

February 2006

Annual Chamber Banquet Worthy Award Recipients

Ambassadors of the Year

Bill & Myra Baiotto

This year's Ambassador of the Year is actually a "team." This couple met on a blind date in St. Louis, married and then the groom moved his bride to Riverside - a mining camp along the Chariton River on Highway 11 west. The groom eventually moved his "city girl" wife to the City of Kirksville where she was able to further her education in the nursing field while her husband was busy building a coal mining and ready mix business with his father. Not only has this couple been dedicated to the Chamber of Commerce, they have been incredibly active in many areas of the Kirksville community, specifically the First Baptist Church, American Red Cross, RSVP, Jaycees and the Adair County Health Department Board. Bill and Myra Baiotto are this year's Chamber Ambassadors of the Year.

Hall of Fame

Annette Sweet, Ameren UE

The award recipient moved to Kirksville in 1979. She has always held a leadership role in the community with economic development projects and organizations, including KIDC, NEED, and the current organization of K-REDI. The award winner takes an active role in the Chamber's Community Betterment Committee, the Missouri Community Betterment competition and the Missouri Economic Development Council. This year's winner is a member of Rotary, Altrusa, and the First United Methodist Church. The winner was born and raised in Kansas, but graduated high school from Jefferson City and earned a business degree from Missouri State University. She has two daughters and has been married for almost 22 years. Annette Sweet, from Ameren UE, is this year's Hall of Fame award winner.

Employee of the Year

Kris McKim, City of Kirksville

This year's Employee of the Year has been a public servant for three years. The award winner serves on the Kirksville Image Campaign committee, Telecommunications Committee, the TIF Commission, the Kirksville Downtown Improvement Committee, the Heartland Task Force Committee for the Mother/Son Stampede, and the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. She also volunteers in the community through work with the Kiwanis Club, Kirksville Women of Today, and is a member of the Nazarene Church and serves on the children's council at the church. She and her husband have two children and she keeps the books for her husband's contracting business. The City of Kirksville's Assistant City Manager, Kris McKim, is this year's Employee of the Year.

CELEBRATE
KIRKSVILLE
WHERE
PEOPLE
MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

February 2006 Calendar of Events



February 1	Fourth of July Planning Committee Meeting 1:15 p.m. Chamber Office
February 2	Commercial Envelope Mfg. Appreciation Event 3010 Industrial Rd., 3:30 p.m.
February 3	Business After Hours 5—7 p.m. Fairgrounds
February 3	Wear Red for Women Heart Disease Awareness
February 3-4	High School Invitational Forensics Tournament— Truman State campus
February 4	KIRX/KRXL/KTUF Ag Show, NEMO Fairgrounds
February 5	15th Annual Shrine Super-bowl and Chili Cook Off El Kadir Shrine Club
February 7	Governmental Affairs Comm. 7:30 a.m. Chamber Office
February 7	KREDI Annual Meeting 5:30 p.m. Shrine Club
February 10	Kirksville Leadership Inst. 8:15 a.m. Health & Fitness Center
February 11	Shrine Valentine's Dance 8:30—11:30 p.m. Shrine Club
February 13	Exec. Committee Meeting 8 a.m. Chamber Office
February 15	Economic Development Committee Meeting 4 p.m. Chamber Office
February 17	TGIF—State of the County Address 8 a.m. County Annex Bldg.
February 20	President's Day Chamber Office Closed
February 25	Jazz Festival Truman State University Ophelia Parrish
February 27	Chamber Board Meeting 11:30 a.m., Cottage Grove B & B
February 28	Merchants Committee 8:30 a.m. Chamber Office
February 28	Kohlenberg Lyceum "The Trip to Bountiful" 7:30 p.m. Baldwin Hall
March 25	Chamber Spring Expo 8 a.m.—4 p.m. NEMO Fairgrounds

2006 President's Remarks

Linda Grgurich, COO
Preferred Family
Healthcare

I am honored and excited about the opportunity to serve the Chamber as the 2006 President. As I look around the table at our Chamber board meetings, I have the rich privilege of working with some of the most talented and dedicated people in Kirksville.

As a board each year, we take a morning out of our busy schedules to establish the goals for the Chamber. Some of the goals are more constant in that membership is always important. This year we want to flaunt the advantages of Chamber membership, so Alisa and her staff are going to track some of the activity that occurs in their office. For instance, on any given day, Rita may direct someone to a real estate office or Debi may brainstorm job opportunities with someone who recently relocated here with his or her spouse. We want you to know what our Chamber does for you to both enhance the community we live in as well as direct commercial and retail traffic your way. Soon you will see those numbers reported in graph form in your monthly newsletter.

