



The Inside Track...

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80 years
1928-2008

Volume XVI, No. 1

January 2008

New President Elected

Jonathon C. Johnson, executive vice president at Community National Bank, is the 2008 president of the Chanute Area Chamber of Commerce & Office of Tourism Board of Directors. His term began January 1 and will continue until December 31, 2008.



Jonathon brings a varied background to the Chamber having been in the U.S. Army before working in banking for nearly 20 years. He also raises sheep and serves as a chaplain at Humboldt Speedway.

As his theme for 2008 Jonathon has chosen "Get in the Picture" as a way to encourage involvement in Chamber activities and to recognize those who have been involved over a number of years. This ties in closely with the Chamber's I Love Chanute campaign.

"The Chamber's upcoming membership drive along with an increased focus on member involvement will link together as we work to get people to get the picture of Chanute's many positive qualities and then get in the picture by becoming active in the Chamber's work to promote Chanute," he said.

In addition, 2008 is the Chamber's 80th anniversary of serving the Chanute business community. The launching point for the celebration will be the Annual Meeting on Jan. 29. "This will be the celebration of our history and those who've been in the picture front and center during the past," Jonathon said.

"I encourage all Chambers members to get involved in 2008. We promise to utilize your time wisely and to value your input," he added.

Member Involvement Requested

As everyone plans for 2008, the Chamber asks its members to please keep in mind that their involvement on any Chamber committee would be greatly appreciated. Two Standing Committees – Legislative and Economic Development - are being revitalized and the success of the third Standing Committee – Ambassadors – will be expanded. Two new committees – Membership and Public Outreach – are being developed. Each is important to the Chamber's future and the future of Chanute.

Each committee will have goals developed by its members. Ideas and support from the membership is vital for the work of the Chamber to be successful. The Chamber can't operate effectively without input from the people it serves — Chanute businesses and industries.

In addition, the Chamber has agreed to take the lead in forming a community-wide committee to explore options for a 2008 Veterans Day celebration in Chanute. Randy Alsup has agreed to chair this committee. We hope to bring together members from the community who will work together to make sure all of our veterans know how much their service is appreciated.

Please give some thought to joining a committee or committees or being a committee chair. This is an opportunity to have a voice at the local and state levels. See page 6 for the mission of each committee.

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Mark Your Calendars!

Chamber Annual Meeting and Banquet
Tuesday, January 29, 2008
2008 Southeast Kansas Day on the Hill
Thursday, February 21, 2008

2008 Theme

"Get In The Picture"

Jonathon C. Johnson
2008 Chamber President

The 2008 Board of Directors

Executive Committee

President: Jonathon C. Johnson

Community National Bank

President-Elect: Randy Alsup

Chanute Healthcare Center

Treasurer: Jennifer Dietsch

State Farm Insurance

Past President: Dr. Nathan Falk

Chanute Chiropractic Center

Elected Board Members

Term: January 2009

Sheri Calhoon, Malson Real Estate

Justin Sager, Emprise Bank

Sandra Strack

Kathryn Taylor, USD 413

Term: January 2010

Bill Fiscus, Tri-Valley Dev. Services

Wendell Jennings, Chanute Wal-Mart

Julie McAllister, Kustom Signals

Sandy Moore, Guest Home Estates III

Term: January 2011

Valorie Busse, Bank of Commerce

Dennis Franks, Neosho Mem. Reg. Med. Center

Ross Hendrickson, McCune-Robinson Ins.

Becky Waggoner, Home Savings Bank

Board Associates

Jim Earl, Penwell-Gabel Chapels

Perry Hartman, NuWa

Nancy Isaac, NCCC

Phil Jarred, Jarred, Gilmore & Phillips, PA

Steve Parsons, USD 413

Randy Riggs, City of Chanute

James Rubow, The Chanute Tribune

Dr. Vicky Smith, NCCC

CHS Representatives

Vincent Lau

Natalie Mildfelt

Chamber Business

After Hours

*Fairchild's Restoration &
Kitchen Warehouse*

Date and Time

to be announced.

*Please watch your email
for an announcement when
the details are finalized.*

Gift Certificate Program a Success

Christmas at the Chamber was a very busy time as 1,772 Chamber gift certificates amounting to a total of \$76,261 were prepared for businesses and individuals. The gift certificates are a benefit of membership and a service to the community. Only businesses that are Chamber members can accept the certificates for goods or services. However, anyone can purchase a gift certificate in any amount at no charge. The amount of the gift certificate is what the purchaser pays and what the business receives.

