tourism Funding
- Creating Efficient Government
- Building Viable Transportation Systems

Activism relating to government policies can be challenging, if not dicey. As a result, our legislative agenda focuses on issues rather than individuals, and on business priorities rather than partisan politics. Former U.S. Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill said, "All politics are local." I believe he was referring to a politician's success being directly tied to his or her ability to understand what is important to his or her constituents and to act accordingly. These every-day issues are what voters care most about; they will debate and ultimately vote for or against candidates that understand and actively work to resolve local issues. Certainly politicians at all levels should heed this advice, but it's equally important that your Chamber follow this guiding principle. By focusing on business needs and the issues that business cares about (issues consistent with the Chamber's

mission) our relationship with elected officials and our influence is protected.

Your Chamber of Commerce supports its business partners in many ways. Protecting and advocating for the business community, focusing on development and job growth, is non-partisan and topics elected officials generally understand and support. From this perspective, politics are certainly local.



LOA Fitness celebrates their new ownership and grand opening.



Builder's Warehouse invited the Connector's to a ribbon cutting to after their new remodel.



Pediatric Dental Specialists had a ribbon cutting to mark their new Chamber partnership.



Nova-Tech observed their expansion by hosting a ribbon cutting.



Darren Sanchez, Leonard McCarty and Sam Quanz-Milton enjoyed Business After Hours at Hampton Inn.



A ribbon cutting and groundbreaking ceremony was held for the Ground Water Guardians at Fonner Park

2012 Top 35 Under 35

Are you a young person making an impact in our community and showing promise of present and future leadership within your company? The Grand Island Chamber understands the importance of these professional and personal contributions to the continued growth of Grand Island. To this end, we will be honoring key individuals in a special Top 35 Under 35 publication (highlighting personal and professional involvement) and at a recognition reception in February 2012.

Previous honorees include Steve White and Wendy Meyer-Jerke. Steve White is the Grand Island Bureau Chief for NTV (Pappas Telecasting). Steve is active in the community and his church; he also volunteers and has participated in the Community Police Academy and Principal for a Day. Steve was a 2009 Top 35 Under 35 honoree.

Wendy Meyer-Jerke is the Public Information Officer for the City of Grand Island and was a 2010 Top 35 Under 35 honoree. Wendy is involved in a number of community boards and is a graduate of Leadership Tomorrow.

Anyone currently between the ages of 21 and 35 who works in and/or contributes to Grand Island, has demonstrated professional excellence in his or her field and has a commitment to the community is eligible for consideration. Because our workforce is diverse, we want to highlight a wide variety of occupations and people! ***Past honorees are not eligible for the 2012 Top 35 Under 35.***

Please complete the application and submit by **November 23, 2011** to be considered. The application can be found at www.gichamber.com/interior-pages/2012-top-35-under-35.

Youth Leadership Tomorrow Applications Available!

Youth Leadership Tomorrow (YLT) is a 9-month program for Hall County high school juniors. Within the next week a YLT representative will be speaking and handing out applications at all of the area high schools. Applications are also available at the YLT Office, located at the Chamber of Commerce, and online at www.leadershiptomorrow.com. Call Tammy at 308.382.9210 if you have any questions. Applications are due by 4:00 p.m., Tuesday November 15th, 2011.

New Chamber Partners

October 2011

Dirt Worx
Brent Schimmer
3804 South Stuhr Road
Grand Island, NE 68801
308.380.8939

Dreisbach's Carryout
Angela Dowd
3337 West State Street
Grand Island, NE 68803
308.675.1211

Dressed 2 Dance
Chloe Aguilar
1004 North Diers Avenue
Suite 324
Grand Island, NE 68803
308.382.4160

Farmers Insurance Group
Jeff Vinson
3406 West Capital Avenue
Grand Island, NE 68803

308.382.3404

Fresh Concepts
Teresa Dunning
2308 North Howard
Grand Island, NE 68803
308.379.3694

GT Fire & Security
Gary Hesman
922 West Louise Street
Grand Island, NE 68801
308.389.3981

High Quality Housing
Jyoti Kwankin
4020 West Stolley Park Road
Grand Island, NE 68803
308.382.8901

Iris Photography Studios & Graphic Design
Chris and Jeanie Horeis
1726 Allen Court
Grand Island, NE 68803
308.380.8422

Northstar Services
Ryan McCarty
4067 West Capital Avenue
Grand Island, NE 68803
308.227.9216

Valentino's
Fred and Katherine Yu
2245 North Webb Road
Grand Island, NE 68803
308.382.7711

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Phone: 308.382.9210 | Fax: 308.382.1154

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