

# The Chamber *October 2021* Business Journal

**Community ~ Growth ~ Leadership ~ Vision**

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## Congratulations and Welcome New Member

### Flat Branch Home Loans

1345 N. Main, McPherson, KS 67460

Contact: Katy Aichele

Phone: 620-242-3453

[fbhl.com/kaichele](http://fbhl.com/kaichele) or [facebook.com/katyaicheleflatbranch](https://facebook.com/katyaicheleflatbranch)

Contact: Renee Williams

Phone: 620-242-8584,

[fbhl.com/rwilliams](http://fbhl.com/rwilliams) or [facebook.com/ReneeWilliams287552](https://facebook.com/ReneeWilliams287552)

Flat Branch Home Loans, located at 1345 N. Main, is a full-service mortgage company that has a great network of support, a competitive advantage, and is very community minded. Being a full-service mortgage company means that Flat Branch Home Loans stay in-house throughout the entire process. They are committed to keeping their clients current on all their loan activity, as well as closing the loans on time. Being accessible and providing prompt responses to their client's questions is a priority at Flat Branch Home Loans, and homebuyers can be assured that they are working with a team of industry experts who will get answers to even the toughest questions. With over 25 years of mortgage lending experience and both being McPherson natives, Senior Mortgage Bankers Katy Aichele and Renee Williams care deeply about the communities they work in and the people who live there. The mission of Flat Branch Home Loans is to invest in relationships, make hard processes easier, and create communities that are stronger than before. Flat Branch Home Loans wants to help strengthen those communities by expanding homeownership, building relationships, and giving back. For more information, give Katy or Renee a call and they will guide you through your home loan process - start to finish.

## 2021 President's Award Honoree is Making a Positive Difference

David O'Dell was presented the 2021 President's Award during the 100th McPherson Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting. The honoree is selected each year by the Past Presidents of the McPherson Chamber, to recognize "an individual that has given unselfishly of their time for the betterment of the business community, is readily identifiable, and has had a long-term impact." Chet Lang, 2004-2005 Chamber President shared many accolades about David, then turned over the microphone to hear from our humble recipient.

During his remarks, President's Award recipient David O'Dell mentioned that his father, Ivan O'Dell, had also received this award in 1976, but the award at that time was called the Man of the Year Award. David had with him the small statuette that was presented to his father at that time and said that he was honored and humbled to be able to follow in his father's footsteps in this manner. David O'Dell concluded his remarks with this quote from Peter Drucker, "Our mission in life is to make a positive difference, not to prove how smart we are." O'Dell added, "In order to keep McPherson moving forward, I urge you to make a positive difference."

Read on to learn about the numerous non-profit boards David has served on, other awards he has received, and what he considers his top "life events."

David was born and raised in McPherson, attending Wickersham Elementary and graduating from McPherson High School in 1968. He graduated from McPherson College BS in Business and several years later returned to school for further education and graduated from Emporia State University with an MBA (1985). He passed the CPA exam in 1978. During his senior year at McPherson College, he was hired by Keith G. Mines, CPA as Keith's first employee. After eleven years with Keith David felt called to teach at McPherson College and start his own CPA practice. David retired from McPherson College in 2019 after 40 years of teaching with the Rank of Full Professor. David sold his CPA firm after 33 years of practice. He continues to work during tax season for Adams Brown, CPA firm. Next tax season he will "celebrate" 50 years of tax seasons.

During college David met Jaymie at a local church. They were married in December 1970 and recently celebrated 50 years of marriage during COVID by co-teaching a Marriage Class at their church, Countryside Covenant Church. David, his family and many, many friends will miss Jaymie as she unexpectedly passed way September 1st.

### David has served on many boards of non-profits as follows:

- County Commissioner
- Chamber of Commerce
- USD 418 School Board
- Executive Director of the McPherson Small Business Development Association (SBDA) for the last 36 years. He has completed about 350 projects totaling over \$50 million. Almost all these projects were small entrepreneurial businesses.
- South-central Economic Development Association (SCKEDD) (past president) since 1997.
- Kansas Association of Certified Development Companies board (past chair) over 25 years.
- Sunflower Bank Board of Directors
- McPherson County Community Foundation Board
- McPherson E Community Board

