



Message From the Chairman



SKIP OGLE
Chairman 2018-2019

As my season of chairmanship closes this September, I hope that I can somehow convey my humble gratefulness to lead such an incredible organization. Each Chair endeavors to positively impact this great organization we call our Tyler Chamber of Commerce for the next generation. It is for those that volunteer, our members, that we have incubated and implemented a few ideas to make our Chamber even greater! I hope you are enjoying our updated website, streamlined newsletters and soon, our very own APP that will provide simple accessibility to all Chamber members.

This would be a hollow thank you if I did not mention our Chamber staff. Yes, it is the passionate members that drive

Continued on next page.

June Cheatham assumes role of Chairman and Roy Martinez elected Chairman-Elect for the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce



June Cheatham
Chairman

June Cheatham was elected 2019-2020 Chairman for the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce at its August Board meeting. Her term will begin October 1, 2019. Roy Martinez was elected Chairman-elect for the upcoming year. "We are excited that Roy has been elected as a member of our leadership team for the Chamber," said Cheatham.

June Cheatham is Practice Administrator for EyeCare Associates of East Texas, an Ophthalmology practice with eleven doctors, three satellite offices, an ambulatory surgery center and over 120 employees. She has been with EyeCare Associates for over nineteen years and in the healthcare industry for 32 years. Under June's leadership, EyeCare Associates received the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce Award of Large Business of the Year for the 2016-2017 year.



Roy Martinez
Chairman-Elect

Over the last 12 years, June has chaired the Chamber Medical Committee, the Senior Resource Committee, the Senior Health and Living Expo. She was voted TACC Volunteer of the year 2007-2008. More recently, she has served as a TACC Board member and Executive committee member, Area Development Council Chair, Business Council Chair, and Treasurer. June has also served on the Tyler Economic Development Council, City of Tyler Lake Advisory Committee, and is a lifetime member of the Bethesda Health Clinic Alliance.

June's husband Tracy, of 40 years, is a Captain with the Tyler Fire Department. They live, play, and work at beautiful Lake Tyler with three German Short-haired Pointers and two Bichons.

In addition to Cheatham and Martinez, Officers for 2019-2020 include: Pat Stacey who will serve as Treasurer; Debbie Isham, Visit Tyler; Chad Cargile, Area Development Chairman; Tanya Redic, Membership Services Chairman; Lee Browning, Business Development Chairman, and Executive Committee-at-large members include: Brad Farr, Jason Proctor, Shannon Dacus, Ed Broussard, Delores Price and Charles Hill.

Chairman Continued from front page.

the success of our Chamber of Commerce, but we would not see that success without such an outstanding staff. Day in and day out our staff team of Tom Mullins, Henry Bell, Jenni Wilson, Tori Hanson, Cindy Smoak, Shari Lee, Holli Fourniquet, Susan Travis, Stephanye Petree and Drew Camps manage the incredible variety of activities our Chamber directs and supports. It is because of this amazing staff team and our incredibly passionate members that make our Chamber one of the largest in Texas!

Whether your business is focused on Energy, Healthcare, Education, Transportation & Aviation, Government affairs, Veteran's affairs, Technology, our Chamber plays a supporting role for you, enhancing our business environment, the economic well-being and quality of life in our community.

I am excited to see June Cheatham take the lead as Chair for this next year! June is a proven leader and will take our Chamber to an even greater level for our members.

A very humble thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Chair this past year. It is a blessing to me to live in what I believe is the greatest nation on earth, the greatest State in the nation and the greatest community in the State!

Board Members Elected to Three-Year Terms

Seven Chamber members have been elected to three year terms on the Chamber's Board of Directors beginning October 1. Each year 14 members are nominated by a nominating committee, placed on a ballot, and voted on by the entire membership. The seven elected are: Nicole Cox, Ables-Land; David Stein, Office Pride; Jim Teeter, BMW of Tyler; Michael Tidwell, UT-Tyler; Tim Vordenbaumen, Ingersoll Rand/Trane; Brandy Ziegler, Fitzpatrick Architects; James Murphy, Republic Waste; and Shane Rohrbach, Gollob Morgan Petty.

