



Palmyra Chamber of Commerce

Chamber News

Your Daily Dose is Served...

PALMYRA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL MEETING AND AWARDS BANQUET

The highlight of the Palmyra Chamber of Commerce's Annual Banquet is always the awards presentation to truly deserving community members. This year was no exception. Msgr. Farischon Hall was festively decorated to welcome Chamber members, awardees, friends and family on January 7. Outgoing President Rodney Kuntemeyer graciously welcomed all. He thanked his Board, his wife, and local Chamber members for their support. Miss Marion County, Ruthie Carpenter, helped present awards.

Instead of one recipient for the 2015 Citizen of the Year, there were two: Randy and Norma Smyser. These two Citizens of the Year will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this coming July, having spent those 50 years here in Palmyra. Their son, Pastor Marty Smyser, who presented the award, said it quite eloquently, "This couple has lived a life of generosity, concern, compassion, consistency, and care for others no matter what the situation has been, or how it has arisen.



They have offered a hand up to many people in many different situations over the years, and continue to do so today."

Both as community members and owners of the Chamber business Northeast Missouri Machine & Pattern, which they bought in 1974, they have always offered both physical and financial support to Palmyra area churches, schools, athletics, business, the city, the park, 4-H, the fair, Young Farmers and beyond. "[They] truly [do] care about people, and they have made it a goal in life to have a positive impact on as many people as they can whether

"This couple has lived a life of generosity, concern, compassion, consistency, and care for others no matter what the situation has been..."

~Pastor Marty Smyser



The 2015 Annual Award recipients: (front, from left) Caroline Schreiner (Volunteer), Jerri Johnston (President's Award), Kendra Tiemann (Educator), Dena & Josh Wilson for the Olive Branch (Paint Brush); (back, from left) Mark & Patty Cheffey, Palmyra Spectator owners (Business Hall of Fame), and Norma & Randy Smyser (Citizens).

it be family, friends, employees, or people in the community. This is who they are, and this is who they will always be," shared Marty Smyser.

"This couple's success in life, both as a family, and as business people comes from their personal and corporate determination to stay together through the tough times and to rejoice in the good times," added Smyser. They have raised 5 children in Palmyra, and have 18 grandchildren who have been raised in Palmyra. All but one of the grandchildren graduated from Palmyra High School. Norma and Randy Smyser also have 16 great-grandchildren, many of them living in the Palmyra area as well.

To get the couple to the event, their family told them that their son Marty, who presented the award, would be receiving it! When she and her husband came forward to accept the honor, Norma blushed, "We didn't raise our children to lie."

New High School Principal Jared Pontius presented the award for Educator of the Year to Kendra Tiemann, Palmyra R-1's High School Guidance Counselor. He was one of three individuals to nominate Mrs. Tiemann for the honor, the others including Palmyra

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Middle School Counselor Angela Keppner and Tristan Fountain, a former PHS student who currently is a sophomore at Missouri S&T. Pontius feels that “whether she is counseling students, teaching, or advocating for the betterment for our schools she always has the students’ best interest in mind.”



**2015 Educator of the Year,
Kendra Tiemann**

“...she always has the students’ best interest in mind.”

~Jared Pontius

In her letter of recommendation, Ms. Keppner stated how much she looks up to Mrs. Tiemann and spoke of the additional training in learning styles Tiemann has been pursuing the past two years to better understand and assist her students. Tiemann has shared what she has learned at district in-service and at the Missouri State Counselor’s Conference. Her former student, Tristan Fountain, wrote “...the fact that I, a student of Computer Science, am actually typing an essay for the first time since high school should emphasize how much this woman has done for our school.”

“By far in my eight years at the high school,” Pontius summed up, “she affects more students in a positive way than anyone I know.”

Carolyn Schreiner, Volunteer of the Year, is, in the eyes of Tammy Nix, director of the Palmyra Nutrition Center, the embodiment of what a volunteer is: someone who devotes time, service and shows teamwork without compensation. Nix also praised Schreiner because she “inspires others to give back to our community.”



