



# WEAKLEY COUNTY CHAMBER NEWS



P.O. Box 67 ~ Dresden, TN ~ 38225 ~ (731) 364-3787 ~ FAX (731) 364-2099 ~ [www.weakleycountychamber.com](http://www.weakleycountychamber.com) ~ September 2011

DRESDEN - GLEASON - GREENFIELD - MARTIN - SHARON

*Proudly serving our community since 1959*

## *2011-2012 Chamber Board of Directors*



On August 23, the 2011-2012 Weakley County Chamber Board of Directors held their first meeting of this fiscal year. Present at this meeting were:

Seated (left to right): Cheryl Lehmkuhl (Gleason), Old Hickory Clay Co.; Junior Moore Ex-Officio; Shelly Bowers (Gleason), WCMES; Dannyelle Williams (Dresden), TN Dept. of Labor and Workforce Development; Chamber President Jake Bynum (Dresden), First State; Dee Pritchett (Martin), Fuller Partners Real Estate, Inc.; and Joe Brasher (Sharon), First State.

Standing (left to right): Chamber Executive Director Barbara Virgin; Ronnie Price, Weakley County Economic Development Board; President Elect Richard Milam (Sharon), Road Runner Driving Academy; Randy Frazier, Weakley County Board of Education; Faron Collins, WCMES; Jerry Brigance (Sharon), J & B Custom Framing; Ron Arnold (Gleason), AMA Insurance; Chad Snider (Martin), Westan Insurance; Tyler Mitchell (Greenfield), Modern Woodman of America; Richard Horn (Gleason), Gleason Hardware; John Hatler (Martin), Cary Insurance Services, LLC; Steve Vantrease, UTM; and Mayor Monroe Ary (Sharon).

Present but not pictured was Administrative Assistant Marguriet Frazier.

Other Chamber Board members not present were:

Dresden - Mayor Danny Forrester; Tracy Crawford, On the Square; and Amy Lewellen, BancorpSouth  
Gleason - Mayor Jack Dunning

Greenfield - Mayor Eddie Joe McKelvy; Randy Huffstetler, Jr., Greenfield Banking Co.; Delores Wright, Greenfield Banking Co.; and Sherrie Wright, Weakley County Schools

Martin - Mayor Randy Brundige; Past President Todd Hampton, Edward Jones

Sharon - Scott Smith, Persimmon Hills Golf Course

Representatives - Gary Hall, Weakley County Farm Bureau; Weakley County Mayor Houston Patrick; and Allen Strawbridge, WTPUD

## ***Board of Directors***

### **Executive Committee**

President - Jake Bynum  
Past Pres.- Todd Hampton  
Pres. Elect - Richard Milam

### **Board of Directors**

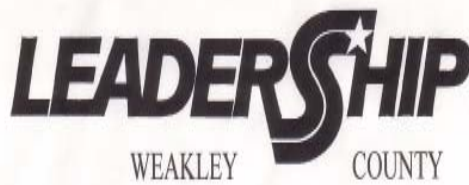
Ron Arnold  
Shelly Bowers  
Joe Brasher  
Jerry Brigance  
Traci Crawford  
John Hatler  
Richard Horn  
Randy Huffstetler, Jr.  
Cheryl Lehmkuhl  
Amy Lewellen  
Tyler Mitchell  
Dee Pritchett  
Scott Smith  
Chad Snider  
Dannyelle Williams  
Delores Wright  
Sherrie Wright

### **Ex-Officio**

Monroe Ary  
Randy Brundige  
Faron Collins  
Jack Dunning  
Danny Forrester  
Randy Frazier  
Gary Hall  
Eddie Joe McKelvy  
Junior Moore  
Houston Patrick  
Ronnie Price  
Allen Strawbridge  
Steve Vantrease

### **Staff**

Barbara Virgin  
Executive Director  
  
Marguriet Frazier  
Administrative Assistant



Nominations for the 2012 Leadership Weakley County Class are now being accepted. Anyone wanting to be part of the class, or wanting to nominate a person, please contact the Chamber Office at (731) 364-3787 or email [wcassistant@crunet.com](mailto:wcassistant@crunet.com)

# ***It Takes Vision, Good People, and Passion***

The Chamber is a small business and each year on July 1, it undergoes a change. At this time, which is the beginning of its fiscal year, it incorporates your ideas and request (Vision) into a business plan. This plan becomes the general outline and guidance for the year's activity of each Chamber committee.

It all starts with a dream, a road map, and a strategic direction. At the same time, we need to be willing to be flexible and make course corrections as circumstances change. Following rigid plans are of little use when the landscape around us is always shifting.

The Chamber Board of Directors also changes with a new President, five newly elected Directors, and five Presidential Appointees. With these new directors come different perspectives which cause us to think about what we are doing and what we could or should be doing. It's important that we have capable, qualified, trustworthy people on our Board of Directors. This incoming slate of directors comes with excellent backgrounds and wealth of knowledge. We are thrilled to have attracted them to join our board; now it's up to us to keep them motivated and bring out their very best.

The most inspiring workplace cultures are those with servant leaders at the top - men and women who encourage collaboration, communication, and individual empowerment and who recognize the dignity and worth of every director, as well as, the employees implementing the programs.