TYLER AREA BUSINESS EDUCATION COUNCIL

Bob Westbrook, Tyler Area Business Education Council Chair



The Tyler Area Business Education Council has completed its sixth full year of operations under the leadership of Chairman Bob Westbrook. Since its formation in 2012, the Council has diligently worked to improve education outcomes to support business and economic development in the Tyler Area.

Principal for a Day was hosted by Tyler ISD on November 7; 22 local businesses allowed their employees to take an in-depth look at the strengths and weaknesses of the local public education campuses by taking on the role of principal. In the spring of 2019, principals turned the tables and took on the roles of local business leaders.

The Smith County College Fair was held Monday, November 12 in the afternoon at the Tyler Rose Garden with approximately 70 colleges, universities, military branches and vocational schools participating. Over 1,300 students and parents from public, private and homeschools took advantage of the opportunity to talk to recruiters.

The 5th Annual Chamber of Commerce Career Connections (C4) was held on Friday, January 11 at the TJC West Campus. Nearly 200 juniors and seniors representing 8 Tyler area high schools were afforded the opportunity to connect with more than 80 business leaders representing almost 60 local businesses. The students had the opportunity to be inspired by our keynote speaker, Shannon Dacus, an attorney with The Dacus Firm. In addition, they were able to attend sessions on financial literacy, career pathways, soft skills, resume review and perform mock interviews.

Money for College events were held in October and February on the campus of 9 Smith County high schools. Financial Aid Administrators from Tyler Junior College and the University of Texas at Tyler assisted college bound students and parents with FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and TASFA (Texas Application for State Financial Aid) completion. College bound students that were assisted during these events included high school, college and returning adult students.

Public school counselors that increased their FAFSA completion rate 5 percentage points for the class of 2019 above last year's graduating class were awarded prizes, as a result of a grant that the Business Education Council was awarded from the National College Access Network (NCAN). The Council was 1 of only 25 organizations in the nation to be awarded the 2018-19 FAFSA Completion Challenge Grant from NCAN.

The Mayor's Mentorship Achievement Program (MAP) successfully completed its 3rd year with over 50 high school seniors from Tyler ISD's John Tyler, R.E. Lee and Career & Technology High Schools. This year we had approximately 50 business professionals representing 25 local businesses partnered with the seniors. The sessions included information about financial aid, scholarships, admissions, entrance examinations, personal development, college selection, career selection and financial literacy. Sessions were held monthly from September through April and each lasted ninety minutes.

We ended the year by hosting our 6th Annual #SchoolsCool at Harvey Convention and Rose Garden Centers on Thursday, August 1. School aged students, prekindergarten through 12th grade, and parents had the opportunity to explore the vast amount of services that our community provides to assist families throughout the academic year. Our backpack sponsor, the University of Texas at Tyler, afforded us the opportunity to provide over 2,000 backpacks to students with school supplies donated by sponsors, vendors and local organizations. Smith County students were able to utilize free vision screenings, haircuts and immunizations.

The Business Education Council Executive Officers include: Bob Westbrook, Chair; Greg Simmons, Vice Chair; and Kimberly Ashley, Secretary. The Board of Directors include representatives from Centene, City of Tyler, John Soules Foods, Regions Bank, Texas College, Trane/Ingersoll Rand, Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce, Tyler Economic Development Corporation, Tyler Hispanic Business Alliance, Tyler Independent School District, Tyler Junior College, Tyler Pipe, the University of Texas at Tyler, the University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler, All Saints Episcopal School, Winona Independent School District, Smith County and East Texas Workforce Solutions.

AREA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Lee Browning, Area Development Council Chair



The Aviation Committee, chaired by Jamal Moharer, continues to actively promote improved access to the services offered at Tyler Pounds Regional Airport at the general aviation and commercial aviation fronts. The Aviation Committee was instrumental in supporting the creation of the Airport Master Plan leading to the construction of the new terminal and is currently holding talks with airport administration regarding the need for updates to the existing Master Plan. During the last

calendar year, the airport celebrated the opening of the rehabilitated runway 4-22, with increased capacity to accommodate larger aircraft in need of longer runways or heavier landing weights. This extended capacity played a role in Tyler being served by a new airline Frontier Airlines with service to Denver. The committee will continue to serve as a link between corporate citizens as well as the interest of the general public patronizing Tyler Pounds Regional Airport.