More than \$61,000 of that total was from certificates purchased by Chanute Manufacturing. Not only did this serve as recognition for the employees and their contributions to the company's success in 2007, it also allowed Chanute Manufacturing to further expand its support of the community. Several other businesses and organizations, such as Neosho Memorial Regional Medical Center and Tri-Valley Developmental Services, utilized the program during the holidays and other companies, such as Ash Grove, have used it for employee recognition at different times of the year.

All of that \$76,261 is being spent right here in Chanute benefiting Chanute's economy while also bringing shoppers out to patronize local merchants and businesses.

Thank you to everyone who purchased or used a gift certificate in 2007. Don't forget to use the gift certificate program for birthdays, anniversaries, thank-yous, etc. in 2008.

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Tourism News

Upcoming Chanute Events

Martin and Osa Johnson Safari Museum

Call to Arms - Artifacts from the Hunt and Warfare Exhibit
To run through February 2008.
111 North Lincoln ~ (620) 431-2730

Chanute Art Gallery

Bleeding Kansas Exhibit
To run through March 2008.

Seminars and Re-enactors on Bleeding Kansas History

Thursday, January 10

Dr. Jim Hoy

An introductory look at the overall situation.

Tuesday, January 15

Charles Clark, Kansas City

"Those Missourians had a real plan for Kansas"

Thursday, January 17

Arnold Schofield, Mine Creek Historic Site

"Bleeding Kansas Massacres: Saints or Sinners"

All programs are at 7 p.m. and will be held
at the Tioga Hotel, directly south of the gallery.

\$5 Program Admission

Visitors may visit the exhibit before or after the programs.
17 N. Lincoln ~ (620) 431-7807

Safari Film Fest 2008

Friday and Saturday, April 25 and 26

Chamber Expo

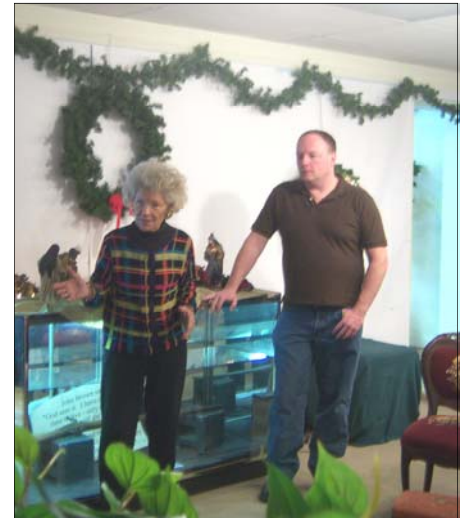
Saturday, April 26

9 a.m. — 4 p.m. ~ NCCC Campus

Call the Chamber for more information.



(From left) Jackie Witherspoon, incoming president of SEKTR, Hollie Yoho, outgoing president, and Anna Methvin, treasurer, share a laugh as they are sworn in to their respective positions for 2008. SEKTR meets bimonthly throughout the area to promote the many tourist sites in Southeast Kansas.



The Chanute Art Gallery hosted the December meeting of the Chamber's Tourism Committee. Elly McCoy (above left), director, gave a tour of the gallery to all in attendance after a lunch catered by Safari Grill. Todd Johnson (above right), chair of the Tourism Committee, looks on as Elly explains about some of the outstanding exhibits housed at the Chanute Art Gallery.



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Classes Begin: February 2008

13 Month Program
Informational Meeting:
December 13
January 17

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Chamber Open House Held

Thanks to everyone who was able to attend the Chamber Open House on Dec. 19. We were treated to Flora Erickson's famous Monster cookies, Nancy Isaac's deliciously decorated sugar cookies and Susan Courter's homemade brownies. More than 50 people attended, including Amy Blankenbiller, the new president and CEO of the Kansas Chamber, and her executive assistant Nicole Van Velzen. They were on their way back to Topeka from Pittsburg and took the time to stop in the Chanute Chamber office to visit.

"It was a pleasure to meet Amy and Nicole as well as see many familiar faces and meet other new people," Jane Brophy, Chamber executive director, said. "I look forward to working with everyone in 2008."

Committee Members Needed

As mentioned on page 1, Chamber members are needed to work on committees to further the work of the Chamber. A short mission statement for each committee is shown below. Your participation is important to the success of the committees and the Chamber.