Second, we want to identify adequate space for the expanding needs of the Chamber. Currently, we have a lot of brochures and other material from businesses that we can't display due to our limited lobby area. We hope to locate space with great visibility and a modern image that promotes our progressive direction. In our meeting this past Monday, a committee formed to identify the space and location needs of the Chamber always mindful of our conservative budget.

Next, you will soon be hearing about a tourism tax. This is a tax paid by non-residents—the out-of-towners sleeping in our hotels. All of us pay that tax as we travel throughout the State. It's time for us to pass the tax that will enable the Chamber to market Kirksville either as a destination or a place to stop and enjoy as they travel through. Alisa has proven that once she gets a group here for a conference or workshop, they return. They find our city friendly and appreciate our unique shops and restaurants.

And last, an old effort is taking a new twist in that the merchants of Kirksville are coming together via a Merchant committee. The Chamber staff will assist in the organization of sidewalk sales and other such events. A coordinated effort is what we as consumers enjoy, and our Chamber is all about coordination. This team of professionals, Alisa, Debi and Rita not only work hard but they work smart. They are creative and display initiative. With a team like that supporting us, 2006 is bound to be a successful year!

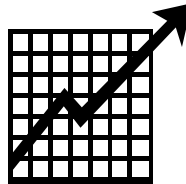
Happy Anniversary!

The Chamber wishes to thank the following businesses for reaffirming their belief in the Kirksville Area Chamber of Commerce!

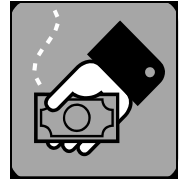
AAA Insurance
 Adair County Public Library
 Ameren UE
 Amtrak
 Atmos Energy
 Bill and Myra Baiotto
 CableOne
 Cellular Today
 Collins Rents & Events
 Curtain Call Theatre Company
 Davis Playle Hudson Rimer Funeral Home
 Division of Workforce Development
 Earth Angel Complementary Health
 Edna Campbells
 For the Fun of It
 Gardner Collier Jewelry
 Golden Eagle Distributing Co.
 Grossnickle Insurance
 Harden, Cummins, Moss & Miller, LLC
 Harding and Associates
 Highland Crest Assisted Living by Americane
 Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites
 Hollister Incorporated
 Il Spazio Inc.
 International Eyecare Center
 Jim's Gems/ Merle Norman Cosmetics
 Kirksville Arts Association
 Kirksville Housing Authority
 Kirlin's Hallmark
 KIRX/KRXL/KTUF Radio
 KTVO Television
 Lifeline Pregnancy Resource Center
 Lovegreen Ford Chrysler
 Midwest Bone and Joint Center, P.C.
 Old Quarry Sunrooms Inc.
 ProDental
 Representative Bob Behnen
 Shelter Insurance-Jerry and Betty Thomas
 Simpson Printing
 St. Clair Corporation
 Taylor Flowers
 The Girl Scouts of the Becky Thatcher Area
 Troester's Clothing
 Truman State University
 Twin Pines Adult Care Center
 Wal-Mart Super Center
 Whitney Harrison Insurance

Welcome New Members!

Embroidme
 John Rhein
 15917 Jasper Avenue
 LaPlata, MO 63549
 660-332-7795



Local Economic Trend\$



January 2006 Reports

Source: City of Kirksville
 Actual Sales Tax Receipts
 Recorded, Jan. '06 \$89,708.93

Dec. New Business Licenses 9

Dec. New Residential
 Building Permits 2

Dec. New Commercial
 Building Permits 2

Source: MERIC
www.missourieconomy.org
November '05
 Adair County average
 hourly wage \$11.76

Missouri
 Unemployment Rate 5.3%

Adair County
 Unemployment Rate 4.1%

Adair County
 # of Unemployed 519

Cost of Living in 6th lowest of
 Missouri 50 states

Source: NRMC
 Dec. births at NRMC 42

Source: AAA, November
 Gasoline prices One Year Ago
 \$1.94 \$1.78

SPECIAL THANKS!

Please take a moment to note the sponsors of the *Community Pride Newsletter* this year. By advertising, it is possible for your Chamber to print a monthly newsletter that keeps all of our members informed. Let's thank them all for choosing to support the Chamber and sponsor the 2006 newsletter:

**Ameren UE ♦ American Trust Bank
Benton & Associate ♦ KTVO
Davis Playle Hudson Rimer Funeral Home
Days Inn ♦ Northeast Regional Medical Center
Heritage House Realty—Vicki Benson
Missouri Career Center ♦ NEMO State Bank
Adair County Family YMCA**