The Veterans Committee, chaired by Jim Snow, focuses on helping the community in supporting the veteran and military population. These major areas were: (1) continue expanding the Veterans Discount Program; (2) garnering community support in establishing the CAMPV (Community Assisting Military Personnel and Veterans) 20 acre resource center/campus in Tyler; (3) supporting the 2nd annual Tyler event honoring Women Veterans Day on June 12; (4) expanding support to women veterans via a program "Talking Tea: Woman's Veterans Group" routinely scheduled at the Tyler Library; and (5) supporting/participating in the 8th annual Tyler Veterans Entrepreneurship Boot Camp for all military and their families interested in starting or expanding a business. The Discount Program showed slow but steady growth in both the business and veteran participation. Scheduled to open in November of this year, the CAMPV goal is to create a more efficient and effective process for all military people who are seeking help.

The Surface Transportation Committee, chaired by Bryan Rossman, has seen continued growth and community engagement as the Transportation leadership addresses the infrastructure needs of the community.

The committee engaged and strengthened relationships with Transportation Partners: NetRMA, TxDOT, and Smith County, (Chris Miller, Jeffery Harmon, Brooke Droptini, Paul Schneider, Frank Davis, Jeff Warr, Michael Howell, and Lisa Crossman). All Transportation partners remain active and the committee is pleased the Smith County Bond program is moving forward. Thanks to Dr. Michael Tidwell & Dr. Robert Beatty for arranging/hosting the recent

committee meeting at Soules College of Business. Presentations and comments from Dr. Tidwell, Dr. Beatty, Dr. Wink, and Dr. Reyes addressed the resources available to the Community at UT Tyler. The Governmental Affairs Committee has been very helpful in working with the Transportation Committee as a partner and voice for more Transportation funding. Thanks to Vice Chair, Bill Hicks, who has kept us informed on transportation issues and will serve as committee Chair next Chamber year.

The Energy Committee, chaired by Claude Figueroa, continues to raise awareness of the diverse energy industry in Northeast Texas, supports science-based fuel education, tracks energy-related legislative issues at the State and Federal level and supports energy-related businesses in Tyler/Smith County. The highlight of the Committee's accomplishments is the Energy Summit of Northeast Texas which will be celebrating its 10th year in 2020. Since its inception, the Summit has grown to be one of the chamber's top three earning events. This year's summit centered on the impact of Texas on global energy markets and featured prominent industry speakers including Texas Railroad Commissioner Ryan Sitton, CEO of Clear Energy Alliance Mark Mathis and Editor-in-Chief of Hart Energy Paul Hart. Record-breaking proceeds realized a \$5000 gift to the Discovery Science Place for an exhibit that will help children understand how energy is delivered from source to site. The 10th annual Energy Summit of Northeast Texas will be on March 31, 2020. The Committee remains vigilant of government policies or proposals, such as the "New Green Deal" that may impact the energy industry.

Additionally, the committee monitors oil and natural gas production activity in the state and supports compressed natural gas as an alternative fuel.

The Governmental Affairs Committee, chaired by David Stein, is focused on keeping the Tyler area informed of local, state, and federal initiatives that affect our business community. Last fall the committee had an update from Kelley Holcomb, CEO Neches River Authority, concerning the economics and regional impact of this future water project "Lake Columbia." In December the committee met with Representative Matt Schaefer & Senator Bryan Hughes for a preview of the upcoming legislative session. In February a group of approximately 160 individuals from Tyler, Longview & Kilgore, expanded this year to include Lindale and Bullard, went to Austin for the 2019 East Texas Coalition Legislative Priorities session. This was the largest attendance to make this biannual trip. Expanding this group has continued to provide a larger regional influence on our priorities. In June, the committee held a wrap-up of the Legislative session with Representative Cole Hefner, Senator Byran Hughes and Sarah Hartsfield representing Matt Schaefer's office. Plans are underway for the TAB (Tyler Area Business) trip to Washington in 2020.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES COUNCIL

Cindy Smoak, Membership Services Council Chair



For the last year I have had the privilege of chairing an incredible group of volunteers who give their time to help make the Chamber a success. Along with Tanya Redic, chair-elect, who will assume the role of chair October 1st, we were able to lead and learn from this amazing group of professionals called the Contact Club. This group is highly energetic, motivated, and come from different backgrounds and careers.

