

# The Chamber Business Journal

July 2021

Community ~ Growth ~ Leadership ~ Vision

306 N. Main, McPherson, Kansas 67460 • Phone: 620-241-3303 • www.mcphersonchamber.org • Visit us on Facebook

## Congratulations and Welcome New Members

### The Ark Antiques & Flea Market

301 S. Main St, McPherson

Phone: (620) 245-3891

Contact: Ben Coffey

Website: thearkmcpherson.com

Facebook: The Ark Antiques & Flea Market

At The Ark Antiques and Flea Market, there is no telling what you may find! With over 100 vendors and booths, there is always something new to look at and enjoy. The Coffey family have been picking, reselling, and vending in markets for more than two decades.

Their mission is simple: Offer a regionally recognized shopping experience with quality vendors and fair prices in a clean, comfortable environment.

Follow The Ark Antiques & Flea Market on Facebook to stay informed about their consignment auctions and monthly Market Mania. For more information on how you can become a vendor, call (620) 245-3891.

### Partridge Roofing Services

511 W. 24th St. North Newton, KS 67117

Phone: (316) 804-7025

Contact: Joe or Paul Partridge

Facebook: Partridge Roofing Services

Partridge Roofing Services is operated by father and son, Paul and Joe Partridge. Together, they have over 45 years of combined experience serving the local area, specializing in residential and commercial roofing. They are not just salesmen and a crew, they are experienced roofers too!

## A Glimpse at the Average Day



7:00 am. Agriculture committee meeting to finalize details and volunteers for the upcoming Rural Appreciation Picnic on July 23. Stop to welcome a new business to town, arrive at the Chamber office to address emails, which sometime require some investigation to have an accurate answer. Prepare and mail information to the 2021 Leadership McPherson Class that starts August 4, contact future facilitators and Leadership Advisory Committee to prepare for the 3-month program. Communicate with Entrepreneurship Loan applicant, gather information and begin the paperwork to help fill the gap on financing a business venture. Participate in a meeting to plan for McPherson's 150th Celebration in 2022. Give ex-officio report at the Convention and Visitors

### Debbie Hawkinson

Executive Director, McPherson Chamber of Commerce

Bureau board meeting and collaborate on materials and assistance for a group arriving in October. It's now 2:15 so I grab a sandwich and head back to the office. While returning phone calls and emails, it's time to submit articles for the Chamber Business Journal printed in the McPherson Sentinel, start working on the Chamber budget and director's report. Thank goodness, the women's trip details have already been completed, the accommodations have been secured for the candidate forums in September and annual Chamber meeting in November. Throughout the day, we also assist callers with current phone numbers or locations of products and services in McPherson and enjoy meeting new residents and providing them with a welcome bag full of goodies and information when they stop by the office.

Better make a note to remember and go by and visit with new leadership at a business. Share new job posting information with Michael to include in the Chamber e-newsletter and online postings and share new community events that I have become aware of with Shirley for the Community Calendar. Call about commercial space available for a business wanting to expand. Verify the next meeting to assist with the Housing Conference in October, visit with GoMcPherson about the Virtual Career Day, and.....oh gosh, is it already way past 5?

I may have gotten a little sidetracked somewhere in that timeframe and started thinking about what topic we should focus on for the next 100 Year History article, who is hosting the next Chamber Connection, or what educational program could we offer our members that would help them navigate areas of concern?

This long rambling summary gives you a glimpse of what a crazy yet amazing and rewarding day I typically have. It can get challenging and hectic, but I love the incredible opportunity to be involved in our blessed community, the programs we do to enhance it, and the support we offer to promote it. The work that we do at the Chamber may not always make the "front page news," but just know that we try everyday to make a difference.

# THE MCPHERSON SENTINEL

116 S. Main - McPherson - 620.241.2422

## Virtual Hiring Day

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce is excited to partner on the second annual Go McPherson Virtual Hiring Day on Friday, October 8, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.!

Last year's Hiring Day was a great success and we're looking forward to an even bigger and better event for 2021.

