

The Chamber Business Journal

February 2021

Doing what most people think just happens!

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Congratulations & Welcome New Chamber Member

JP Weigand & Sons, Inc.
1348 N. Main, McPherson, KS
Contact: Kendra Kuchta, Kali Graber, Jeremy Moore
Phone: 620-242-1168
Website: www.weigand.com
Facebook: JP Weigand & Sons, Inc-McPherson

Working as a real estate agent for over 7 years, Kendra Kuchta is excited to partner with **JP Weigand & Sons, Inc.** to Broker a McPherson location. Her daughter, Kali Graber, will be joining Kendra in the office as Associate Broker.

Kali has been part of **JP Weigand & Sons, Inc.** for the last 3 years. Jeremy Moore will be part of their team as well. They have been a local real estate face to McPherson but will now have over 200 Kansas agents to help them sell your home. The new **JP Weigand & Sons, Inc.** office is located at 1348 N Main St, McPherson KS in the Coronado Mall. They will continue to strive for the “small town” personal feel that you have expected from them over the years, but with the added success and knowledge of over 100 years in the business that JP Weigand & Sons offers. Kendra felt that **JP Weigand & Sons** values met her own personal goals for the future of McPherson and our housing.

Vision: To be the standard for excellence in the real estate industry by raising the bar for ethics and professionalism and delivering exceptional customer service in all areas of the real estate transaction.

As a native of McPherson, Kendra wants the very best for her community/friends/family. From Kendra, her staff, and agents, “we thank you in advance for your support! We are all excited to serve McPherson.”

Valentine Exchange Brings Joy

Each year the Chamber President is encouraged to share their ideas and gather the opinions of the board, on how the Chamber can better serve our community. The 2020/2021 Chamber President, Kendra Oakes, felt strongly that the senior community could use extra attention, having endured an extended period of isolation due to the pandemic. This became the first focus of our mental health initiative.

Following a conversation with LaMonte Rothrock, CEO of The Cedars, we decided to facilitate the connections to create a very special Valentine Exchange. Kendra Oakes reached out to Hilary Kibler, the art teacher for Eisenhower and Roosevelt Elementary schools, who readily agreed to create 115 Valentine cards with her 2-4th grade students to give to The Cedars residents. Lisa Bower, activity director for The Cedars was all-in and helped the senior residents create Valentine cards for the students. A true exchange for all to enjoy.

While making arrangements for the card exchange, we found out that Doug Wine, a teacher at Roosevelt, has been creating Valentine cards with his 2nd and 3rd grade students to give to senior residents for over 10 years. What a wonderful and thoughtful commitment he has made to brighten the lives of all who have given or received these Valentine cards through the years. Thank you Doug.

But wait, the Valentine Exchange gets even better! Not only did the students and seniors receive Valentine cards to remind them that someone thinks they are super special, they also created Valentine videos for each other too! We thought this would be an incredible personal touch, and it truly was. You can enjoy the priceless video on the McPherson Chamber of Commerce Facebook page. Check out the familiar smiling faces as they put the finishing touches on their cards and share sweet messages. We hope it warms your heart like it did ours. We greatly appreciate the enthusiasm and involvement of all who were a part of the Valentine Exchange. Your efforts added an extra sparkle of joy.

The Psychology Behind Investing

Find out “How Markets Affect You,” during the next Chamber Connections. We are pleased to announce that Sunflower Bank will be our host on Thursday, February 18 at 9:30 a.m. While our in-person Chamber Connections have not been possible for a while, we have been working to bring you opportunities to connect differently. Last week we went live on Facebook to learn about our host Integrated Health and Wellness Center. This week we will be connecting by Zoom. If you do not receive the Chamber e-newsletter where we will post the link, and would like to join us, contact the McPherson Chamber office at 620-241-3303 or email chamberdirector@mcphersonks.org for the link.