The common thread is, "We all love our Chamber and want to see it succeed." We are the first ones to welcome new members at their ribbon cuttings. We attend and help at the various chamber functions such as monthly Business after Hours, quarterly small business breakfasts, quarterly chamber luncheons, and other special events. We recruit new members to our Chamber and work hard to retain our current members. We are fortunate to be a part of a Chamber that is very active and offers many opportunities to network and

promote our businesses. Under the leadership of Tom Mullins and Henry Bell, and with the support of Skip Ogle, June Cheatham, and the Chamber Board, the Contact Club worked hard this year to promote the community and educate membership. We appreciate all of them taking the time to come to our meetings and give us advice and support as needed. Also a big "Thank You" to Jenni Wilson, Membership Services Administrator. Jenni is there for the Contact Club providing us with the tools we need to successfully support and promote the chamber membership. She organizes all our monthly meetings, and always lends an ear to us if needed.

I am completing my 14th year in the Contact Club, and I can honestly say I have taken away something new every year, including many new friendships. I appreciate the Chamber and what it does to make our community and businesses successful. I know under the leadership of Tanya next year we will continue to grow our chamber and get bigger and better! Thank you for the opportunity to serve and be a part of the Contact Club and the Membership Services Committee.

VISIT TYLER

Crystal Whorton, Visit Tyler Chair



The travel and tourism industry is one of the United States' largest industries, generating \$1.2 trillion in travel expenditures this past year. Therefore, it's not surprising that tourism is a key component of a sustainable economy in Tyler. It keeps our property taxes lower and our local companies in business.

Last year, tourists spent \$386 million in Tyler, and the tourism industry directly employed more than 4,000 people.

Visit Tyler, a department of the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce, is the destination marketing arm of the city. We work hard each year, to promote Tyler as a premiere tourist destination for leisure travelers, groups, conventions, sporting events, and more. We provide local businesses and groups free services to help bring and keep your events and meetings local.

Below is just a small snapshot of what the staff has been up to this year.

Marketing

According to Google, the internet is the top source for both leisure and business travel planning. Visit Tyler's marketing objectives can loosely be categorized into two segments: print and digital. Visit Tyler's marketing efforts have changed dramatically over the past five years in order to keep ahead of the trends and to catch customers when and where they are making their travel decisions.

This year, Visit Tyler launched an aggressive digital marketing campaign that included social media, display advertising, native articles, video distribution, and search engine marketing. The campaign was very successful directly resulting in more than 450 known bookings and an estimated economic impact of more than \$500,000.

The comprehensive marketing strategy utilizes a variety of marketing mediums including print advertising, collateral materials, digital advertising, social media, and earned media. Because of a limited advertising budget, earned media is crucial to the success of Visit Tyler's marketing campaign. "Earned media" refers to publicity gained through promotional efforts other than paid media advertising. This year, Visit Tyler has garnered approximately \$7 million in free publicity.

Conventions

Fiscal year 2018-2019 has been very successful for the Convention and Meetings Department with more than 3,000 rooms booked resulting in an estimated economic impact of \$4 million. Visit Tyler will host more than 19,000 attendees for future meetings.

The conventions Tyler hosted this year include: The Texas Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, Cowgirl Get Together, Texas Police Chief Leadership Series, UT Tyler Honors Program Regional Conference, Texas State Parliamentarians, Blue Knight Rio Grande Conference and CityFest East Texas (an Andrew Palau Evangelistic Event).

Sports

The SPORTyler program had another big year. Kyler Murray, University of Oklahoma quarterback, was named the sixth winner of The Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award announced January 9, 2019. You can find out more information at earlcampbellaward.com and on Facebook. The Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award earned more than \$4 million in free publicity for the Tyler area.