- McPherson Hospital Board
- Educational Foundation for the Kansas Society of CPA's
- The Cedars health Care Facility Board
- Leadership McPherson Board of Trustees
- Active Corps of Executives/SBA
- Kiwanis Club
- Gideons
- Covenant Bible College Board of Trustees in Windsor Co.
- McPherson Museum Board member
- Served on several committees at the college including past chair of the Business Department, Social Science Division and served as Chair of the Faculty.
- Various political activities including Treasurer for US Representative Dick Nichols, Kansas Representative Les Mason, and McPherson Mayor Tom Brown.
- Various Leadership positions at the local and state level for church

### Awards and Honors:

- Professor of the Year (selected by Who's Who students)
- Citation of Merit (outstanding alumni award) from McPherson College.
- Selected for the 2000 Postsecondary Business Educator Award by the Kansas Business Education Association "For Excellence in Teaching and Service to Business Education".
- 1995 White House Conference on Small Business (SBA)-one of 12 elected to be a Kansas delegate. Also, elected to be co-vice chair of Kansas Delegation.
- Who's Who in American Faculty - 5 years. Nominated by senior students designated Who's Who and/or students listed on the National Deans List.
- Awarded Small Business Administration's Accountant Advocate of the Year Wichita District
- Leadership McPherson -1982 class
- Leadership Kansas -Kansas Chamber of Commerce
- Distinguished Club President-granted by Kansas Kiwanis Board and Kiwanis International
- Eagle Scout (Boys Scouts of America-B.S.A.) and Order of The Arrow (B.S.A.)
- Selected and attended B.S.A National (1964) and World Jamborees (1968)

David started his working career by sweeping floors of The Warren Barbershop in the Warren Hotel as he went to and on the way home from Wickersham at about age 8. By the way he earned a nickel each time and eventually received a 100% raise to a dime each time. Eventually, his parents put him on the payroll at O'Dell Laundry where he worked until second semester of his senior year in college. Both Danny and David were started as the lowest paid employees. David says, "we had to prove ourselves by quality work, work no one else wanted to do, and customer service often at night and weekends."

David says "Several of top events in his life are the following:

- Accepting Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior while in college.
- Marrying Jaymie ---- a marriage of 50 years...growing in love with her even more over the last 25+ years.
- Miraculous births of Crystal and Rozalynn.
- Becoming a father-in-law to a wonderful young man----a man that any dad would want his daughter to marry.
- Becoming papa to 6 fantastic grandchildren.
- Surviving cancer twice in 1994 and 2008 including sharing his cancer story several times including the opening speaker to the first Relay for Life in McPherson.
- Pride: being proud of the accomplishments and friendships former students.

Thank you, David, for your tireless service to the McPherson community, and for the impact your involvement has made!

### Our History is Still Being Written

It has been quite interesting to sort through 100 years of board minutes, newspaper clippings and publications and piece together stories or how the Chamber has helped shape many aspects of our community. It is also exciting to know that many of the things put in motion years ago are still making an impact today, or the story is still being written.



As we celebrate 100 years of serving the McPherson community, we know that the accomplishments can't be credited to the Chamber board or staff, or the volunteers, or stake holders... the positive impacts we have made through the years have been a result of ALL of us coming together, working toward common goals!

Goals of having a vibrant business community, means businesses promoting businesses, partnerships and initiatives to foster growth, and a community that is intentional in supporting our local businesses, organizations, and each other.

Having a strong and incredible community encompasses everything from career opportunities to beautiful outdoor spaces and amenities for all interests, but even more influential in defining our community is our welcoming attitudes, kind gestures, and our willingness to come together. This is us! This is the common goal of a community that cares.

# THE MCPHERSON SENTINEL

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**Troy Glidden - Director**

# 2020 - 2021 Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

Craig Druecker-Midway Motors Supercenter, Lenny Favara-Central Christian College of Kansas, Tiffani Floyd-Four Seasons Realtors/ Culvers Wines and Spirits, Becky Goss-McPherson County Community Foundation, Matt Grieb-CHS McPherson Refinery Inc., Ryan Hicks-Farmers Alliance Mutual Insurance, Lauren Hughes-Wise & Reber L.C., Kendra Oakes-Peoples Bank and Trust, Jeff Reitz-JAR Performance Automotive, Courtney Rierson-Swindoll, Janzen, Hawk and Loyd, Patricik Romm-Integrated Health & Wellness Center, Eric Wicker-Viega LLC.

