

The Chamber Business Journal

March 2022

Community ~ Growth ~ Leadership ~ Vision

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

Welcome New Chamber Members

Steamatic of Central Kansas
2427 Ave. M., Little River, KS 67457
Phone: 620-680-6197
Website: steamaticofcentralks.com
Contact: Adam & Devon Suhler

“**Steamatic of Central Kansas** is a family-owned cleaning, restoration, and construction business that was established in 2018. The owner, Adam Suhler along with his wife, Devon, and two daughters, Adlee and Rhealee, live in rural Little River.” Services provided by Steamatic include water damage restoration, fire & smoke restoration, mold remediation, reconstruction, carpet cleaning, hard surface cleaning including LVP, upholstery cleaning, air duct and dryer vent cleaning. They also provide 24/7 emergency care to the people of Central Kansas.

Kim Houghton
Sheets-Adams Realtors
1605 N. Main, McPherson
Phone: 620-242-7041

As a McPherson native, Kim has been actively involved in real estate from the investment and development side through the years. Now, as a licensed realtor, she is excited to share her love of the community with you through all aspects of your real estate journey.

Kiwanis International
Website: Kiwanis.org
Contact: Duane Oestmann, Kiwanis District Governor, Mike Perigo, Division Lt. Governor, and Jan Maxwell, Kiwanis Club of Topeka

Kiwanis International was founded in 1915 by a group of businessmen in Detroit, Michigan. The organization was originally called the Supreme Lodge Benevolent Order of Brothers but changed its name to **Kiwanis** a year later. The name “Kiwanis” was coined from an American Indian expression, “Nunc Kee-wanis,” which means, “We trade.” In 1920, the motto of **Kiwanis** became “We Build.” It remained the motto until 2005 when members voted to change it to “Serving the children of the world.” In the early years, members focused on business networking but in 1919, the organization changed its focus to service — specifically, service to children.

Kiwanis became an international organization with the founding of the Kiwanis Club of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, in 1916. Kiwanis clubs formed in communities across the United States and Canada until the 1960s, when worldwide expansion was approved. Today, Kiwanis clubs are helping children thrive, prosper and grow in nearly 80 nations and geographic locations. We are passionate about making a difference. Helping kids grow and succeed is at the heart of everything we do. But how we do it is just as important. We believe our neighborhoods and our world are best served when people of all ages and different backgrounds work together to share their time and talents.

Chamber Classic “A Bunch of Hacks” Golf Tournament

What should you expect at the Chamber Classic “A Bunch of Hacks” Golf Tournament? Well, mulligans are not needed for this fun afternoon of easy going, unconventional golf. You won’t be concerned about sand traps and water hazards as your team navigates around the golf course to complete unique games, gather swag from the sponsors, and win prizes too! Team fees include 18 holes of unforgettable golf, lunch during the 11:30-12:15 check-in, golf carts if needed, and supper during the awards celebration. We won’t mention the barkies, worm burners, a shanked ball, or airmail shots, because it is all part our one-of-a-kind” golf tournament. Join us for good times at the Chamber Classic “A Bunch of Hacks” Golf Tournament on Friday, June 3rd!

Get your businesses teed up for success by signing up for the Luxury Scooter Sponsorship, Sand Trap Sponsorship, Water Hazard Sponsorship, or the Divot Sponsorship. Details are available at www.mcphersonchamber.org or be watching your Chamber e-newsletter for more information. We know you have waited all year for the McPherson Chamber’s uniquely quirky golf tournament, so mark your calendar, gather your team, and sign up soon to participate in the Chamber Classic “A Bunch of Hacks” Golf Tournament on June 3rd.

2022 Legislative Update

The Civic Awareness Committee of the McPherson Chamber of Commerce invites you to the 2022 Legislative Update on Saturday, April 2nd at 9:00 am. Join us at KMU, 2090 E Ave. A. for the opportunity to visit with our state legislators.

Attending will be Kansas Senator Richard Wilborn (District 35), and Kansas Representative Les Mason (73rd District). Kansas Representatives Steven Johnson (108th District) and Stephen Owens (74th District) had prior engagements.

The Legislative Update will begin with time to hear from our district Representative and Senator about important activity in the state legislature, and different things they are working to accomplish in their committees. The audience will then have the opportunity to ask questions.

We appreciate KMU for sponsoring the event space and coffee, and hope that you will join us on Saturday, April 2nd at 9 am. The Legislative Update is free and open to the public. It will also be available on the McPherson Chamber of Commerce Facebook page.