The fifth annual Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award scholarship recipient was announced: River Tomlinson from Whitehouse High School. This \$5,000 scholarship is awarded to an area athlete each year who demonstrates success on and off the field, exemplifying the enduring characteristics that define Earl Campbell: integrity, teamwork, sportsmanship, persistence, and community involvement.

The East Texas Kick-Off Luncheon celebrated its 14th year with approximately 450 people in attendance and 30 schools represented. Ron Franklin, legendary Sports Broadcaster and play-by-play announcer, was the guest speaker.

This past year, SPORTyler generated more than 5,000 sleeping rooms and hosted more than 22,000 attendees resulting in an estimated economic impact of \$2.5 million. Some of the groups hosted include: Junior Golf, the Texas State Open, Texas East State Little League, the NJCAA Division I Women's National Tennis, NCAA Division III Softball National Championship, the Jalapeno Tree Soccer Invitational, and the RBC Tyler Pro Am.

Tourism

The Azalea & Spring Flower Trail and Tyler Rose Season continue to be events that draw thousands of visitors yearly into the Rose Capital of America. The 2018 Rose Season generated more than \$1.58 million.

The 2019 Azalea & Spring Flower Trail had an economic impact of \$1.9 million, an increase of about 1.5% from 2018.

Visit Tyler continued to promote Rose City Christmas and the "Azalea District Trail of Lights." Azalea District homeowners were encouraged to decorate for the holidays and light up their homes in order to entice visitors to come to Tyler during one of the slower months of the year. The top three homeowners with the best decorations were given a prize. Visitors and residents alike enjoy this added holiday attraction.

Visit Tyler continued the destination training program: "Keepin' Tyler Rosy." During the seasons that Tyler has a big influx of visitors, it is important for the entire community to put its best foot forward. The program trains frontline employees in all types of businesses in the area to better serve visitors while they are in town. The idea is to get visitors to stay longer, enjoy everything Tyler has to offer, and make a return trip in the future. At the end of the training, each attendee is named an official "Keepin' Tyler Rosy Ambassador." The trainings are held in December and June each year and have 30-35 participants.

Our future here in Tyler is bright. We invite you to join us in our mission by being a tourist in your own backyard. Supporting tourism efforts will benefit the community by creating a positive economic impact and stronger partnerships. Help us grow Tyler by keeping your business local.

TYLER HISPANIC BUSINESS ALLIANCE

Ivette Zavarce, Tyler Hispanic Business Alliance President



The Tyler Hispanic Business Alliance exists to be the leading advocate for economic growth and community development in the Hispanic community of East Texas. Over ten years ago, representatives from various business and education interests began to brainstorm on options and methods of how to serve the rapidly growing Hispanic business sector in the Tyler Metropolitan Area. These representatives included the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce, Tyler Economic

Development Council, City of Tyler, East Texas Hispanic Business Forum, Hispanic Leadership Council, Fourth Partner Foundation, The University of Texas at Tyler College of Business and Technology, Tyler Junior College's Small Business Development Center, and the Tyler Morning Telegraph.

With the input of these civic, governmental, business, and educational leaders, the Tyler Hispanic Business Alliance was formed in 2007 to facilitate and foster Hispanic business development in Tyler through collaboration among new and existing business related programs and agencies. Today, the Tyler HBA has established itself as the premier hub and point of contact for all Hispanic business and community affairs in the Tyler Metropolitan Area.

The Tyler Hispanic Business Alliance (HBA) works continually under the leadership of its President/CEO, Nancy Rangel. This year, Ivette Zavarce served as Board Chair for the Tyler HBA and began its 12th year of serving the Hispanic community of East Texas. The program year began in October with the Annual Hispanic Achievers & Business Leaders Awards held during Hispanic Heritage Month. The event gathered more than 600 individuals from all sectors of the community in order to honor nine Hispanic business and community leaders who have played key roles in the shaping of our great City of Tyler and its Metropolitan Area. The event celebrated businesses for their entrepreneurial spirit, character, courage and conviction. The keynote speaker was NASA Astronaut Jose Hernandez.