Dustin Jackson, CFP® RICP® VP, Wealth Management Advisor with Sunflower Bank will touch on why a diversified approach to investing can be a win, what is “S&P Envy,” Market Recap-Where We Stand, Markets in Context-Emotions When Investing, The Way Forward- Where We Go from Here, and a little about what a hedge fund is in light of the recent GameStop headlines.

We hope you all will join us, and Sunflower Bank, for Chamber Connections (via Zoom) on Thursday, February 18th.



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Extend Grace

Be Kind signs can be seen everywhere you drive, while watching tv, and even when browsing the internet. The first time I noticed a *Be Kind* sign I thought it was rather nice. The more I noticed, my thoughts slid towards isn't it sad that we have to post signs everywhere to remind us to *Be Kind*? Of course, this coming from the person who displays quotes everywhere! Maybe it was my mood that day that made my perspective switch? Regardless, *Be Kind* is a great message and a simple reminder to make an intentional decision to *Be Kind* in all situations. *Be Kind* because everyone is fighting a battle that you may know nothing about.

A similar message was brought up in a recent Kansas Leadership Center class I attended about extending grace. It was in the context of, we are all new to this format and will undoubtedly make mistakes so extend grace as we work through it together. I have thought of that message many times since that day as we all navigate new technology together, new health guidelines together, new challenges together. I think of it as people are sharing their point of view on wearing masks/not wearing masks, getting a vaccine/not getting a vaccine, gathering in groups, traveling, shopping, and the list of topics that we all have opinions on could fill a book. We all have history and circumstances that shape our opinions, but next time before you need to be reminded to *Be Kind*, I hope you will choose to extend grace.

As we continue to face challenges together, I wanted to share this gentle reminder of “*Nine ways to extend grace to others*” from Author Dawn Klinge.

1. Words- Be kind and gentle in what you say and how you say it.
2. Look for Needs and Opportunities- simple everyday kindnesses and actions often help in great ways.
3. Let it Go- respond to others with grace. Sometimes people are going to be rude. Instead of responding harshly, keep a calm spirit.
4. Be There- Sometimes your presence is all that's needed to show someone they're loved. Be happy with the person who's happy. Be sad with the person who's sad.
5. Forgive- when someone asks you to forgive, do so graciously and without correction.
6. Learn to Ask for Forgiveness- be quick to apologize when you make a mistake or have wronged someone else.
7. Watch the Way You Speak- be careful how you express yourself
8. Gratitude- say thank you often and let people know how much you appreciate them.
9. Take an Interest in Others- learn about other people, ask them questions, listen and care.

I hope your attitudes and actions will always include extending grace..... and being kind.

Leading in the Midst of Change

The Leadership Advisory Committee of the McPherson Chamber will host a **virtual program on Wednesday, February 24 at noon** (CST). Everyone is invited to attend. Our speaker Hala Dean, Director of Employee Learning & Development for Viega LLC. has lined up an interactive presentation and conversations about “Leading in the Midst of Change.” A Zoom link will be included in next weeks' Chamber e-newsletter, or the link can be sent to you directly. If you are not currently receiving the Chamber e-newsletter and would like to too, you can use the “sign up” button on the McPherson Chamber of Commerce Facebook Page, give us a call at 620-241-3303, or email chamberdirector@mcphersonks.org

Hala, our guest speaker, started her career in training at the BBC in London, England, where she developed and presented executive management courses.

She has lectured in MBA courses at the University of Liverpool and supervised MBA dissertations at the University of Hertfordshire. She has worked with global corporations to provide tailored and specialized trainings in leadership, management and HR strategy topics.

Hala trains executives and trainers in academic and corporate settings and provides C-suite consultation in training strategy to multinational organizations.

Most recently, Hala developed a leadership program which was awarded Grand Prize Honors for the Best Experienced/Senior Leaders Program by HR.COM. This award is a celebration of global leadership development programs that recognizes employers, companies or institutions that have implemented or internally developed these programs to support, grow and sustain their leadership team.

Invest the time in developing your leadership skills and join us on February 24th. This is a tremendous opportunity!