We do know that some of you may be wondering why we're going virtual again. Using a virtual platform allowed us to expand our reach significantly in 2020, and our plan is to focus on attracting out-of-state talent. Take a look at the overview video to find out more.

For 2021, we're keeping the things that our exhibitors loved and we're adding even more benefits.

- Booths featuring amenities aren't just welcome, they're needed. Our reach is bigger than job seekers. People moving to the area will be interested in the amenities that we have to offer, so don't count yourself out if you aren't a business that needs to hire consistently.
- We've adjusted the participation levels to make it more cost effective for smaller businesses.
- We're using a new venue that makes it easier to video chat directly in the platform.
- We're including full-service booth setup.

Take a look at our Exhibitor Information Page for a more in-depth explanation of the event and the platform – and to indicate your interest for being an exhibitor in the event.

A couple of things to note about the interest form: If you aren't sure what level, simply indicate "Not sure" in the form. We'll keep you updated. If you know you want the Platinum level that includes video production, please submit the interest form by July 31st to allow us to have time to produce your video.

For questions contact Kasi Morales at [kasim@mcphersonpower.com](mailto:kasim@mcphersonpower.com) or call (620) 245-2521

## 100 Years Strong- Chamber History Stories

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce, chartered on May 3, 1921, is celebrating 100 years of serving the McPherson community. We are proud of the many milestones and the impact the Chamber has made throughout the years, and we plan to celebrate all year. Enjoy the snippets of our rich history, the visionary leaders and what they accomplished, and some fun photos we have discovered. As we celebrate the past, we also look to the future and what initiatives the Chamber will focus on for a better and stronger tomorrow. Thank you for being a part of our story!

## Inspiring Leaders Since 1981

Leadership McPherson has been a professional development program of the McPherson Chamber since 1981 and is one of the oldest leadership programs in the State of Kansas. The first class graduated in 1982 having completed "4 one-day seminars studying area history, local and state government, area organizations and leadership techniques.

"Fast forward to 2000. The Leadership McPherson Board of Trustees completed extensive training in Servant Leadership and 21st Century Leadership skills and then reorganized the Leadership McPherson Class curriculum. "The goal of the organization is to develop all people by igniting their passions and inspiring service."

In a 10/13/2000 press release from Randy Watson, Leadership Trustee Chair, announcing that nominations are being accepted for the 2001 Leadership McPherson Class Watson said "This will be a special class. Not only will it be the first class of the new century. It will also be the first to experience a new curriculum, the first to make a formal commitment to serve the community, and the first to do a project to improve the lives of children in our area."

Today, the Leadership McPherson Class curriculum follows much of the competencies of the Kansas Leadership Center with an emphasis on the importance of future generations and how visionary leadership can make a difference in our community.

The McPherson Chamber continues to facilitate the Leadership McPherson Class and youth related initiatives. The incredible class projects have touched many lives and continue to serve the needs of our youth. Read more about the Leadership McPherson Class projects at [mcphersonchamber.org](http://mcphersonchamber.org). If anyone remembers the youth projects from 2001-2004, we would love to hear about them.

Just imagine the powerful ripple effect of the 470 inspired Leadership McPherson Alumni, doing great things and making a positive impact on the communities they now call home!

## Keeping Dollars Local with the McPherson Gift Certificate

The McPherson Gift Certificate (now known as ChamberChecks) was a new program of the McPherson Chamber in 1985. In a March 1990 McPherson Outlook publication, it states they were "specifically designed to provide Christmas gifts, bonuses, and other special recognition to your employees and most importantly, KEEP THOSE \$\$\$'s in McPherson. In the first year, 344 McPherson Gift Certificates were issued." These certificates ultimately had to be brought to the Chamber office by the businesses, to be exchanged for currency. Crazy I know, but it worked at the time.