**2015 Volunteer of the Year,
Carolyn Schreiner**

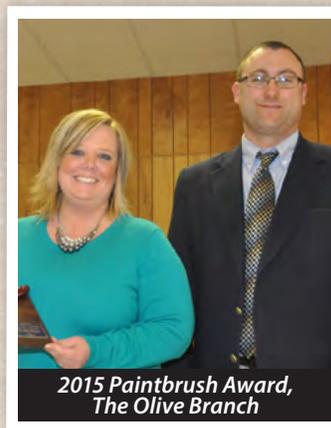
“inspires others to give back to our community.”

~Tammy Nix

At the Nutrition Center Schreiner serves on the Board, helps prepare and deliver meals weekly, helps with fundraisers throughout the year and fills in when and where needed.

Carolyn also “volunteers her time at Zion Lutheran Church, Palmyra Elementary School, Luther Manor Nursing Home and various other places,” shared Nix. She has chaired many church and community events, served on Boards, coordinated church funeral dinners, helped with Vacation Bible School, and visited shut-ins. Many an individual in need have had a meal prepared and delivered by Carolyn Schreiner.

“...One would wonder how she ever has time for herself. I feel her huge heart and selfless acts of kindness are why she so justly deserves this award,” concluded Nix.



**2015 Paintbrush Award,
The Olive Branch**

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 The Olive Branch Antiques and Interiors owned by Josh and Dena Wilson and Jim and Kris Lowe.

The two couples converted the former Episcopal Church into a retail establishment. The limestone church, consecrated in 1882, was built in the Queen Anne architecture style. Wood paneling lines the walls and ceiling of the former sanctuary. No major changes were made to the interior, but restoring the main part of the 133-year-old church was quite an undertaking. Taking up carpet revealed wooden floors and marble tile which now welcome shoppers. Antiques, furniture pieces repurposed from other items, and other home decor and gift items are available in a unique setting. A Chamber Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting was held October 3, 2015.

In presenting the award, outgoing President Kuntemeyer thanked the owners. “We appreciate your hard work in creating a place that is bringing in sales tax revenue while keeping the integrity of the building.”

Missouri’s oldest weekly newspaper, the Palmyra Spectator, was inducted into the Business Hall of Fame. Serving continuously since

“We appreciate your hard work in creating a place that is bringing in sales tax revenue while keeping the integrity of the building.”

~Rodney Kuntemeyer

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2015 Business Hall of Fame, Palmyra Spectator

Owners Mark & Patty Cheffey were proud to represent the Palmyra Spectator on its induction into the Business Hall of Fame for 176 years of continuous weekly newspaper reporting.

1839, the newspaper has always been a family endeavor. The current owners, Mark and Patty Cheffey, are only the third family to own and operate the business started by Jacob Sosey.

When Sosey and his family first moved to the area and printed the first edition on August 3, 1839, the paper was called the Missouri Whig and General Advertiser. Despite some destruction and loss of files during the Civil War, Sosey prevailed; in April 1863 the newspaper became the Palmyra Spectator.

Jacob's sons took over the business upon Jacob's death in 1888 and his grandson, Donald Sosey, who had learned the printing trade in the Spectator plant, became owner, editor and publisher after them until its sale in 1967.

The second family to own and operate the Spectator were Lee and Beverly Keck. They continued the publication of this historic paper until November 1994, when they sold the business to Mark & Patty Cheffey who have been entrusted with recording news for Palmyra and the surrounding communities for over 20 years.

"In May, 2012, Mark & Patty were presented with a House Resolution honoring the paper for its years of service in the community. It is with great pride that the Palmyra Chamber of Commerce presents the 2015 Business Hall of Fame Award to the Palmyra Spectator for an impressive 176 years of continuous weekly newspaper reporting," applauded Susan Berti, Palmyra Chamber Secretary/Treasurer.

Writing in the Palmyra Spectator's editorial, Mark Cheffey had this to say, "We feel like we've been caretakers of a museum piece...it would be interesting to know what the newspaper's founder, Jacob Sosey, would have said about the honor."



Outgoing Board members who were thanked and presented plaques by President Rodney Kuntemeyer included Raj Kshirsagar, Diane Smith, Michelle Merkel, and Betsy Rush. They are all pictured with the Marion County Fair Queen, Ruthie Carpenter.



