

Bowling Green Chamber Newsletter

Year for the business!

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2009

Presidents Monthly Comments:

This is the first of our monthly newsletter for the year. This will come via email and mail for the first couple of months so please be sure to watch and share with **ALL** employees. Once you become familiar with the news letter it will be sent via email but please be sure to still share with **ALL** employees. As a member not only the business owner/manager is a member but so is the entire staff of your business, organization, or public office.

I also invite you to visit our website if you have not already done so, www.bgchamber.org. On the website you will find a calendar of events, a directory of members, links to other websites and more. This is always a work in progress and will be update often so please check back often! Also, you can advertise your business on our website for a very low price of \$30 dollars a quarter (3 months) this will allow you to put your logo on the website and a link to your own web page. For more information please call or email the Chamber office.

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Monthly Member Meetings: What's New

Member's take note! This year we will be featuring a business of the month.

The business of the month will get a free ad in the Tribune and Times as well as featured on the radio. Along with being featured you will be the special guest to speak at the monthly member meeting to brag on and about your business! The featured business will be randomly drawn out of a hat from all our members.

Watch for the February Featured Member!



What's New Free Money?

Also new this year! Win \$25.00 dollars to spend on your employee's and business.

How? All chamber members will be automatically entered into the drawing each month. Attend the monthly member meeting and if your business name is drawn then win the \$25 dollars, you must be present to win, if the business that is drawn is not present the money carries over to the next month so that the next chance to win could be greater then \$25 dollars! It's Easy and a fun way to win so **JUST SHOW UP!**

Just in case you missed the Banquet here is a look at the President's speech and what he would like to accomplish for 2009:

Today we hear a lot about the challenges the world is facing with our economy, job market, and way of living, the effects of these challenges are no different for the Chamber. This evening however, I do not want to talk about the challenges we hear enough about them, rather I would like to talk about what good things are happening for Bowling Green and talk about the opportunities and goals the Chamber is working towards for Bowling Green. The growth happening in Bowling Green can be seen with the work on the new Wal-Mart, the new Orscheln's building, the completion of the new and improved Eastern Missouri Health Service's building, and the New People's Bank and Trust building to name just a few. Bowling Green is rising with the future; as the welcome to Bowling Green sign states, even in hard economic times..... I have actually thought a lot about what I should say this evening and really only one question kept coming to my mind. It is a question I hear over and over when talking with members and potential members of the Chamber. That question "What does and can the Chamber do for me". That is a good and valid question. I believe strongly that the Chamber must operate as a support line between the city government, the Pike county development authority, and our local business owners. The Chamber must also be a support line for the people that live and are looking to live in Bowling Green. So how do we be a good support line? A good and solid support line must have a strong operating budget, we must be structured and organized, and we must be visible. More importantly we must have a large support group of volunteers that see and gain value in working with and for the Chamber. My goal for this year is to continue to build on structure and organization and increasing membership and participation, along with a strong focus on our local businesses. Especially with today's economic challenges it is vitally important to promote shopping local by buying from our local merchants, eating local, using our local health providers, insurance agents, investment brokers, as well as working with our local schools and public offices to promote new programs. The Chamber as a support line has planned and will continue to plan activities this year to help promote buying local and working with the schools and public offices. Some activities planned so far, merchant coupons, business expo, conducting business happy hours for the public to learn what Bowling Green has/can offer, this is just a few of the new activities you will see this year to promote buying local.....the chamber also has put on the calendar a first annual golf tournament, a first annual chili/wing festival, and brought back Christmas on the square. These events will allow people to volunteer time, donate or sponsor the event allowing conversation and focus to the people who are involved and who will be representing their business or place of employment. And of course we will hold again the Heritage Festival which brings families and the community together to celebrate a time of tradition which is also so vital to remember these days. All these things are just a starting point to what the Chamber brings to the community and what we offer to members. We will also continue the enhancement and betterment of the website that started last year giving the outside community an opportunity to research Bowling Green as well as a resource for local people and business to gain information , we will get more involved with ribbon cuttings to show case new businesses or improvements to a business, we will continue to grow programs like the turkey give-away we started last year that will bring people into retail and business offices and will give a little something back to the community, the annual garage sale that will bring people into town that will utilize eating local and do other local shopping, we will continue to work to beautify the city with goals to buy new Christmas decorations this year and improvements to the city square and park, and we will work within committee's that have been created for this year to ensure that we continue to grow programs that will focus on local businesses, local government, and the community for better living in Bowling Green and Pike County. All of these things mentioned are just a start to what is possible for the Chamber to do and continue to become. It is a large task but an important one, and one that is accomplished with dedicated people volunteering time, and more people volunteering time is always needed. So I want to encourage and challenge each of you to get involved, attend monthly member meetings and express idea's and opinions, the board and I would very much like idea's and suggestions and support from members as we rise with the future! Now more then ever is the time to bring the value of hard work, family, and fun back into the local community and support each other. Thank you all for being a member and for coming this evening and God Bless.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

5TH: BOARD MEETING AT SUPER 8 BOARD ROOM

11TH: MONTHLY MEMBER MEETING AT BG SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE

MARCH

5TH: BOARD MEETING AT SUPER 8 BOARD ROOM

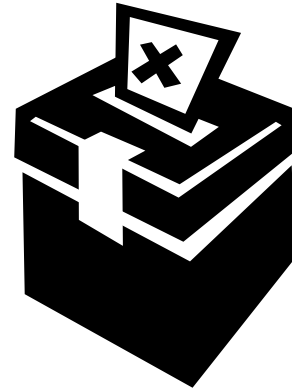
11TH: MONTHLY MEMBER MEETING AT TBD

21ST: Business/Home Expo at BG Auditorium, registration and information to come or see website.

APRIL

2ND: BOARD MEETING SUPER 8 BOARD ROOM

8TH: MONTHLY MEMBER MEETING AT TBD



Member Feedback:

The Chamber Board wants to hear from you the member! If you have an idea or have a comment please email the chamber office at bgmocc@att.net. We will then post it in the monthly news letter and respond to the idea or comment and what the board is going to take.

Your ideas and comments are important, the chamber is an investment for your business and we want to add value so please share!

Get Involved!

The Chamber is growing! We have several new events this year! 1st annual Golf Tournament, 1st annual Wing festival, Heritage Festival just to name a few....we would love help planning events. If you or an employee of your business is wanting to get involved and would like to help please contact the chamber office and we will get you assigned to a committee! The Chamber cannot do it without people wanting to make a difference in the community and volunteering time!!

The Chamber office hours Vary, but it is easy to contact us please call or email and Donna Colbert, Executive Director will contact you promptly.

- Phone: 573-324-3733
- Email: bgmocc@att.net
- Website: www.bgchamber.org

Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 401
Bowling Green, MO 63341

2009 Chamber Board

**President: Corey Sanborn
Vice President: Ryan Daffron
Treasurer: Sarah Robinson
Secretary: Denise Jones
Past President: Deanna Feldman
Executive Director: Donna Colbert**

Board Members:

**Rich Wilkinson
Jack Jones
Tim Gamm
Marie Korte
Sue Moore
Holly Johnston
Christine Rutherford
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