

The Chamber *January 2022* Business Journal

Community ~ Growth ~ Leadership ~ Vision

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

Do you ENJOY working with people?

We are looking for a positive personality to join our team. If you ENJOY working with people, have great communication (written and verbal) skills, are efficient with computer software and social media, reliable, resourceful, and passionate about promoting our community, apply for the Member & Community Relations Assistant position!

The Member & Community Relations Assistant is a part time position, approximately 25 hours per week, Monday-Friday 8 am-1 pm with the occasional afternoon or evening event. Ideal candidate would have the flexibility to fill in for vacation or sick leave of co-workers. This position receives holiday pay if it falls on a scheduled workday, and after one year of employment, is eligible to receive vacation pay.

Job Responsibilities & Qualifications

Computer, Social Media, and Written Skills - Looking for someone who is creative and accurate.

- Must be proficient with Microsoft Office software (Publisher, Word, Excel etc.) that is used daily for various applications, including literature for welcome and membership packets.
- Requires organization, multi-tasking, and motivation to complete various administrative tasks.
- This position will be responsible to take pictures and post Chamber Connection/Ribbon Cutting/and Event photos with captions to Facebook and compose member spotlight articles for the Chamber e-newsletter.
- Other tasks include researching and verify events and keeping the on-line community and Chamber calendars current.

Verbal Skills- The Chamber is often the first impression of the community and the information hub.

- An outgoing, caring personality is ideal to communicate and connect with members on a regular basis.
- The Member & Community Relations Assistant will help with all Chamber events and occasional committee meetings.
- Looking for someone who is personable when answering questions about the community by phone, visitors to the office, or emails received.
- Knowledge about McPherson County is a plus!

If you are looking for a welcoming and positive work environment, apply for the Member & Community Relations Assistant position and join the McPherson Chamber of Commerce team, where our mission is "Visionary leadership promoting a vibrant business community and enhanced quality of life."

Mail or drop off your resume at McPherson Chamber of Commerce, 306 N. Main, P.O. Box 616, McPherson, KS 67460, Attention: Debbie Hawkinson, Executive Director. Or email your resume to chamberdirector@mcphersonks.org.

Workforce: The Next 10 Years & How to Thrive

The Workforce Crisis that we face will be more challenging in the future; our eyes need to be open for what is ahead. Join us on **Tuesday, February 8th from 11:00-1:00** to hear from Mike Henke on what we can do to best utilize our current workforce, to be proactive to analyze your organization, and how we can adapt to attract and develop quality talent in the future.

This interactive workshop includes:

- How to successfully navigate through retirements
- How to be a Preferred Employer
- How to build up future leaders!

The workshop will be at Hutchinson Community College in McPherson, 2208 Plaza East Place. Cost is \$30 for Chamber members and \$35 for non-members and includes lunch. RSVP by emailing chamber@mcphersonks.org or call (620) 241-3303 by January 31.

Mike Henke is a national speaker, and former SHRM Chapter President, whose

passion for building strong teams led to the creation of Mike Henke Inc. Mike Henke works with organizations throughout the country in the areas of Leadership Training, Recruiting & Retention, and Positive Workplace Environment.

Farm Forum to Feature Rick McNary

Mark your calendar, February 7th will be here before you know it. The Agriculture Committee of the McPherson Chamber of Commerce is hosting the annual Farm Forum on Monday, February 7th at 6pm at the First United Methodist Church. The evening dinner event will include recognition of the 2021 Farm Family of the Year (Dennis and Mabel Friesen), Friend of Ag recipient (Karl Esping), and guest speaker, Rick McNary, creator of Shop Kansas Farms.

McNary has commented that the original focus of the Shop Kansas Farms Facebook group was "to connect people looking for food to the wonderful farm and ranch families of Kansas who grow meat, dairy, vegetables, and fruit, so they could purchase directly from them." It has done that and so much more. Find out how "education is happening," "rural revitalization is taking place," "the farming voice is being amplified," and friendships are being built.

Join us for an evening of great food and conversations, and the opportunity to learn more from Rick McNary. Tickets are only \$20/person and can be purchased in advance at the McPherson Chamber of Commerce. If your business is interested in sponsoring the event to help with the overall Farm Forum expenses or would like to purchase tickets for your customers or guests, please contact the McPherson Chamber at 620-241-3303 or email chamber@mcphersonks.org by January 27th.

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Committee hosts the Farm Forum and schedules presenters to provide relevant and updated information about the business of agriculture. It's an event to bring rural community leaders, business representatives and educators together. We appreciate your interest and support of the Ag committees' efforts to provide an educational program and to fund the McPherson AFA scholarship.

Become the Chief Caring Officer (CCO)

I have been slowly reading *The Carpenter* by Jon Gordon. Slowly, not because it's boring, but because it has so much wisdom that I have to take time to absorb all the meaningful content. I wanted to share some of my favorite quotes in the story, but I won't be a book spoiler because I honestly haven't even finished it yet. I'm savoring it!



