



Palmyra Chamber of Commerce

Chamber News

Your Daily Dose is Served...

PALMYRA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2015 AWARDS BANQUET



**2014
Citizen
of the Year
GARY
STUHLMAN**

What would a new year be without the Palmyra Chamber of Commerce's traditional annual meeting and awards banquet held this year on Thursday, January 8th at Msgr. Farischon Hall. Outgoing President Michelle Merkel welcomed all, a special meal prepared by Chamber business member HATS was enjoyed, and Miss Marion County, Destiny Reed, helped present awards with flair.

The 2014 Citizen of the Year, Gary Stuhlman, has made a wide array of contributions to the community dating back over 30 years! He began by coaching his children's Pixie softball teams. This led to organizing concessions and working up ball fields. As his children aged, it was on to Khoury Leagues and Booster Club.

As Booster Club's concession King, Gary's twin, Larry, recalled that Gary "sold so much popcorn we sometimes lovingly called him the Popcorn Kernel." Stuhlman was instrumental in the construction of Palmyra R-1's weight room, improvements to the High School track, new football field lights and astro-turf sidelines. He took his turn as Booster Club Treasurer and President.

Gary has been an active member of the Palmyra Kiwanis Club for many years, serving as President in 2010. He helped raise money for Kiwanis' charitable causes at their concessions in Flower City Park and by working long hours at the food stand during the Marion County Fair.

As a Boy Scout leader for over 20 years, Stuhlman helped his son and 10 other young men achieve the distinction of Eagle Scout; he still serves on that Board. Gary has served on the City's Board of Public Works and as Logistics Chair for the Relay For Life of Marion County since 2007. He also volunteers at the Palmyra Nutrition Center and serves as its President. Were we all only half as selfless and tireless!



**2014
Educator
of the Year
JUDY
LEMONS**

Recognized as the 2014 Educator of the Year was another life-long Palmyra resident, Judy Lemons. As her daughter Adrienne Lynn so eloquently revealed, her mom has helped shape "the face of science education" through publication – and perhaps through her local hands-on approach to the field.

Lemons received her BA in Education from UMKC and her M.Ed. and Ph.D in Science Education in 1993 from the University of Missouri – Columbia. While pursuing her degrees, she taught in Raytown and Hannibal, moving to Hannibal LaGrange in 1991. She has held many positions at the University including Dean of Women, and received the HLGU Parkway Distinguished Professor Award in 1994. Judy plans to retire from teaching this coming Spring.

Her passion lies in "allow(ing) her students to learn while at the same time knowing that she really cares about them as people," to quote Mrs. Lynn again. She is famous for the HLGU Summer Science Camp for 2nd-5th Graders, which she founded in 1993 to give area students the opportunity to get down-and-dirty with Science and have some of her passion rub off on them.

Photo by Mark Cheffey

No rocking chair retirement for Judy Lemons. She's already begun tutoring at Palmyra's United Methodist Church's after-school program and hopes to soon start a Science Club at Palmyra Elementary School!

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Photo by Mark Cheffey

Mary Griffin, Volunteer of the Year, is a career educator who worked for the Hannibal Schools as High School Counselor and a Career Educator Counselor at Hannibal Vocational School. She also teaches Psychology classes for Moberly Community College. However, when her husband, George, the English as a Second Language (ESL) Coordinator for Palmyra R-1 Schools needed her support to continue his responsibilities in this role, Mary retired from her position with the Hannibal School District to help both her husband and the ESL students he served.

When George lost his eyesight in 2014, Mary Griffin volunteered to "be his eyes" in the classroom. "Mary has always been professional with our students....Her calm demeanor has been easy...to relate to during each lesson," shared Kirt Malone, Palmyra Middle School Principal.

Though her husband George lost his battle with cancer October 27, 2014, Mrs. Griffin continues his legacy by serving the ESL students in the Palmyra R-1 School District, and they continue to benefit from her nurturing and witty spirit.



Photo by Mark Cheffey

The Paintbrush Award is given by the Chamber to recognize business owners who have made commitments and investments through both time and money to improving their building and their services to Palmyra and the surrounding communities. This year's recipient was Bud's Paint & Body Shop.

From a garage behind the house on the north end of town, to Englehardt's Body Shop on North Main Street, to Bud's expanded operation on Thompson Street in 1958, Bud's has been serving this community. From an early age, Larry, Bud's only son, began to help. Larry Englehardt took over the business in 1986, but Bud continued to stay involved until 2011.

Bud's has been in business since 1945, and Chad Englehardt was the third generation to join the business in 2012. In 2014 Bud's finished putting up a brand new state of the art building at 105 Thompson St. This had been a dream of Larry's for many years, and once Chad joined the business the new building started to become a reality. A grand opening was held in April 2014.