Work-Life Balance

What does that even mean? It sounds peaceful. Maybe something to wish for? Thinking back 20 years ago while raising two children, I was more focused on survival mode, so work-life balance meant those rare times when I wasn’t exhausted and could put the to-do list aside to enjoy time with family. I’m sure my husband would concur. While I worked full-time, he worked a 40+ hour evening position and a 30+ hour morning job as well. Did I wish we could win the lottery? Absolutely, but we made it work. We were grateful to have stable employment and appreciated every moment we could spend together as a family.

I wonder how our parents and grandparents would describe work-life balance? I view it as a more modern term for today’s young generation. Not to say that the concept hasn’t always been important, there just seems to be a heightened awareness and a much bigger focus today. I applaud the generation entering the workforce today who is already prioritizing that balance. They have the confidence and determination to set boundaries, and they are seeking companies whose culture supports

work-life balance. Does your company?

“Employers who are committed to providing environments that support work-life balance for their employees can save on costs, experience fewer cases of absenteeism, and enjoy a more loyal and productive workforce,” said Chris Chancey, career expert and CEO of Amplio Recruiting, in a Business News Daily article. There isn’t a cookie-cutter model that will work for every size and type of business but here are a few prevalent ideas to consider.

- Ask your employees what they need.
- Embrace flexible work schedules.
- Support remote work options.
- Consider a variety of benefits like offering on-site daycare or scheduling exercise classes during work hours.
- Give employees time to volunteer.
- Provide educational support for ongoing education or leadership programs.
- Lead by example!



Debbie Hawkinson
Executive Director,
McPherson Chamber of Commerce.

McPherson Chamber of Commerce Announces Chamber Blue of Kansas

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce a new partnership with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas (BCBSKS) and Chamber of Commerce Executives of Kansas (CCEKS). This partnership stitches together 26 other local Chambers of Commerce across Kansas to offer an Association Health Plan called Chamber Blue of Kansas.

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce and all chambers involved in this partnership realize and recognize that recruiting and retaining talent is vital for business and industry of all sizes, especially small businesses. Having access to trusted health insurance benefits are a crucial piece to that success. According to SBA statistics, small businesses equate to over 99.1% of all businesses in Kansas with a combined total of 605,147 small business employees in Kansas.

An Association Health Plan is a type of group medical insurance for organizations that allow smaller companies to access the health insurance savings associated with large group medical coverage. Through this, small business, non-profits, and organizations can band together to purchase insurance. That allows more people in the pool, which lowers risk across the pool, and provides more health insurance options, potentially with much more competitive premiums.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of KS has the largest provider network in Kansas with 99% of physicians in-network, and 100% of hospitals in network. BCBSKS also provides a very robust package of health care solutions like their HealthyOptions program, which is a powerful set of services, tools, and one-on-one support to live a healthy life at no extra cost as a BCBSKS member.

Interested business owners, non-profits, and organizations are encouraged to attend an information session at 8:00 am or 10:00 am on Tuesday, April 5th at the McPherson Chamber of Commerce, 306 N. Main. The meetings will be less than an hour, but we have scheduled them at 8:00 and 10:00 am to accommodate various schedules. RSVP requested to chamberdirector@mcphersonks.org or 620-241-3303.

The partnership will continue to host information sessions in May and July and answer questions with the goal of all interested organizations completing an interest survey during August 2022. The initial rates will be determined in September 2022 based on groups/businesses that have completed the survey and plans will become effective January 1, 2023.

For more information regarding the qualification criteria and more interested parties are asked to visit <https://www.bcbsks.com/chamber-blues> or contact the McPherson Chamber of Commerce at 620-241-3303 or by email at chamberdirector@mcphersonks.org.

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce was established in 1921. It is a not-for-profit 501(c)(6) chartered organization of business, industry, professional men and women and individuals working together to build a healthy economy and improve the quality of life and advocate and elevate our members’ economic prosperity and are the catalyst for our community’s future.

As a private not-for-profit 501(c)(6), Chamber of Commerce Executives of Kansas (CCEKS) operates with the primary goal of serving its membership by providing excellence in professional development, networking, resources, and idea exchange opportunities. Also, CCEKS provides guidance and leadership training to chambers across the state and the board members who serve in local communities.

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2021-2022 Chamber Board of Directors

Lenny Favara, Central Christian College of Kansas * Matthew Grieb, CHS McPherson Refinery Inc.