It is an exciting time for our staff as well. They know new leadership brings something different and unique to the table. It might be a revolutionary idea or it might simply be tweaking the existing programs to make them a little better. In any case, change is required. They know, understand, and embrace that need for change.

The final ingredient is a passion for the cause and a commitment to results. While there is always some natural resistance to change, it's a fact that change is inevitable. We here at the Chamber, embrace change and we encourage you to help us manage it. Good intentions aren't good enough! If you can't show you're making a difference, you probably aren't. In our interconnected world, we have a responsibility to one another - to our community in which we do business, the society in which we all live and help shape, as well the environment we share.

You are encouraged to get involved - join a committee, help with an event, participate in a business after hours, or recommend / sponsor someone in Leadership Weakley County. We need to hear from good people with vision and a passion for excellence!

*The Chamber of Commerce Pacesetter  
July, 2009*

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**Proudly sponsors this page and welcomes all new businesses and individuals to  
Weakley County!**



***Welcome New Members***



**Tennessee Tractor LLC**

Mitch Hobby

8258 Hwy 45 #ast

Martin, TN 38237

(731) 587-3824; fax (731) 587-3827

Email: mhobby@tennesseetractor.com

Web addr: www.tennesseetractor.com

John Deere



**Northwest Tennessee Workforce Board**

Margaret Prater

313 W. Cedar St.

Dyersburg, TN 38024

(731) 286-3585; Fax: (731) 286-3584

Email: prater@nwtncareercenter.org

Web addr: www.northwestnccareercenter.org

Workforce board serving 11 counties  
including Weakley County

**United Way of West Tennessee**

Jennifer Wood

1341 N. Highland

P.O. Box 2086

Jackson, TN 38302

(731) 422-1816 or 211 to find help or give help

Fax: (731) 422-1872

Email: jlwood@unitedway.tn.org

Web addr: www.unitedway.tn.org

Nonprofit organization serving 14 counties  
including Weakley County



## *Everett-Stewart Regional Airport*

Each year the Tennessee Airports Conference plays host to recognizing those facilities, individuals, and staff that have advanced the cause of safe, efficient, and effective aviation in Tennessee. The conference is a function of TDOT's Aeronautics Division. Five awards of excellence were announced at this year's conference in Nashville.

This year at the Awards of Excellence Banquet, the Everett-Stewart Regional Airport Board was the recipient of "**The Governing Body of the Year Award**". Everett-Stewart Regional Airport received the Tennessee Airports 2011 "**Red Carpet Award**".

Congratulations Manager Jo Ann Speer and Everett-Stewart Regional Airport Board and staff for being an example of leadership, dedication, persistence, and overall commitment to excellence.

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### **Why You Need The Chamber And Why The Chamber Needs You**

One voice raised in defense of a right or one person or business taking on a project is often weak and ineffectual. But when many voices are raised and many people work together in community affairs, much is achieved.

When you, as an individual or small business, express your opinions and make your contributions, physically and financially, in a cooperative effort with other small businessmen you have real "clout" and things get done. The Chamber of Commerce offers the vehicle for this community "clout" to stimulate orderly growth and economic development, to work with state and national legislators on major issues affecting the local cities and counties, to develop social responsibilities affecting homes, schools, health, as well as promote the free enterprise system.

So you, as a small businessman working in and with the Chamber, make your contributions to the community effort. In turn, the upgrading of the community, the increase in business, the new roads, the reduction of crime, the new subdivisions, better schools and libraries (all these things the Chamber works for) have a beneficial effect on you, your family, and your business. You don't serve and support the Chamber, you contribute and work for YOURSELF.

Of course, it takes money to operate the Chamber and its various activities, but the Chamber is working for YOU. If you make your investment, add your time and concentrate your effort, you're going to have "clout" to work for those things that benefit you and your business.

Let's all work together, for working together works...FOR YOU.

## Attention Members

The Chamber would like to inform you that there are people calling and visiting in our area selling ads for maps and magnets. These people are saying the Chamber is supporting them. The only company that the Chamber is currently endorsing is NovoPrint USA, who do the Weakley County maps. When it is time for new Weakley County maps, the Chamber will inform you through email and the newsletter. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the office at (731) 364-3787, email Barbara at [wccc@crunet.com](mailto:wccc@crunet.com), or email Marguriet at [wccassistant@crunet.com](mailto:wccassistant@crunet.com).

## Calendar of Events

August 28 - September 5

*Tater Town Special  
Gleason, TN*

September 3 - 11



*Tennessee Soybean Festival  
Martin, TN  
[www.tnsoybeanfestival.org](http://www.tnsoybeanfestival.org)*



September 10 - 17



*Corn and Music Festival  
Sharon, TN*



September 5

*Labor Day  
Chamber Office Closed*

September 10 - 11



*Airport Extravaganze  
Everett-Stewart Regional Airport*



September 13  
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

*The GROW Your Business 2011 Tour  
TN Small Business Development Ctr.  
UT Martin REED Center  
Martin, TN  
(731) 587-7333*

September 20  
5:30 pm

*Chamber Board Meeting  
Chamber Office*

October 4 - 8



*Fire Prevention Week  
Greenfield, TN*



October 15



*Big Cypress Tree Fall Festival  
Greenfield, TN*



December 8 - 11

*Santa's Village  
Ned McWherter Ag Complex  
Martin, TN*



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