2015 President's Award, Jerri Johnston

Rodney Kuntemeyer chose to honor Jerri Johnston with the President's Award. "I'm very fortunate to have had this person at my back for several years. She's always in the background but always there." He thanked Johnston for her support the past fifteen years and specifically for all the projects she has worked on this past year including Howdy Neighbor Day, the Marion County Fair, Taste of Palmyra, and Christmas in Palmyra.

"I'm very fortunate to have had this person at my back for several years. "

~Rodney Kuntemeyer

Kuntemeyer expressed the Chamber's gratitude to Randy & Michele Hopson for their excellent work on the Marion County Fair and presented them with a token of the Board's appreciation. The couple will be chairing the event for the sixth

year in 2016. He then recognized retiring Board members Michelle Merkel, Raj Kshirsagar, Betsy Rush, and Diane Smith for their service. As his last official act, Kuntemeyer introduced Brian Caldwell as the incoming President.

Incoming President Caldwell thanked Kuntemeyer for his service as president, presenting him with a plaque. He introduced the new Board members and officer for 2016 - Bryan Bartz, Tav Brown, Teresa Smyser and Vice-President Charlene Jones-Liendo. Caldwell presented the Annual Budget to the membership for approval; the budget passed by a voice vote.

Outgoing President Kuntemeyer concluded with thanks to all who helped make the evening successful and special for the award recipients. These included Aramark, Flower City Florist, Golden Eagle, HATS, Key Club, Tammy Neil of Roland Machinery, the Old Stone House Inn, Diane Smith, Susan Berti and special guests Miss Marion County, Ruthie Carpenter, and Miss Missouri State Fair, Destiny Reed.



Your 2016 Palmyra Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors: (front, from left) Susan Berti, Secretary/Treasurer; Charlene Jones-Liendo, Vice-President; Teresa Smyser, Heather McChristian, Randy Hopson (back, from left) Brian Caldwell, President, Tav Brown, Bryan Bartz, and Josh Steffen. Not pictured: Rodney Kuntemeyer, Past-President.

Chamber Briefs...

The Palmyra Chamber of Commerce held its monthly meeting Tuesday, December 8, at the Palmyra Nutrition Center. President Rodney Kuntmeyer welcomed all including FBLA student representatives Kyra Lane and Brandon Timbrook. He extended warm wishes to Gordon Ipson of Northeast Power for a lengthy and satisfying retirement. Mr. Ipson retired from Northeast Power January 8 after 9 years of service. "I am learning how to say 'No' so I'm not busier than I am now after retiring," said Ipson.

CHRISTMAS IN PALMYRA

Nancy Speak thanked everyone for the part they played in making this year's Christmas in Palmyra so very successful. Businesses and individuals made donations to the live auction at the Courthouse, monetary contributions, and gifts of their time and talent. The auction raised \$1228.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT DAY

Anyone interested in volunteering for the Junior Achievement in a Day event which will be held at Palmyra Elementary in 3rd & 4th grade March 7, 2016 should contact Denise Drebes, Junior Achievement in Northeast Missouri and West-Central Illinois District Manager, at 573-769-0161. Community members with real work experience will help educate elementary students on financial literacy, work readiness, and entrepreneurship all in the course of around 3 hours. The hands-on activities, provided to volunteers by Junior Achievement, educate youth on the connection between education and success in the workplace.

PROM DRESS RESALE

Nancy Goellner announced that the Palmyra First Christian Church would be hosting its 6th annual Prom Dress Resale at Farischon Hall between 6 – 8 p.m. on Friday January 29th, and from 10 am – 4 pm on Saturday, January 30. The event's popularity has grown tremendously over the past several years. The First Christian Church always helps at least one girl purchase her dream dress.

INVESTMENT SAFETY TIPS FROM MISSOURI PROTECTION CENTER

John Hale, the Director of Investor Education in the Securities Division of the Missouri Secretary of State's Office, joined us to speak about investment fraud. In planning your family's financial future, one of the most important steps you can take is learning to detect potential investment scams and the precautions you can take to avoid becoming a victim. There are two simple steps one can take to protect against investment fraud: (1) Call the Missouri Investor Protection Hotline at 800-721-7996 to check to see if an investment company or broker is registered. (2) Don't invest on emotion. Never invest in something because an offering individual pressures you or makes you feel as though the opportunity will go away if you don't act immediately.