The Tyler Hispanic Business Alliance launched and expanded its Hispanic

Entrepreneurship and Small Business Training courses to "mentor and grow tomorrow's entrepreneurs and leaders." The goal is to offer these business trainings to foster, grow, and develop Hispanic and Latino businesses in Tyler and East Texas so that they in turn, can make an impact in the infrastructure of our great City. The course trainings provide a study of the concepts and skills necessary for starting and operating a small business including business planning, organizing, managing, staffing, financing, marketing, and accounting functions. The Tyler HBA Entrepreneurship and Small Business Trainings began as a partnership with the Literacy Council of Tyler and graduated over 100 individuals.

The Tyler HBA completed its year by hosting its second Rose City Fiesta event at Bergfeld Park during the Hispanic Heritage Celebration Month. The HBA's Rose City Fiesta showcased the flavors, visuals, sounds, and art of what make the Hispanic cultural heritage unique and diverse. Some of the sponsors included Brookshire Grocery Company, Super 1 Foods, UT Health East Texas, CHRISTUS Trinity Mother Frances, and Ford Motor Company. Sponsors were given the opportunity to promote their business products and/or services and increase their company's visibility and exposure to a large population of the Hispanic community in East Texas. The event also showcased live music and performances by several music groups, Mariachi's, Aztec cultural dancers, folkloric routines, and the Consulate General of Mexico in Dallas conducted the synchronized call-and-response ceremony that dates back centuries called "El Grito de Independencia." Rose City Fiesta is the first and only Hispanic celebration held in observance of Hispanic Heritage Month in this area, and it was organized because of the shown support of its community, sponsors, and board leadership.

Tyler HBA Executive Officers for 2018-2019 include: Ivette Zavarce, Chair, Dolores Price, Chair -Elect; Don Warren, Secretary; Nidia Hassan, Treasurer; Corinna Ruiz, Past Chair.

Tyler HBA Board of Directors for 2018-2019 include: Kimberly Ashley, Henry Bell, Jeremy Coe, Anthony Cortez, Daniel Gamez, Erika Gonzalez, Reeve Jackson, Tom Mullins, Marseline Soto, and Juan Yañez.

TYLER YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORK

Austin Luce, Tyler Young Professionals Network President



"Connect. Grow. Lead." Those three words are the mission of the Tyler Young Professionals Network. Each year, TYPN pays special attention to one of those words. After thoughtful consideration, I chose to focus on "Grow." What a tremendous year of growth it has been for us as an organization and as individuals!

Thanks to the leadership of our Membership Chairs, the membership count is at an all-time high. We haven't just seen quantitative growth, but qualitative growth as well. We put a concerted effort toward having guest speakers and events that help our members develop skills and knowledge in various aspects of their lives.

We've also pioneered a partnership with the University of Texas at Tyler to help college seniors and graduate students get involved and find local

employment opportunities within TYPN. We hope this will continue to help the region retain top talent.

After hosting Fitzpatrick Architects and learning more about downtown revitalization opportunities, many of our members wrote letters to the U.S. Department of Transportation in support of federal funding for the revitalization efforts.

TYPN continues to give back to our partners including Champions For Children and The American Cancer Society. Additionally, we've adopted Faulkner Park. We visit Faulkner Park quarterly, to pick up litter and make sure that children and their families have a safe, clean place to enjoy.

We are proud of all that we've accomplished and look forward to what the new year holds!

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Chad Cargile, Business Development Council Chair



Education / Human Resources Committee

On January 11th, The Education/Human Resources Committee chaired by Kara Grace, held the 5th annual/ Chamber of Commerce Career Connection at the TJC West Campus. C4 is an opportunity for students from area school districts, including private schools, to interact with community and business leaders. These professionals share insights on careers and provide a

resource for students to learn more about prospective career professions. Shannon Dacus was this year's keynote speaker who shared her inspirational life and career story to over 200 area kids. In April, the Tyler ISD Opportunity Fair was held at the Career and Technology Center. Students learned about industry opportunities such as internships, part-time employment, Job shadowing, and volunteerism. On August 1, the 6th annual School is Cool event was held. This is a great example of community helping community. Community and business leaders not only donated time and money but also stuffed backpacks and greeted the over 5000 students and parents who attended the event. UT Tyler and Dr. Tidwell provided 2000 backpacks with free monogramming for each student. School supplies were donated from local business organizations. The Lion's Club provide free vision screening. Net Health provided free immunizations and area cosmetologist provided over 100 free haircuts. The committee also held a joint committee meeting with the Veteran's Affairs Committee and leaders were able to connect within the committees and share the mission and vision and network together creating partnerships and connections to further the work of the Chamber.