## 100 Years Strong Chamber History Stories

### 2005 Inaugural Year of Brush Up Mac

In the April 2001 edition of The Chamber Outlook, it included an article titled "Housing Committee Organizes City Cleanup & Brings Landlords Together." It talked about the cooperative effort of so many agencies and citizens to rid properties of unwanted trash and recyclable items, to beautify McPherson. The article also indicated that "the Housing Committee invited McPherson landlords to explore the possibility of forming an association for the purpose of providing insight into shared needs and concerns and develop cooperative efforts and programs to enhance the quality and quantity of rental housing stock. Those who attended represented almost 400 rental units."

An article in the McPherson Sentinel on December 31, 2004, referred to Brush Up Mac, "New program expected to provide a service that will impact the community." Bonnie Hoffman, committee member at that time, said the McPherson Chamber of Commerce Housing Committee had been meeting for 8 years when they reevaluated their mission of revitalization and decided to "start this project by redoing a house."

The Housing Committee put their plans into action in April of 2005, the inaugural year of Brush Up Mac, and worked on rehabilitating seven McPherson homes with the help of sponsors and 90 volunteers. The program was closely modeled on Rebuilding Together, formerly known as Christmas in April, a national organization that helps low-income families, veterans, and the elderly with free home modification services.

Fast forward to 2011, the McPherson Housing Coalition took on the implementation of Brush Up Mac and has done a tremendous job of helping homeowners in need. The following information came from their website, "Over 1,000 families have been helped through Brush Up Mac since it started in 2005. Many people struggle to make repairs and do upkeep on their homes, especially those who are elderly or disabled. Homeowners who are physically or financially unable to make improvements to their homes benefit from this program, which sends out more than 300 volunteers every spring to help them out." Contact the McPherson Housing Coalition at 620-241-7828 to find out how you can get involved with Brush Up Mac.

### Business & Industry Wall of Honor

"We enjoy the quality of community we have because of the vision and creativity of many local business leaders past and present," was a comment recorded in 2001 from Joe Pavlovsky the 2000/2001 Chamber President. To recognize long appreciated business and industry leaders who have made a significant contribution to the community, the Chamber planned a luncheon ceremony and presented each honoree with a plaque to be displayed on the McPherson Chamber of Commerce Business & Industry Wall of Honor.

John Bremyer, Fred Diehl, M. Clare Miller and Keith Swinehart, Sr. were the first inductees. Two of the four inductees were recognized posthumously, and their families were invited to accept the awards during the inaugural luncheon on April 17, 2001. "This is a very special occasion," said Joe Pavlovsky, and "...it is important that we let this community know and appreciate the contributions of those we honor. It also allows us to say thank you to those of you who are filling their shoes today."

The April 2001 Chamber Outlook publication said Bob Wise was the master of ceremonies for the induction, and he "was privileged to have witnessed the vision and daring of the men being honored. All possessed the capacity to see into the future and the fortitude to do what they thought best for McPherson."

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce Business & Industry Wall of Honor plaques are still proudly displayed at the Chamber office, at 306 N. Main. You are welcome to stop at the Chamber office to read about these pioneers and their contributions. The inscriptions on the plaques can also be found at [www.mcphersonchamber.org](http://www.mcphersonchamber.org) under the News Tab and Chamber History Blog.

### McPherson Chamber of Commerce Business & Industry Wall of Honor Recipients:

- 2001- Fred Diehl, John Bremyer, M. Clare Miller, Keith Swinehart, Sr.
- 2002- State Senator Don Steffes, Jack Thrasher
- 2003- Ernest A. Wall, John B. Wall, John Casebeer
- 2004- George R. Hess, Bob Wise
- 2005- W.E. Lehmberg, Chester Houghton
- 2006- Mr. E.C. Mingenback
- 2007- Dale Renberger

### Leadership McPherson Class Celebration

You are invited to the 2021 Leadership McPherson Class Celebration Lunch on Wednesday, November 3rd at noon @ the McPherson Opera House, 219 S. Main.

This class started their journey in August by experiencing a team building exercise at Webster Conference Center. They completed a 2-day virtual Your Leadership Edge training from the Kansas Leadership Center and have participated in 6 additional leadership class sessions through the McPherson Chamber of Commerce. They will finish up by completing a class project to benefit the youth of McPherson.

The 2021 Leadership McPherson Class will be graduating (and celebrating) on November 3rd and will be making their announcement about their class project. Join us for the celebration lunch at the McPherson Opera House, 219 S. Main. The cost to attend the luncheon is \$25/person and reservations are required by calling the Chamber at 241-3303 by Tuesday, October 26th.