Thankfully, effective July 1, 1990, a "more efficient and time saving gift certificate program was introduced." That was the official start of the ChamberCheck program, which is still widely used today. ChamberChecks are available year-round to anyone wanting to give the perfect gift. They are also easy to order, fun to give, and even more fun to get. (Fun fact, the 1990 ChamberChecks could be redeemed at Brown's Shoe Fit, Dr. Tammy Goering Optometrist, Pizza Hut, Hedlund Electric, Creative Hairlines, Graber's Ace Hardware, YMCA, McPherson Travel Center, The Cook's Nook, Jantz Lumber,

McDonald's, Ask Your Travel Agent, and Wal-Mart along with several iconic businesses who are no longer open.)

A "Shop Local" program of the McPherson Chamber of Commerce since 1985, supporting local businesses and circulating hundreds of thousands of dollars back into our community!

(continued on pg. 2 Chamber History)

PRAIRIELAND  
PARTNERS



620241-3553  
800-364-4020

2401 E. Northview  
McPherson, KS 67460



620-241-1220 • 120 W. Kansas • McPherson

[www.sunflowerbank.com](http://www.sunflowerbank.com)

From Our Family  
...To Yours

Your Confidence Is Our Reputation

GLIDDEN-EDIGER FUNERAL HOME

222 West Euclid, McPherson, KS  
Phone (620)241-2550 24 hr. Service • [gliddenedigerfuneral.com](http://gliddenedigerfuneral.com)

Troy Glidden - Director

# 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 \* Matt Grieb, CHS

\* Jeff Reitz, JAR Performance Automotive \* Dr. Patrick Romm, Integrated Health and Wellness \* Eric Wicker, Viega

## Communications are Key for Awareness and Involvement

Files of monthly Chamber publications dating back to 1989 provide a thorough picture of the Chamber programs and initiatives for the last 32+ years. These monthly publications were distributed to Chambermembers by direct mail until 2005. The publications were known by various names including the McPherson Outlook, Outlook, Chamber Outlook and then became The Outlook in 2002.

In 2005 The Outlook took on a new format and was a tab or insert in the McPherson Sentinel and distributed to thousands of newspaper subscribers. In a "From the President's Desk" (2005) article by Chet Lang, 2004/2005 Chamber Board President, he said "I feel that it's a great way to reach the public, thus allowing more people to see what the McPherson Chamber of Commerce does for our community. It is also my hope that more people will become aware of these activities and become involved." The Outlook at that time was a multi-page publication and included short write ups from the McPherson Museum, Family Life Center, Main Street, MIDC, McPherson Public Library, McPherson County SBDA, CVB, MCCF, and United Way.

Undergoing another change in appearance and name in 2010, it became known as The Chamber @ Work and was printed in a two-page format as part of the McPherson Sentinel. Since 2015 it has been known as The Chamber Business Journal and continues to include useful chamber and community information.

Not only does the McPherson Chamber create the monthly communications to reach the community members who enjoy catching up with the newspaper, we also send out a weekly Chamber e-newsletter to keep everyone connected to member events and news. For anyone wanting a good read, publications of the monthly journals all the way back to Sept. 2011 can be found under the News tab at [www.mcphersonchamber.org](http://www.mcphersonchamber.org)

## Agriculture Committee Continues Traditions to Promote Ag

Check out this great picture of the 18th Rural Appreciation Picnic in 1989. The caption reads "About 1000 friends were served at the annual Rural Appreciation Picnic on August 1st in coordination with the McPherson County 4-H Fair. More than 75 volunteers helped cook hamburgers and serve food to our rural friends. Thank you to the 60+ sponsors who contributed to make this event possible. Your involvement is the key to keeping this event successful."



**Rural Appreciation Cookout a Success**  
About 1000 friends were served at the annual Rural Appreciation Picnic on August 1st in coordination with the McPherson County 4-H Fair. More than 75 volunteers helped cook hamburgers and serve food to our rural friends. Thank you to the 60+ sponsors who contributed to make this event possible. Your involvement is the key to keeping this event successful. Plans are underway to host the 19th Rural Appreciation picnic on August 1st of 1990.