Medical Committee

The Medical Committee, chaired by Kimberly Ashley, helped Tyler become only the 2nd Texas city to achieve recognition as a Dementia Friendly designation. Don Kent, who suffers from Lewy Body Dementia (an Alzheimer's-like brain disorder), shared with the committee how important this designation is for the individuals who are suffering from some type of dementia as well as for their families and caregivers. Additionally, the Medical Committee continued to highlight the challenges Behavioral Health has in our community. For example, Northeast Texas has one of the highest suicide rates in Texas; there is a dearth of mental health hospital beds in this region (oftentimes, the patient has to be transported to other cities, sometimes as far away as El Paso). There is a shortage of behavioral health providers in this region (including psychiatrists, psychologists, master's level prepared mental health therapists, etc.) And there is a need to reduce the extraordinary number of hours that some students/trainees must acquire prior to achieving his/her respective license and to be able to bill for services (case in point is the example that the committee was recently provided regarding Licensed Professional Counselors or LPCs.)

The committee also convened a meeting with local higher education institutions including UTHSCT, UT Tyler, and TJC to learn about the health professional degree programs that each institution offers. The committee members were aware of how important it is for the healthcare residents, students, trainees, and learners to receive the necessary academic education in their chosen fields of study and/or career paths. But, they also learned that it is equally important that these students/trainees/etc. have the necessary training experiences beyond the classroom to ensure they are well-prepared for their respective future practices (such as rotations, preceptorships, etc.) The committee heard about the difficulties some of these individuals are

having in identifying places/providers from which they could acquire the essential hands'-on training experiences. The committee members plan to continue this important conversation so that they might try to identify pathways to help.

The Medical Committee also joined forces with medical professionals, local politicians, and organizations to bring attention to the long-term challenges in our region caused by smoking. Through their efforts, and partnering with our local political coalition working in Austin, the Texas Legislature passed a bill in May 2019 that the Governor signed in June 2019, that increased the legal age to purchase tobacco products from age 18 to age 21.

The committee learned about Public Health and the activities employed by the Northeast Texas Public Health District to help address the public health needs in this region. The Medical Committee supported the Fit City Tyler health and wellness coalition and the Texas Healthy Communities program. In addition, the committee received an overview about Camp V that will be a "one-stop shop" in Tyler when it comes to resources and respite for military veterans and active duty personnel. The goal is to have everything from a respite center to resource offices and a horse stable for veterans and their families who reside in this area. Camp V Tyler is a 20-acre regional campus in West Tyler, and it is expected to open in November 2019.

The Senior Resource Committee

The Senior Resource Committee chaired by Courtney Kelpfer kicked off the year with the 17th annual Senior Health & Living Expo in October where over 1200 seniors were in attendance. This year's theme was "Get in the Game," meaning take care of your health. Over 50 exhibitors participated in the event which included health screenings and information from all the area hospitals and other health providers as well as information on volunteer opportunities for seniors. In March, the committee hosted the 13th annual Senior Celebrating Life event. The free event is held to help seniors learn about local resources they can use to improve their quality of life. Attendees had break out education session about Gardening, Financial Exploitation of our elders, staying fit and so much more. One of the key breakout sessions at the event was "Staying Safe Behind the Wheel as We Age" which educated seniors on car and driver safety. These events continue to show how valuable a resource our seniors are for our community.