Debbie Hawkinson,
Executive Director,
McPherson Chamber
of Commerce

DQ GRILL & CHILL WINNERS

Congratulations to Farmers State Bank, 2074 E. Kansas, McPherson, winner of the DQ cake.
Thank you, Roger and Karen Horn, Owners of DQ Grill and Chill, 1435 N. Main, McPherson for providing the monthly DQ ice cream treat.

2020 - 2021 Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

- President- Kendra Oakes, Peoples Bank & Trust * President-Elect- Lauren Hughes, Wise & Reber L.C.
- * Treasurer- Justin Kaufman, Swindoll, Janzen, Hawk & Loyd * Past President- Alex Graber, Graber's Ace Hardware
- * Board of Directors: Amy Beckman, McPherson College * Shannon Brake, McPherson Public Library
- * Craig Druecker, Midway Motors Supercenter * Ryan Hicks, Farmers Alliance
- * Jeff Reitz, JAR Performance Automotive * Dr. Patrick Romm, Integrated Health and Wellness * Eric Wicker, Viega

chamber events

**To view the Community Calendar for McPherson County, visit www.mcphersonchamber.org*

February

- 17** 4:00 pm Women's Event Committee (via Zoom)
- 18** 9:30 am Chamber Connections hosted by Sunflower Bank (via Zoom)
- 23** 4:00 pm Chamber Classic Golf Committee Meeting @ Chamber office
- 24** 12 noon Leadership Alumni Guest Speaker (via Zoom)
- 25** 9:30 am Chamber Connections TBD
11:30 Chamber Board Meeting @ Chamber office

March

- 3** 12 noon Leadership Advisory Committee @ Chamber office
- 4** 9:30 am Chamber Connections TBD
- 10** AFA Scholarship Deadline
- 11** 9:30 am Chamber Connections TBD
- 17** Happy St. Patrick's Day!

SBA Emerging Leaders Program

The SBA's Wichita District Office will host the Emerging Leaders StreetWise MBA program from April through October in 2021. The program is a seven-month course designed for business owners to create their own strategic growth action plan with benchmarks and performance targets.

About Emerging Leaders:

Emerging Leaders curriculum "StreetWise MBA" was developed, in part, by Interise and Boston University's Entrepreneurial Management Institute. The program is interactive and participants use their own financials and existing operational plans as a case study to build a strategic plan to accomplish their goals. For this reason, it is designed for established businesses and is not a program for 'start-ups' or businesses less than 3 years old.

The executives selected to participate in the program will graduate with a three-year growth action plan that is based on their individual business' situation and goals. In addition, the participants will have access to a network of peers and business leaders who can continue to provide support and accountability as the growth plan is implemented.

While the seven-month Emerging Leaders program is offered at no financial cost, the curriculum requires each executive to invest their time and effort to attend all 13 sessions held twice per month, complete the assignments, and develop their plan (about a 100-hour commitment). Due to the COVID-19 health crisis, the 2021 program will be held virtually (thirteen, 3-hour online sessions held twice per month from April – October 2021).

Background and Statistical Success:

Since 2008, this program has trained over 5,000 small business owners, creating over 6,500 jobs, generating over \$300 million in new financing, and securing over \$3.16 billion in government contracts. See the 2019 national impact report by clicking [HERE](#). Wichita was selected to host the initiative for the first time in 2014.

Participant Qualifications:

- Be an established business (in existence for at least 3 years)
- Annual revenues between a minimum of \$250,000 and a maximum of \$10 million
- 2 or more employees, recommended
- Time commitment of the business owner (or executive "decision-maker") to dedicate themselves to participate in every session, and complete course assignments. In total, it is a 100+ hour commitment. Only one representative of a business can participate in the program.