4-H Fair. More than 75 volunteers helped cook hamburgers and serve food to our rural friends. Thank you to the 60+ sponsors who contributed to make this event possible. Your involvement is the key to keeping this event successful."

We have come across other mentions of the Rural Appreciation Picnic which began in 1972 and was sometimes referred to as the Rural Appreciation B-B-Que. This long-standing tradition is just one of several that are organized by the Agriculture Committee of the McPherson Chamber. The committee

is also responsible for the annual Farm Forum that began in 1986 and continues today. The Farm Forum is an opportunity to share information on current agriculture topics that affect us all. It is also a time to recognize dedicated ambassadors that help promote agriculture, making a difference in our community and world. It brings the agriculture and business sectors together for education, networking, and for the possibilities of future collaboration.

The Ag Committee used to spend a considerable amount of time putting on the When Pigs Fly, a KCBS sanctioned BBQ contest at the McPherson Airport from 2002 to 2014. They also organized the Mac County Roundup 5K from 2014-2019 and participated in the American Legion Family Night for many years. These events were held to raise funds for the McPherson County Agriculture Future of America Scholarship that the Ag Committee awards each year. The McPherson Chamber Agriculture Committee is also a partner in the Ag in the Classroom program for 3rd and 4th graders in McPherson County. A dedicated committee, investing in the youth of our community to cultivate our future ag leaders.

## Rural Appreciation Picnic #51

The Rural Appreciation Picnic, organized by the McPherson Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Committee, is back on track for Friday, July 23, 2021. This event is a 51-year tradition to celebrate the completion of harvest and appreciation of our agriculture community.

According to the Kansas Department of Ag report dated 8/2020 "agriculture and agriculture related sectors support 250,058 jobs, or 13% of the entire workforce in the state." And did you know that agriculture is the largest economic and industrial driver in Kansas, generating over \$70 billion into the Kansas economy?

The Rural Appreciation Picnic is sponsored and served by members of the McPherson Chamber of Commerce from 5:30-7:00 pm. On the menu will be freshly grilled hamburgers from Krehbiel's SpecialtyMeats, tasty baked beans from Knackies Meats & Sweets, along with juicy watermelon provided by PrairieLand Partners.

A Big Thank You to the 2021 Rural Appreciation Sponsors: Stockham Family Funeral Home, Charlie Williams, Ken Cotton D.D.S., Wise & Reber, McPherson Eye Care, Peoples Bank & Trust, McPherson Realty Exchange, Johnstown Farm, Allan Sents, Farmers State Bank, CHS Refinery, First Bank Kansas, Emprise Bank, Hedlund Electric, Grain Craft, Terry Lacy, Farmers Alliance, Culligan, MKC, Prairieland Partners, Krehbiels Specialty Meats, First Street Liquor, Jeff Smith, and Home State Bank.

The Rural Appreciation Picnic will also coincide with the McPherson 4-H Fair. Attendees will have time to enjoy the 4-H exhibits in the 4-H building and Chief Building before the picnic, then stay for a Live Food Auction under the tent at 6 pm, followed by the Meat Goat Show in the Livestock Arena at 7.

Tickets for the Rural Appreciation Picnic will be available at sponsoring businesses.

## "The Most Difficult Volunteer Job There Is"

Independent Sector estimates that 77 million people in the United States volunteer each year, giving some 7 billion hours of their time to help others. That's a stunning number.



**ROB MACKEY**  
Executive Director  
United Way of  
McPherson County voice for children. That idea has grown to 948 state and local programs in the United States.

There's always been a specific group of volunteers whose commitment so impresses me. Those are the CASA volunteers.

CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates. According to the national website for CASA, the idea came to Seattle juvenile court judge David W. Soukup in 1976. The judge felt he had insufficient information to make a life-changing decision for a 3-year-old girl who had suffered from child abuse. These children, who had experienced abuse or neglect, needed trained volunteers speaking up in the courtroom for their best interests, providing a McPherson County voice for children. That idea has grown to 948 state and local programs in the United States.