Debbie Hawkinson
Executive Director, McPherson
Chamber of Commerce

The main character, the Carpenter, is a mentor who guides others to realize that success comes by helping others and that it is essential to have the right attitude. "I just know that what you think, you become. I know that how you see the world determines the world you see and how the world see you. I know your perspective can take a bad situation and turn into a great outcome. I know a positive attitude not only draws people to you, but it also gives you power to overcome all the obstacles you will face as you build your success."

The book also focuses on three success strategies. "Not all leaders love, serve, and care, but all who love, serve, and care are leaders."

"Always remember that great organizations that care are composed of people who care greatly-and it starts with you. Not because you are the leader of the company, but because one person who cares inspires everyone around them to care. Anyone in any organization can be CCO, Chief Caring Officer."

"Caring is the ultimate success building strategy. People make it complicated but it's simple: Care about the work you do. Surround yourself with people who care. Show your team you care about them. Build a team that cares about one another. Together show your customers you care about them."

This applies to making a difference at home as well. Another favorite message from the book is "I believe we are who we are because someone loved us. And your team and family will become who they become because you love them." Showing you care can take on several forms like little notes in your kid's lunch box. "He wanted to create the pathway to their future accomplishments, victories, and triumphs with the right belief system and so he wrote a positive message each day." Giving them the "gift of encouragement, optimism, and belief."

"What matters most? What priorities drive you each day? What are you doing that makes you come alive? What are you doing to live and share your purpose?" Check out *The Carpenter* by Jon Gordon and enjoy the meaningful messages from page 1-134.

THE MCPHERSON SENTINEL

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Troy Glidden - Director

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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.

Candy Cane Cash Winners Announced

Congratulations to 2021 Candy Cane Cash Winners! Marie Alexander won \$1,000 in Candy Cane Cash and Kaysha Macy won \$500 in Candy Cane Cash to be spent in the participating stores.

Candy Cane Cash is part of the McPherson Chamber of Commerce and McPherson Main Street Holiday Promotion. The winners were drawn from thousands of entries from shoppers who supported our local businesses between November 1st - December 31st.

THANKYOU to the businesses that participated: A5 Western, Artshirt Gear For Sport, Brooklyn & Co., Brown's Shoe Fit McPherson, CK Pharmacies, The Clayworks at Disability Supports, Creative Hairlines Salon & Spa, Elizabeth St. Treasures, Graber's Ace Hardware - McPherson, Hidden Closet Bookshelf, Integrity Salon & Spa, Kansas Hempire McPherson, Krehbiels Specialty Meats, La Belle, McPherson Museum & Arts Foundation, Nooks & Crannies Floral, Pip's Dice & Games, Scooter's Coffee-McPherson, Shoe Sensation-McPherson, Simply Good - McPherson, Stitches Quilt Shop, Stupka Chiropractic & Wellness Center, Sunflower Mercantile, The Cook's Nook, The Hanging Leaf, The Stone Chimney, The Village Geek - McPherson, Twice Told Tales, and Venable Jewelers.

The holiday shopping season has ended but it is more important than ever to support our local business. It helps strengthen our local economy, creates more quality jobs, puts our taxes to good use, and you are helping your friends, family and neighbors pursue their passions...SERVING YOU!

Chamber Calendar of Events

January

27 Chamber Connections 9:30 am hosted by USD #418 Early Childhood Program @ Roosevelt, 800 S. Walnut.

27 Chamber Board Meeting 11:30-1:00 @ Chamber office, 306 N. Main

February

2 Leadership Advisory Committee Mtg. 12:00 @ Chamber office, 306 N. Main

3 Chamber Connections 9:30 am @ McPherson Senior Center, 110 E. Euclid

7 Farm Forum 6 pm @ First United Methodist Church, 1200 E. Kansas

8 Workforce Workshop 11-1:00 @ HCC-McPherson Campus, 2208 Plaza East Place

8 Ambassadors Meeting 12:00 @ Chamber office, 306 N. Main

10 Chamber Connections 9:30 am @ Integrated Health & Wellness, 1319 E. First

17 Chamber Connections 9:30 am @ Next-Tech Wireless, 200 S. Champlin

24 Chamber Connections 9:30 am @ K-State Research & Extension, 600 W. Woodside

24 Chamber Board Meeting 11:30-1:00 @ Chamber office, 306 N. Main

Save the Date- Chamber Classic Golf Tournament, Friday, June 3rd @ Turkey Creek Golf Course

What's Going On In McPherson County?

Find out in the Community Calendar of Events from the McPherson Chamber of Commerce! McPherson is a place where you can never say "there's nothing to do." If you follow the Community Calendar of Events that is published weekly in each of the McPherson newspapers or listen to the McPherson radio station you will hear events going on almost each and every day! The McPherson Chamber of Commerce compiles the Community Calendar of Events weekly to keep the residents of McPherson County aware of everything that is going on. We also post the events online at www.mcphersonchamber.org so you can access the information when you're out and about 24/7.

The McPherson Chamber would love to help promote your event, but we do have some guidelines as to what we can include in the calendar. Your event must be for a non-profit organization or a benefit/fundraiser to help a community member or organization. When you submit information, please be brief. We use the 4-Ws ... who, what, when, and where. If there is a cost, please include that in your information.