As seniors are most frequently the target of investment scams, Hale highlighted the top threats to Missouri's Senior investors:

- Online Discount Brokerage Accounts Managed By Third Parties – Pay close attention to fee structure and bank statements, and avoid sharing user names and passwords.
- Unregistered Salespeople – Be wary of credentials such as "senior specialist" and "certified retirement financial advisor." Call the Missouri Securities division anytime you're solicited with an investment opportunity (800-721-7996).
- High Yield & Ponzi Investment Schemes - The higher the yield the higher the risk. This is often done through a particular group or organizational contact, perhaps even a worship group.
- Real Estate Investments - Use caution when investing in house-flipping, distressed properties and new developments.
- Investment Fads – Be skeptical of investments that sound new and appealing like digital currency, crowdfunding and oil & gas wells.

The publications John shared were paid for by the Investor Education and Protection Fund, and no taxpayer dollars were used to prepare them.

CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP:

Have you renewed your Chamber Membership for 2016?
Thinking of joining the Palmyra Chamber of Commerce?
What Are the...

BENEFITS OF CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP?

- Social media exposure: listing and link on Chamber's online Business Directory, monthly email /online newsletter, Facebook Page to raise awareness of Chamber-sponsored and member events
- Networking opportunities
- Referrals through inquiries made to the Chamber office
- Chamber Gift Certificates may only be redeemed at member businesses
- Ribbon Cuttings available for new or relocated /remodeled member businesses
- Member businesses may host Business After Hours to promote their business & provide a networking opportunity

Small businesses can afford Chamber membership! The Palmyra Chamber of Commerce is reaching out to firms with 1-3 employees, by offering annual membership for only \$75. Not-For-Profit and Non-Business Individual Membership is also \$75, while Retired Individuals may join for \$25. Membership runs January - December. An application and more information are available on the Chamber website by clicking [HERE](#).

*Palmyra Chamber of Commerce
Working Together for a Stronger Future for the Palmyra Area*

CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP

It's time to renew your Chamber Membership for 2016!

Application available on the Chamber website:
<http://www.showmepalmyra.com/chamber/MemberAp.pdf>

DUE

UPCOMING MEETING DATES & PROGRAMS YOUR NEXT CHAMBER MEETING IS NOON

Tues. Feb. 9, 2016

Luncheon will be held at the Old Stone House Inn. Our guest speaker will be Jami Leonard, Program Director for the Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit at Hannibal Regional Healthcare System. Jamie will be discussing what new services are now being provided.

Tues. March 8, 2016

Lunch location to be determined. Betsy Rush, Edward Jones Financial Advisor in Palmyra, will present a program on Business Retirement Plans.

**Chamber Email Address:
palmyrachamber@gmail.com**

 Palmyra MO Chamber of Commerce

upcoming events CALENDAR

January 29 -30

*Zion Lutheran School, 6th Annual Prom Dress Resale (sponsored by the First Christian Church)
January 29 6 - 8 p.m. & Sat. Jan. 30th 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.*

February 2

Ground Hog Day

February 10

Ash Wednesday

February 13

8 pm - Midnight at the American Legion Hall ~ 28th Annual Palmyra Volunteer Fire Department Dance

February 14

Valentine's Day



February 15

President's Day

February 20

5:30 - 9:30 PM, Sesquicentennial Building ~ Sparkle and Shine Daddy Daughter Dance & Pancake Buffet sponsored by Palmyra Parks & Rec

February 23

5:30-7:30 pm, Hannibal Arts Council, 105 S. Main St., Hannibal ~ American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Marion County Kick-Off

March 11

5-8:30 pm, Sesquicentennial Building ~ 8th Annual Kelly Behring Memorial Scholarship Fish Fry

March 27

Easter

April 9

10 am, Marion County Fairgrounds ~ Palmyra Young Farmer's Consignment Sale

April 19

Palmyra HS ~ ACT Testing for all juniors, including home school students

April 30

5:00 p.m. - ?, American Legion Hall ~ Flower Children's Spring Fling Dinner & Auction for the American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Marion County