Chad Englehardt thanked the Chamber for the honor but paid tribute to his grandfather, adding "We couldn't have done this without the community." If you missed the grand opening, Kelly Porter, receptionist, invites you to stop by sometime. Don't wait to "meet by accident."



Photo by Mark Cheffey

The 2014 Award recipients with Miss Marion County Destiny Reed: From Left to Right - Leanna Delaney - President's Award; Larry, Gary & Greg Stuhlman of Stuhlman Motors - Business Hall of Fame; Judy Lemons - Educator of the Year; Mary Griffin - Volunteer of the Year; Larry & Chad Englehardt of Bud's Paint & Body - Paint Brush Award.

Citizen Award: One of the floral centerpieces viewed through the Citizen of the Year Award



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**2014 Business Hall of Fame Award
 STUHLMAN MOTORS**

Above: Gary, Greg & Larry Stuhlman accept the 2014 Business Hall of Fame award on behalf of Stuhlman Motors

Stuhlman Motors, was inducted into the Business Hall of Fame. The Stuhlman-Palmyra connection began with Conrad Stuhlman who was born in Sebbetrode, Germany in 1825 in and was working as a blacksmith in Palmyra in 1870 on the location that eventually held the original city hall and then the fire station. In 1882, Conrad bought the land that the Stuhlman shop currently occupies. Conrad's blacksmith business operated on Main Street through the 1880s and 1890s, employing several of his children.

Stuhlman Brothers continued blacksmith operation, first under Conrad, and then under his son Julius, until Julius died in 1945. At that time, the land reverted to Julius' children, Ed and Paul Stuhlman. Dr. Paul Stuhlman worked as an osteopath out of the house next to the shop. Ralph Stuhlman, one of Paul's two children, began working in the blacksmith shop as a teenager, picking up his mechanic skills from the Myers' Garage next door. In 1947, after Ralph graduated from school and briefly served in the Army, he built the current cinder block shop - with his wedding ring in the concrete still to this day - and opened it as a mechanic shop.

Ralph Stuhlman added wrecker service in 1953 at about the same time as the birth of sons Gary and Larry, who began working at the shop at 12. Son Greg joined the company in the 1980's when Stuhlman Motor Company dropped its wrecker service and added air conditioner, cruise control and other feature installations, which would later include cell phones and automatic starters.

Michelle Merkel had the honor of personally presenting the final award of the evening, the President's Award. The award went to Leanna Delaney. Merkel praised Delaney not only for her great ideas, her knowledge and support but also for "filling any niche that needed to be filled, serving as sounding board, and being a personal friend." In addition, Delaney was recognized for her service as a three year Board Member whose term has expired. Michelle thanked her for her contributions. Special recognition and thanks was given to Randy and Michele Hopson for all the time and effort donated to making the Marion County Fair so very successful. They received a standing ovation from those present.



**2014 President's Award
 LEANNA DELANEY**

Photo by Mark Cheffey

Merkel thanked everyone for their support during her term as Chamber President: her husband, Jeff; her children, Annslee and Landon; her parents; her employer, HOMEBANK; the Board; Administrative Assistant, Susan Berti; Chamber Members and "the citizens of Palmyra." "My heart has always been and will always be with Palmyra. It's been a fun ride, and I enjoyed every minute of it."

Merkel introduced the 2015 Board: President Rodney Kuntemeyer, Vice-President Brian Caldwell, Past President, Michelle Merkel, new Board members Randy Hopson and Josh Steffen, and returning members Raj Kshirsagar, Betsy Rush, Diane Smith and Susan Berti, Secretary/Treasurer.

Newly elected President Kuntemeyer presented Merkel with a plaque for her service as President thanking her for extending her time to two years. He congratulated all award recipients. He appealed to all members, "I hope that as a Chamber we can all work together, and I look forward to a good year. Step forward. Hold your hand up at Chamber meetings."

Our thanks to High School Key Club youth for helping serve. Thanks also to Flowers 4 You, Golden Eagle, HATS Restaurant, Raj Kshirsagar, Tammy Neil, and RMark for their contributions. Leanna Delaney generously took on the task of organizing the event. Lastly, thanks to all who attended; you made it memorable for the award recipients!

Chamber Briefs...

PALMYRA CHAMBER LEARNS ABOUT EVERY DOOR DIRECT MAIL

The Palmyra Chamber of Commerce held its monthly meeting Tuesday, December 9 at the VFW Hall. President Michelle Merkel welcomed everyone including FBLA members Trevor Meny and Aaron Stone. President Merkel and Christmas event chair Ginny Kuntemeyer thanked the Christmas in Palmyra Committee for their hard work. Kuntemeyer also thanked all participants and donors who helped make the evening successful.