Judges appoint CASA volunteers to represent the best interests of children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect. The CASA volunteers make sure the child does not get lost in the legal and social service system or languish in a foster home.

To become a CASA requires a lot of training. "So our training is 30 hours," said Tara Carlile, Executive Director for CASA of Harvey and McPherson Counties. "Once they're through the training, and they're assigned a case, the commitment is five to 10 hours a month. And generally, that commitment lasts about two years. There's somewhat of a range based on each individual case, the average is a two year commitment." And then CASA volunteers go through 12 additional hours of continuing education each additional year they serve. That adds up to a lot of time.

So why do people volunteer for CASA? Outreach Coordinator Jennifer Ellis said, "The people that are drawn towards this kind of volunteer work are people that see the benefit of helping one child means helping the whole community, when we can change the life of one child and have a ripple effect." So who volunteers to be a CASA? "We've got a retired attorney, a farmer, we've got teachers," said Ellis. "We've got all kinds of people. The common thread there is that they have a heart for this kind of work."

Tara Carlile says you must be at least 21 years of age to be a CASA. She visits with every volunteer prospect to make sure they understand the time commitment and that there's no conflict of interest. An example of a conflict: "Typically, that would be somebody working in the child welfare system that might be knowledgeable about cases prior to being appointed to one," said Carlile. "Before we appoint someone to a case, we make sure that there's a good match, we work with our volunteers to find the right case," said Ellis. "And once they are the case, we still continue to serve as their support system. So we are right there with them, beginning to the end."

Training topics can be "heavy," ranging from domestic violence, to cultural competency, to working with older youth development, and substance abuse issues.

"I call it the most difficult volunteer job there is," said Carlile, "just because you carry the heavy weight of children's stories. But (volunteers) see it as an opportunity to help. We hear stories of child abuse, which is sad, but that gives the volunteers the feeling that they need to help and how can they help and we're just one way to do that."

So far this year, 21 McPherson County children have received support from 8 devoted CASA volunteers. If you'd like to learn more about what it takes to be a CASA volunteer, call the CASA office in Newton at (316) 284-6909. CASA is a United Way partner agency and receives financial support for its work in McPherson County.

**SWINDOLL  
JANZEN  
HAWK &  
LOYD, LLC**  
Certified Public Accountants  
123 South Main • P.O. Box 1337 • McPherson, KS 67460  
(620) 241-1826 office 888-241-1826 toll free  
(620) 241-2926 fax [www.sjhl.com](http://www.sjhl.com)  
AUDITING • TAX SERVICES  
CONSULTING SERVICES • PAYROLL

**HOME  
STATE  
BANK**  
A Part of The *Centennial* State Bank  
Member FDIC  
McPHERSON, KANSAS  
Main Bank - 223 N. Main  
North Bank - 1300 N. Main  
East Bank - 104 S. Centennial

**HASSMAN**  
**Termite & Pest Control Inc.**  
Termites • Roaches • Spiders • Silverfish  
Ants • Clover Mites • Fleas  
Call 241-5260  
[www.hassmantermite.com](http://www.hassmantermite.com)  
Over 44 Years of Quality Service by the Hassman Family  
Member of Kansas & National Pest Control Associates  
Sentricon  
Culicore Elimination System  
Pest Control of the Americas, LLC  
Member of the National Pest Control Association  
Member of the International Termite Association  
Member of the National Flea & Tick Association  
Member of the National Mosquito Abatement Association  
Member of the National Rodent Control Association  
Member of the National Wildlife Management Association  
Member of the National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association  
Member of the National Wildlife Research Center  
Member of the National Wildlife Society  
Member of the National Wildlife Federation  
Member of the National Wildlife Federation's Wildlife Conservation Society  
Member of the National Wildlife Federation's Wildlife Conservation Society  
Member of the National Wildlife Federation's Wildlife Conservation Society

**Peoples  
Bank and Trust**  
Member FDIC  
Faces You Know  
People You Trust  
[www.Peoples.Bank](http://www.Peoples.Bank)