Interested and qualified small business owners should **apply** at: <http://www.interise.org/sbaemergingleaders> (the registration webpage is open all year). The deadline to apply for the 2021 class cohort is **March 12, 2021**. For more information about the SBA's Emerging Leaders program, please contact **Sarah Haymaker at (316) 250-5612** or email Wichita_DO@sba.gov

Matching \$\$ For Future Ag Leaders

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce Ag Committee is dedicated to helping today's youth become tomorrow's leaders in agriculture. Since 2001, we have partnered with Agriculture Future of America to offer an AFA Leader and Academic Scholarship. To date we have awarded 30 full \$4,450 academic and leader development scholarships and funded 12 additional \$1,250 leadership conference only scholarships. 2021 AFA Scholarship applications are available at www.agfuture.org

With your help, we can continue to invest in the education of local students pursuing an agriculture field of study. To raise scholarship dollars, the McPherson Chamber Ag Committee organizes the Mac County Round Up 5K/1 Mile Fun Run and the annual Farm Forum. We have also established a local AFA Scholarship endowment at the McPherson County Community Foundation.

Exciting News! An anonymous donor has offered a dollar-for-dollar match up to \$5,000 for gifts received to the AFA Scholarship Fund. We have reached \$2,000 as of 2/12 and the deadline to complete the match is April 30, 2021. Please consider a contribution to the AFA Scholarship endowment fund so that we can continue to provide scholarship opportunities for future generations.

Contributions can be made online or at the McPherson County Community Foundation, 1233 N. Main, P.O. Box 822, McPherson KS 67460 (please indicate the AFA Scholarship). We appreciate your investment, and the impact it will make on our future ag leaders.

This Is How We Roll- Chamber Classic Golf Tournament

"This is how we roll" isn't just the Florida Georgia Line song, it is the theme of the 2021 Chamber Classic Golf Tournament. Clear your calendar for the afternoon of Friday, June 4th, and plan to join us for an unforgettable time.

We will be "rollin" out new games and keeping the unconventional style tournament for all to enjoy. Not sure if we will be "singing out everything on the radio-oh-oh..." but if your team likes to sing, go for it!

Gather your team, and plan to "roll" along the cart path at Turkey Creek Golf Course on June 4th. Teams will start signing in at 11:30 and the tournament will start at 12:30.

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament will be "roll-in" out the details soon, so be watching for your chance to enter a team and promote your business through sponsorship.

It's going to be a great afternoon at the "This is How We Roll" Chamber Classic Golf Tournament!

They Do the Homework So You Don't Have To

With so much information available through the Internet these days, it's easier to research nonprofit causes. However, not everyone has the time to do that research before making a donation.

By enlisting the help of trained, experienced volunteers, United Way studies 17 local nonprofit programs, assessing their financial need and the outcomes each agency delivers. The volunteers get a holistic look at the organizations and interview both staff and volunteers to determine at what level to fund them. This adds up to a donated time investment of hundreds of hours.

United Way Allocations Chair Kena Dacus said of the process: "I think it's really important that the United Way's Allocations process includes input from so many community members. Our teams have a wide representation that allows for many perspectives in discussing and ultimately deciding how to allocate our funds."

Here are the teams that are part of the Allocations process this year:

Audrey Miller, *Rebuilding Lives* Team Leader. Team Members: Ann Engel, Tami Gossett, Dawn Morse, Anika Polzin, Ayda Pressnall, and Aly Weyand.

Kena Dacus, *Providing Basic*



ROB MACKEY
Executive Director
United Way of McPherson County

Needs Team Leader. Team Members: Olivia Fetsch, Debbie Hawkinson, Jonathan Rothrock, Ronda Sjogren, and Shiloh Vincent.

Lara Vanderhoof, *Building Self-Reliance* Team Leader. Team Members: Jen Bonham, Sheryl Dossett, Brad Miller, and Julie Wondra.

Chad Hitt, *Preparing for Life* Team Leader. Team Members: Shannon Achilles, Scott Barkley, Sandy Ide, Ray Reno, Marc Robertson, and Johnette Shepek.

We are grateful to each of these volunteers who help decide where the money goes that you give to United Way. They do the homework, so you don't have to.

Thanks to all of you who have supported the United Way of McPherson County.

For more information on our funded programs, visit www.united-waymcpherson.org. the joy of reading and help them prepare for success in kindergarten!

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