Tiffani Floyd, Four Seasons Realtors/Culver's Wines & Spirits * Ryan Hicks, Farmers Alliance Mutual Insurance

Patrick Romm, YP Mac * Jeffery Reitz, JAR Performance Automotive, LLC

Becky Goss, McPherson County Community Foundation * Craig Druecker, Midway Motors Supercenter

Kendra Oakes, Peoples Bank & Trust * Courtney Rierson, Swindoll, Janzen, Hawk and Loyd

Eric Wicker, Viega L.L.C. * Lauren Hughes, Wise & Reber L.C.

chamber events

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

March

17 9:30 am Chamber Connections @ Touching Hearts at Home, 109.5 N. Main, Ste. 208

24 9:30 am Chamber Connections @ McPherson Senior Center, 112 E. Euclid

24 11:30 am Chamber Board Mtg. @ Chamber office

31 9:30 am Chamber Connections @ TBD. Contact the McPherson Chamber to schedule.

April

2 9:00 am Legislative Update @ KMU, 2090 E. Ave. A

5 8:00 am Chamber Blue of Kansas Info Mtg. @ Chamber office

5 10:00 am Chamber Blue of Kansas Info Mtg. @ Chamber office

6 12:00 pm Leadership Advisory Committee Mtg. @ Chamber office

7 9:30 am Chamber Connections @ McPherson Public Library, 214 W. Marlin

12 7:00 am Agriculture Committee Mtg. @ PrairieLand Partners, 2401 E. Northview Rd.

12 4:00 pm Ambassador Mtg. @ Chamber office

14 9:30 am Chamber Connections hosted by VYPE Kansas

20 4:00 pm Women's Event Committee Mtg. @ Chamber office

21 9:30 am Chamber Connections @ MPNaz, 1455 N. Main

28 9:30 am Chamber Connections @ L&L Advisors, 224 S. Main

Nominate An Awesome 8th Grader

Awesomeness- a quality that inspires awe! Whose awesomeness have you noticed helping their peers overcome struggles or volunteering their time and talents to help others? Maybe it's the 8th grader taking the initiative to make positive changes, or the role model who is leading by example. Who is courageously overcoming personal challenges, yet making an impact on those around them? We want to know whose attitude and kindness makes someone's day a little brighter.

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce established the OMEGA Award to recognize McPherson County 8th graders for making a difference by their attitude and actions, their leadership qualities and service to their community. This special OMEGA Award recognition will take place during May Fete activities. Please take the opportunity to nominate an eighth grader in McPherson County for this prestigious award. Courage- Entails overcoming an obstacle in order to help others. Courage may be interpreted in ways of: a rescue, an act of bravery or heroism, overcoming a personal challenge, etc. There are many forms of courage, but all must be directed to ultimately benefit others.

Compassion-Comprises both the understanding of peoples' problems and needs and action to address these problems and needs. Service -Is applying effort and time for the benefit of others. For questions call 620-241-3303. *Keep in mind that the information supplied will be used to distinguish each nominee and descriptive criteria will be shared when presenting their award unless you indicate otherwise.

Return nomination form & detailed information by April 13th, 2022. McPherson Chamber, 306 N. Main, P.O. Box 616, McPherson, KS 67460, or email to: chamber@mcphersonks.org

The United Way Community Response and Recovery Fund: A Final Report to the Community

In April of 2020, United Way of McPherson County created the Community Response and Recovery Fund to assist county residents who were economically affected by the pandemic. This included people who lost jobs or work hours due to the impact of COVID-19.

The fund helped individuals and families pay immediate bills such as rent/mortgage, utilities and prescriptions while providing referrals for other needs such as food, support pertaining to eviction, childcare, and other needs. This fund was financed through individual donors, corporate sponsors and employees, the City of McPherson and a grant obtained through the Kansas Health Foundation. In addition, federal and state funding came through McPherson County administered by the McPherson County Community Foundation.

147 families/households received assistance. The fund paid 99 utility bills and assisted with 68 rent payments and 6 mortgage payments. The total amount of funds allocated was \$67,219.79. Out of 270 applications, 106 applicants reported losing their jobs while 117 experienced a reduction in employment hours which directly impacted their ability to pay for basic household needs such as rent, mortgage, and utilities. During this time, 84 households were in the process of being evicted and this program was able to assist families in avoiding evictions and homelessness.

United Way of McPherson County appreciates the generous donors and partners as we worked to strengthen and support individuals and families across our communities in meeting their basic financial needs. All of the donated funds have been utilized and the fund's activity is now closed.

United Way volunteer Lara Vanderhoof, who was instrumental in United Way's pandemic response, said of the effort: "The opportunity to support families through financial means provided a certain level of dignity and care that was highlighted as a helping hand, not a handout. The recipients of the funds were grateful and extended sincere gratitude for the aid. It is a testament of how strong our community is to lend a helping hand in times of need to another who you may never meet. The attitude of donors and recipients alike were in this together mentality. We are McPherson United."

THE MCPHERSON SENTINEL

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