Technology Committee

The Technology Committee is chaired by Kelby Hill. The committee also engaged with local businesses and organizations such as Goodwill Industries to bring awareness of the local technology resources we have in the region. Kimberly Lewis, Director of Goodwill, shared their new training program to help job applicants with soft skills to prepare the candidates for the job market. The committee worked with City of Tyler to bring awareness to Innovation Pipeline which is focused on growing more technology companies and supporting entrepreneurs. The committee also supported the Business/HR committee with a collaboration session focusing on the big picture technology moves that present opportunities for the Greater Tyler area. Additionally, the committee partnered with the TISD Career Technology Center to help students develop a promotional video on technology growth in Tyler and the attraction of new Technology firms. The committee also worked with UT Tyler, TJC and Texas college to highlight education opportunities in the tech industry. Certification programs were highlighted to get kids into these critical fields.

ribbon cuttings



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contactor talk



Tanya Redic
June

A member of the Contact Club since 2005, Tanya has earned 6 Production

Awards. She is the broker/owner of CIDER Properties and a member of Greater Tyler Association of Realtors as well as the National Association of Realtors. She is a Board Member for the TISD Foundation and a member of the Tyler Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She and her husband, Eric, are the parents of two daughters.



Jenny Wilson
July

Jenny is completing her 1st year in the Contact Club. She is an Account

Representative for Datamax. In addition to her volunteer work for the Chamber, she is also a member of South Tyler Rotary where she serves as the Youth Service Co-Chair. Jenny has 2 children, Jerrod and Jaycie, and she is a member of West Erwin Church of Christ.



Mika Mullens
August

Mika is serving her 4th year in the Contact Club and has earned 4

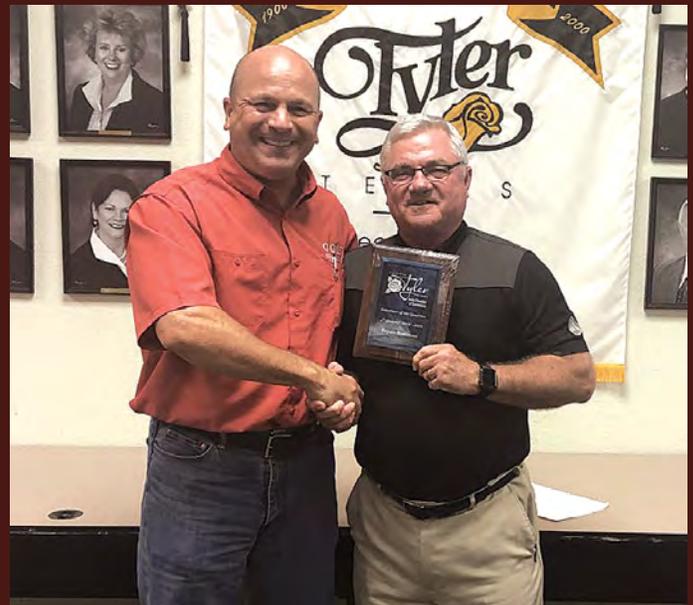
Production Awards. She is also a member of the Chamber Tourism Committee. A Field Account Representative for Grainger, Mika and her husband, Scott are the parents of a daughter, Mackenzie TyOnna.

VOLUNTEER OF THE 3RD QUARTER



Courtney Klepfer (left) and **Stephanie Taylor** (right) accept the Volunteer of the Quarter Award for the 3rd Quarter from Skip Ogle.

VOLUNTEER OF THE 4TH QUARTER



Bryan Rossman accepts the Volunteer of the Quarter Award for the 4th Quarter from Skip Ogle.

new member talk

American Heart Association -
East Texas
10900-B Stonelake Blvd. Ste 320
Austin, TX 75759
(903) 330-9812

AUR Construction
8331 Paluxy Drive
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 520-1346

Baker & Company Construction, LLC
120 W. 5th St. Ste. 105
Tyler, TX 75701
(903) 561-1763

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BRAVE Texas
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BW Design
18473 Point Road
Flint, TX 75762

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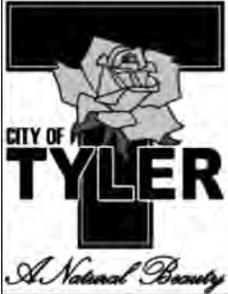
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