

**COVINGTON COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2011-2012**

**James Earl Clark, President
Mike Wilcosky, Vice-President
Babette Duty, Secretary-Treasurer**

Becky Arnold	Ginger Kirkley
Paula Flowers	John Pope
James Arrington Goff	Shasta Sanford
Barbara Harris	Frieda Whiddon
Sylvia Kelly	Jay Baggett, Ex. Officio

Program of Work 2011-1212

AMBASSADORS: Ginger Kirkley, Chairman; Crystal Kimbrough Keena Hull, Bronna Ray, Gwen Allen, Sharon Reynolds, Lisa Polk

- Enlist ambassadors from area banks to contact businesses in the surrounding communities in the county
- Promote and encourage attendance at ribbon cuttings, open house, meetings and special events
- Visit businesses and encourage participation in chamber programs and events

BUSINESS COMMITTEE: Mike Wilcosky, Chairman; Roy Arnold, Twila Dickinson, Ann Powell, Tina Softee, Shasta Stewart

- To increase the number of business memberships in the chamber
- Continue “Santa Shops Covington County First” Campaign
- Coordinate county-wide seasonal business promotions

INDUSTRY COMMITTEE: Jay Baggett, Dr. Shannon Campbell, Angie Cognevich-MDA, Don Jordan, Gena Lentz

- To sponsor small business development workshops in conjunction with Jones County Junior College Small Business Development Center
- Committee members visit business and industry
- MDA representative to visit local businesses and industry to confirm value of chamber membership – Priority One Program

- **MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCE:** Chris Hull, Chairman; Mary Ann Shoemake, Dianne Ambrosier, Mitch Boleware
- Prepare 2011-2012 Covington County Chamber of Commerce Budget for recommendation to the Board of Directors
- Provide monthly financial statements to Board of Directors
- Perform review of budget and expense accounts periodically for Board of Directors
- Promote membership of new members by direct solicitation and other means
- Promote “value” and benefits of chamber membership

CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK: Marie Shoemake, Clay Ebarb, James Arrington Goff, Jack Mauldin, Charles Beasley, Rev. Rocky Holston, Jack Mauldin, Marlene Mitchell, Jerry Williamson

- Expand Christmas in the Park with the additional angels, memorials and honorariums
- Place angels on light poles on North Fir Avenue
- Enlist church volunteers to work entrance/exit gates
- Enlist workers to help put up park displays

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY: Dr. Shannon Campbell, President; Mayor V.O. Smith, Mayor Billy Karolyi, Mayor Bob McNair, Staci Cothran, Charles Fairley, Alan Fulton, Stanley Williams

- Work with state and regional agencies to promote Covington County
- Help local business and industry to grow and expand

EDUCATION: Maxine McGowan, Chairman; Susan Deen, Latrice Griffith, La Shanda Myers, Angie Palmer, Zella Weathersby, Carolyn Conger

- Continue job shadowing program at the secondary level.
- Sponsor Career Day at the elementary level
- Combine Partners in Education with Mississippi Scholars. *Work to enhance these programs by utilizing the corporate sponsors to do classrooms presentations beginning in the 8th grade. Work with school counselors to promote participation in each school.*
- Implement recognition of special accomplishments of students, teachers, and partners of each school on Awards Day
- Promote the Education Foundation
- Promote increased participation from students, teachers, and staff in community functions such as the Art Expo and the 5-K Run/Walk

ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND BEAUTIFICATION: Janice Bryant, Chairman; Becky Arnold, Keena Hull and Michelle Hall

- Promote a “Clean-up/Fix up” week in the county

- Promote revitalization in downtown areas of Collins, Seminary and Mt. Olive as recommended by Mississippi Main Street
- Implement a recycling program in the county

The Clean-up/Fix-up week will include a one day sight to drop off environmental waste items such as paint cans, old appliances, etc.

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS: Barbara Harris, Chairman; Wallace Allred, Ben Ford, Cindy Sanford

- Set February meeting date with Elected Officials
- To foster a closer working relationship with elected officials and community leaders to address matters concerning the communities and county

OKATOMA FESTIVAL: James Clark, Chairmen; Barbara Harris, Co-Chairma, Dr. Kyle Bass, Kathe Bryant, Carolyn Cogner, Susan Deen, Brian Dickens, Babette Duty, Jeff Hall, Harvey Lott, Wryn and Tommy Morgan/Lisa Taormina, Ronnie Robinson, Frieda Whiddon

- To promote Covington County by sponsoring the 23rd annual Okatoma Festival
- Enlist festival honoree, entertainment, exhibits, booths, etc.
- Solicit festival sponsorships and workers
- Meet with community officials for promotion and support
- Coordinate and encourage cooperation of local officials, volunteers, educators, and city/county employees for setting up, implementing and closing of the festival

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND HOSPITALITY: Babette Duty, Chairman; Chris DaQuila, Sandra Reeves, Shasta Sanford

- To prepare the designated facilities for general membership meetings
- To register attendees at general membership meetings
- To welcome new business and industry
- To assist with the Covington County Miss Hospitality Program

TOURISM: Jo Lynn Mitchell, Chairman; Twila Dickinson, Martha Diehl, James Arrington Goff, Angie Lee, Martha Diehl, Lynda Sanford, Marilyn Saulters, Frieda Whiddon

- Promote tourist attractions in Covington County
- Keep tourism racks in county filled with current brochures
- Work with tourist attractions to promote other businesses in the county
- Update website to entice tourist to visit Covington County
- Keep website updated with new businesses listings and events
- Mail tourism brochures to Mississippi Welcome Centers

**“PEOPLE WORKING TOGETHER
TO MAKE YOUR COUNTY BETTER”**

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COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

**Ambassadors.....Ginger Kirkley
Business.....Mike Wilcosky
Christmas in the Park.....Volunteers
Education..... Maxine McGowan
Economic Development Authority....Dr. Shannon Campbell**

**Environmental Enhancement/.....Janice Bryant
Beautification**
Governmental Affair.....Barbara Harris
Hospitality and Public Relations.....Babette Duty
Industry.....Jay Baggett
Membership and Finance.....Chris Hull
Okatoma Festival.....James Clark
Barbara Harris
Tourism.....Jo Lynn Mitchell
Executive Director.....Marie Shoemake