2021 Leadership McPherson Class; Hannah Howard- Adams Brown, Tammy Welch-The Cedars, Erica Rivera-The Cedars, Jason Cummins-City of McPherson, Aly Weyand- Emprise Bank, Kaila Bell-Ferguson Production, Inc., Abigail Morgan-McPherson College, Kristen Montgomery-McPherson Center for Health, Karolyn Moore-McPherson Housing Coalition, Dan Bumgarner-Multi Community Diversified Services, and Tifanie Becker-Swindoll, Janzen, Hawk and Loyd.

### Business Start-Ups, Successions, and Expansions

The McPherson County Entrepreneurship Community loan program is an amazing partnership with NetWork KS to provide gap financing for businesses start-ups, successions, and expansions. Since 2012, the McPherson County E-Community Program administered by the McPherson Chamber of Commerce has approved 61 low interest e-community loans, totaling over \$2.4 MILLION dollars! That investment also results in more jobs and continued growth for our community

Although there is a limited amount of funds available, we are excited about the recent activity.

The E-Community Loan Program is gap financing, to help bridge the gap of a bank loan and bring these business dreams to reality. Since January 2021 we have helped fund the following business ventures; Crew Nutrition, 206 S. Centennial Dr., Farley's Bar & Grill (Lindsborg), McPherson Classical Coaching Academy, 206 N. Main, and The Ark Antiques and Flea Market, at 301 S. Main St.

### The Virtual United Way Campaign



**ROB MACKEY**  
Executive Director  
United Way of  
McPherson County

For the second year in a row last month, we kicked off the United Way campaign in McPherson County virtually. We typically had an in-person event to celebrate the campaign, but as we approach the COVID-19 variant wave with caution, we took the safe route again this year.

Normally we see a lot of people during the United Way campaign, going out to companies and talking to employees about the many ways their gifts stay in the county and help improve lives through our 17 nonprofit programs. We are still available to do that but it's more likely this year we will be using technology to tell our story, not to mention the many people who are currently working from home.

Most of the money pledged during the annual campaign comes through payroll deduction. It's usually easier to give something out of each paycheck. You don't see it or feel it much, but when you add it all together, it really does make a difference. Then consider we have several companies that match their employee contributions, which doubles the impact. And we also have a robust group of retirees and self-employed who are there for us year in and year out contributing to United Way.

Running our campaigns virtually means we share videos of how our partner agency programs are making a difference. It may mean getting an email rather than a paper brochure telling you how United Way works.

Not that a virtual campaign is a bad thing. Last year during the pandemic, our campaign raised \$310,166.68 – an all-time record. That's to the credit of all our donors. As this year's Campaign Chair Ronda Sjogren said of 2020, "It's amazing how people have such a giving spirit when we're in a time of need." And we did respond to community need, helping more than 140 families with rent and utility assistance during the worst of the pandemic.

This year's campaign goal is \$275,000. On the heels of a record campaign, Sjogren said "we wanted to set an attainable goal, but yet something that wasn't unreachable."

During the kickoff last month, United Way announced its company awards from the previous year's campaign.

- Farmers Alliance Mutual Insurance and its employees received the Legacy Award for its record-setting campaign of more than \$126,000 during the 2020 Campaign.
- CHS won the Mega-Match award by generously matching each dollar contributed by employees with an additional \$1.50.
- The Rising Impact Award went to employees of BPU, The Board of Public Utilities. They increased their giving by 87%.
- Dillons employees received the Inspired Giving Award with a 67% giving increase.
- Rise Private Wealth Management received the Small but Mighty award for its support of United Way and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.
- Wabtec of McPherson wins the award for New Employee Campaign.

Amid this virtual campaign era, it's possible you won't get a personal ask or receive a letter asking you to contribute. So how can you participate?

- If your company doesn't run a United Way campaign at the office, ask them to consider doing so.
- Give online on the website at [www.unitedwaymcpherson.org](http://www.unitedwaymcpherson.org). Choose "annual campaign" from the dropdown list when making your pledge.
- Send a check to United Way of McPherson County, P.O. Box 55, McPherson, KS, 67460. Yes, we still take checks!

If you have questions about the United Way, call us at 620-241-5152 or email us at [uwmc@unitedwaymcpherson.org](mailto:uwmc@unitedwaymcpherson.org). We're happy to answer your questions.

You can give even in a virtual environment. You can still "show up." And this year, we're asking you to SHOW UP UNITED. Thank you for considering us this year.

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