President Merkel shared that Rodney Kuntemeyer, owner of The Old Stone House Inn, would be taking on the role of Chamber President in January. Brian Caldwell with ETC Computerland will serve as Vice-President. Randy Hopson of NEMO Seed and Grain and Josh Steffen, Principal of SSD Build, have agreed to fill the two Board vacancies. Membership at the meeting approved the slate.

Chris Hull, Officer in Charge of the Palmyra Post Office, shared information about one of the Post Office's newest programs, Every Door Direct Mail. Every Door Direct Mail is an easy, cost-effective way to reach potential customers. You create your own mailpieces print them on postcard to flyer size paper, then select postal routes and pay for postage – as little as 17.5 cents per piece. It's great for announcing store openings, sales, or events. With Every Door Direct Mail you can easily reach the customers you choose by targeting city or rural routes. No mailing permits or mailing lists are needed! Hometown Auto/Carquest and Harry Graves, the incoming Marion County Presiding Commissioner, both have already utilized Every Door Direct Mail. For more information, visit www.usps.com/business/every-door-direct-mail.htm or visit Chris Hull at the Palmyra Post Office. He can be reached between the hours of 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at 573-769-3669.

The Palmyra Post Office Counter Hours are 9 – 4 Monday through Friday, and 9 – 10:30 a.m. on Saturday. Going away for the winter? Check with the Post Office to set up premium forwarding to receive all your mail at your getaway destination!

CHRISTMAS IN PALMYRA UPDATE:

Thanks to all who turned out for Christmas in Palmyra, Monday, December 1 and the Chamber establishments who opened their doors to greet participants and hand out tickets for the drawing: C&R, City Hall, County Market, Crystal's Liquidation, Flower City Florist, the Palmyra Spectator, SSD Build, and Schoenborn's. Thanks to the businesses and individuals who donated baskets, trees and wreaths for the auction at City Hall: Agri-Med, B&S Insurance, Deb Behring, BASF, L.N. Bross, Budget Inn, C&R, Canton Veterinary Clinic, Carquest, Edward Jones, Exchange Bank, Farmers Coop, Flower City Florist, Flowers 4 You, Heritage Seekers, HATS, HOMEBANK, Lynn & Lemons, Lewis Brothers, Maple Lawn, Mark Twain Title, Old Stone House Inn, Palmyra Parks & Recreation, Palmyra Spectator, Rachel Bringer Shepherd, Schoenborn's, Sydenstricker's, United Community Bank, and United Country Real Estate. Thank you to L. N. Bross, Joelle Fohey, Northeast Missouri Machine & Pattern and REC for generous monetary donations. Parade participants and entertainers – couldn't have done it without you! Congratulations to the drawing winners, Lindsey Behring who won \$200, Brad Speak who took home \$300, and Alex Smyser who netted the grand prize of \$500 cash!

~ Gratefully, The Christmas in Palmyra Committee, Ginny Kuntemeyer, Chair



New President Rodney Kuntemeyer thanks Michelle Merkel for her service as Past President



Michele Hopson graciously accepts recognition for her work with husband Randy on the Marion County Fair

Photos by Mark Cheffey

CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP

It's time to renew your Chamber Membership for 2015!

Application available on the Chamber website:

<http://www.showmepalmyra.com/chamber/MemberAp.pdf>

DUE

upcoming events CALENDAR

January 19

Martin Luther King Holiday

January 19-24

72nd Annual Tony Lenzini Basketball Tournament

Palmyra High School

January 30-31

5th Annual Prom Dress Resale

(Sponsored by the First Christian Church) Farischon Hall, Fri., Jan. 30th 6 – 8 p.m. & Sat. Jan. 31st 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Have a dress to sell? Bring dresses to the hall Jan. 27th -30th between 6-8 p.m. or Jan. 31st between 8 -9:30 a.m. Fee Charged for registration & sale. For more information call Nancy Goellner: 573-470-0861.

February 9 – 20

Chamber Office will be closed.

Susan will be out of the office.

February 14

Valentine's Day

February 16

President's Day

February 18

Ash Wednesday

UPCOMING MEETING DATES & PROGRAMS YOUR NEXT CHAMBER MEETING IS NOON

**Tues. Feb. 10, 2015 • Noon
Palmyra Nutrition Center**

Guest Speaker: Jill Pflantz will be sharing information on the many services the Nutrition Center provides. The public is invited.

Tues. March 10, 2015

TBD

Chamber Email Address:

palmyrachamber@gmail.com



Palmyra MO Chamber of Commerce