Our deadline for accepting events to be published in Wednesday's paper is noon on the previous Friday. The information can be emailed to chamber@mcphersonks.org or call the McPherson Chamber office at 620-241-3303. Please include a contact number in case we need to clarify some of the information.

We try our best to include every event we receive, and we get a lot of them. For example, if you were to look at the McPherson Community Calendar for February 2022, you'd find the following happening: A concert at the McPherson Opera House, Farm Forum, Family Night at the American Legion, Chocolate Lovers event in Lindsborg, MHS performing "All I need to Know I learned in Kindergarten," Sausage and Sauerkraut To Go in Inman, Progressive Dinner to celebrate McPherson's 150th and much more! We definitely have a variety of activities! If you are involved with a non-profit organization with an event happening, please let us know. We'd love to add it to the Community Calendar of Events so everyone will know about it. Just email us. It's that easy!

Applications Open For 2022 AFA Scholarship

Attention graduating high school seniors or undergraduate college students pursuing a four-year degree in an agriculture or food related field and reside in McPherson County and/or attend a high school in McPherson County. You are eligible to apply for the McPherson Chamber of Commerce AFA Scholarship.

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Committee established the local Agriculture Future of America (AFA) Scholarship in 2001 and has awarded 31 full academic and leader development scholarships, and 12 additional leadership conference only scholarships since then. The \$4,450 full scholarship includes a \$3,200 academic scholarship, and tuition to the AFA Leaders Conference (worth \$1,250).

AFA Scholarship recipients will be selected based on leadership roles in organizations, community service, internship and work experiences, and financial need. Recipients will also be scored on these three personal vision statements. 1.) Explain your educational and ideal career path. 2.) What is one challenge you have had in the last year and how have you persevered through it? 3.) How would you describe the personal brand you hope to have in the food and agriculture community?

Selected scholars must commit to attend the AFA Leaders Conference in the fall semester of the awarded scholarship year, maintain full-time class status and remain in good academic standing with the institution to receive the academic scholarship.

Please share and encourage students to apply for the McPherson Chamber of Commerce AFA scholarship. The application is available at www.agfuture.org/scholarships and the deadline to apply is March 9, 2022.

Questions? Contact AFA at scholarship@agfuture.org or Debbie Hawkinson, AFA McPherson County Scholarship Coordinator, at chamberdirector@mcphersonks.org.

On the Front Lines



ROB MACKEY
Executive Director
United Way of
McPherson County

As we near two years of enduring the pandemic in the United States, I'd like to acknowledge the heroic efforts of United Way partner programs during these trying times.

United Way of McPherson County helps fund 17 programs that help local people in need in the areas of health, education and financial stability. The pandemic caused the staff and volunteers of these programs to adapt to different delivery systems. While most social services rely on human contact, our sponsored programs deftly crafted new strategies to stay operational.

Meals on Wheels is one of those programs. They deliver hot, well-balanced meals 365 days a year to homebound senior citizens and the disabled. They had to come up with ways to reduce contact, yet maintain it. They began using disposable food containers and instead of going into a person's house, took the meals to the porch, yet waited until the recipient emerged so the volunteer delivery person knew they were OK.

The Lindsborg and Marquette Summer Lunch Programs went through similar challenges. Rather than sit down meals in a church, they developed drive-through lanes where families could pick up meals.

Steps to End Poverty in McPherson County (STEPMC), an anti-poverty program, went through several cycles of meeting in person to conducting its sessions via Zoom - even having "porch talks" in safe, socially distant encounters. It kept the contact going. On November 4th, STEPMC was able to hold in-person ceremonies for four Getting Ahead graduates, and it was well-attended.

United Way fights for the health, education and financial stability for every person in McPherson County. Much of that mission is accomplished through the work of trained professionals and passionate volunteers who make it all happen. Much as boxers bob and weave to win a fight, these people have responded to this crisis by creatively coming with alternate ways to deliver services. They were already doing amazing work. Their tenacity to deliver in the face of COVID-19 is commendable and they are heroes in my book.

As we prepare to wrap up another United Way annual campaign, I salute the staff and volunteers of our partners:

CASA - A Voice for Children; CPRF (Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation); Child Care Aware; GraceMed; Heart to Heart Child Advocacy Center; Lindsborg and Marquette Summer Lunch Program; McPherson County Council on Aging; McPherson County Crime Stoppers; McPherson Family YMCA (Middle School Learning Lab, Safety Around Water, YKids) McPherson Housing Coalition and Brush Up Mac; McPherson Special Olympics, Meals on Wheels, Safehope, & STEPMC.

With one gift, you can touch all of these organizations. As we strive to make our goal, please consider the best way to care: The United Way.

If you have already given, thank you! The United Way Campaign ends January 31st. You can still give online at www.unitedwaymcpherson.com, click the "donate" button and choose "annual campaign." You can also mail a check to P.O. Box 55, McPherson, 67460, or bring your donation by our office at the Chamber of Commerce, 306 North Main.

We recognize and thank all those who fight every day to make this life better for humankind.

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