



Meriden/Ozawkie Area  
Chamber of Commerce Meeting  
January 15, 2015

Scott Stanley extended a welcome to members and visitors present with a report that the December "After Hours" Christmas gathering at the Crooked Post Winery, Ozawkie, was well received with good attendance. 65+ guests were present.

Scott announced that elected Chamber Board positions for 2015 were as follows:

President: Scott Stanley; Vice-President: Chuck Wilson; Treasurer: DeeDee Skaggs; Secretary: Kent Duncan

The Chamber was reminded to submit business membership renewals as soon as possible.

Brittany Chaplin of Jeff Co. EDC was absent from the meeting but submitted a reminder of two important meetings coming up. A Business Incentive Open Meeting on Thursday, January 22, at 6:30 PM at Valley Falls City Hall and a Food Policy Council meeting on Thursday, January 29, also at 6:30 PM in the Golden Pizza meeting room, Meriden.

Scott Stanley informed us that the Junior Wrestling team had offered interest in being considered as a beneficiary of the next Meriden/Ozawkie Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament. Scott encouraged other potential local groups to contact a Chamber board member if interested in being considered as a partner in the next tournament.

Carole Hendrix announced that the Jefferson County Friends of Hospice "Taste of Elegance" event will be held this year on Saturday, October 17, 2015

Chuck Wilson announced the date of the spring Pancake Feed is Saturday, March 7, 2015. Each year the Meriden/Ozawkie Chamber of Commerce Pancake Feeds raise scholarship monies for local graduating students.

Jennifer Fisher of Leavenworth Jefferson Electric Cooperative shared clarifying information regarding the company's relationship with Kaw Valley Electric Cooperative. At this time both companies are in a "working alliance" autonomous of each other. Consolidation has not happened and will only happen based on the votes of both cooperatives' membership.

Wayne Ledbetter also shared clarification regarding the ongoing Emergency Services Assessment by the County Commissioners. Wayne emphasized that this assessment is for informational purposes. Collected information will identify the needs of our county's emergency services in order for them to be addressed.

Denise Spainhower of F.W. Huston Medical Center remarked on the interest of F.W. Huston in opening a pharmacy in Meriden following the closure of Meriden Pharmacy at the beginning of this year.

Scott Stanley introduced the Chamber speaker, Cora Spencer, representing NOTO North Topeka Arts District. Cora shared how NOTO, located on the 800-900 block of N. Topeka Avenue, came to be through the leadership of Heartland Visioning, the City of Topeka, the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce, the North Topeka Business Alliance and NOTOMA (North Topeka on the Move) and their desire to establish an Arts District in Topeka. Cora became affiliated with NOTO through the creative stainless steel art pieces produced by Ernest Spencer Companies, Meriden, and Stainless Steel Designs. She has been a part of the NOTO community now for four years and remains amazed at the thousands of people who participate in the community's events including the "First Friday Art Walk". Cora's gallery, "The Elective", 900 N Kansas Avenue, is open during the week Wednesday through Saturday from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Cora encouraged members and friends to visit NOTO's stores, galleries and events as the district continues to expand.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, February 19, 2015 at Noon in the Community Room (next to Golden Pizza).