Please contact Jane Brophy to volunteer for a committee. Meetings will be kept to a minimum.

Board Standing Committees:

Ambassadors: To serve as the public face of the Chamber at various business meetings and gatherings. To represent each member's business in the community. To promote the Chamber and its work to the community.

Economic Development: To assist the Chamber in its efforts to promote and retain current businesses and to assist the Chamber in any efforts to recruit new businesses to Chanute. To assist with marketing efforts promoting Chanute to potential businesses.

Legislative: To monitor public policy issues and legislation at the local, state and federal level that could affect local business and the economy of the area. To assist with development of policy and position recommendations for the board on key issues affecting the area. To assist with keeping the membership informed of legislative issues and with planning the annual Legislative Coffee and SEK Day on the Hill.

Membership: To assist the Chamber in planning and overseeing an annual membership campaign that identifies and recruits new members and retains current members. To serve as a liaison between the Chamber and members and potential new members.

Public Outreach: To provide ongoing recognition of the volunteer contributions made by Chamber members. To publicize the work of the Chamber. To oversee development of an annual marketing plan. To plan and execute events to promote and support the Chamber.

Ad Hoc Committees:

Events Review: To review various events of the Chamber to assess effectiveness and participation. To assess opportunities for new events. To make recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding future events.

Veterans Celebration: To convene a city-wide committee that will pull together various members of the community to plan an annual veterans celebration for Chanute.

Member Help Appreciated

In addition to the good fellowship at the Chamber Open House, the event presented an opportunity for members to see the changes in the office.

The Chamber is extremely grateful to Chuck and Twila Busse, members through 2B's Liquor, for spending a Sunday afternoon at the Chamber office hanging shelves. The addition of the shelves has provided extra work and storage space in Anna Methvin's area.

Still Loving Chanute!

The I Love Chanute hoodies were a hit over the holidays, with many being given as Christmas presents. Supplies are low right now; but, if there is enough demand, a new order can be placed.

Regular sweatshirts without hoods and either style in white or gray can be ordered also. Sweatshirts are \$21. I Love Chanute t-shirts are in stock at the Chamber and are \$10 each.

The I Love Chanute yard signs are starting to pop up all over Chanute. Signs are still available



and can be delivered. Just let the Chamber know.

Thank you to everyone for supporting the I Love Chanute campaign and helping



to promote a positive image for our hometown.

Help us Help you...

The Member Directory on the Chamber website has recently been updated.

Please check the site (www.chanutechamber.com) and let us know if any of your information is incorrect or any changes are needed. Remember the Chamber can add your website address.

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Are You in the Picture?

Contact the Chamber office today to find out how you can become more involved and "Get in the Picture."



Join the Chamber at Ribbon Cuttings to recognize new businesses, organizations or accomplishments.



Have fun and hear about Chamber activities at the monthly Ambassadors Luncheon.



(Left) Get to know your state legislators through participating in SEK Day on the Hill.

(Right) Enjoy fellowship and food at Business After Hours events.



Chamber Calendar of Events

- Mon., Jan. 7:** Executive Committee Meeting, Noon, Chamber office
- Tues., Jan. 8:** Chamber Ambassadors Lunch, Noon, Mo Gedi's
- Tues., Jan. 15:** Chamber Bd. of Directors Mtg., 11:30 a.m., Safari Grill
- Thurs., Jan. 17:** SEKTR Meeting, 10 a.m., Iola
- Wed., Jan. 23:** SEK, Inc. Annual Meeting, 5 p.m., Fort Scott
- Thurs., Jan. 24:** Chamber Display at City Hall Day at the Capitol
- Mon., Jan. 28:** Tourism Committee Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Safari Grill
- Tues., Jan. 29:** Chamber Annual Meeting, 6 p.m., Mo Gedi's
- Mon. Feb. 11:** Executive Committee Meeting, Noon, Chamber office
- Tues., Feb. 12:** Chamber Ambassadors Lunch, Noon, NCCC
- Tues., Feb. 19:** Chamber Bd. of Directors Mtg., 11:30 a.m., Safari Grill
- Weds., Feb. 20:** Kansas Chamber Banquet, Topeka
- Thurs., Feb. 21:** SEK Day on the Hill, Topeka
- Mon., Feb. 25:** Tourism Committee Meeting, 11:30 a.m., TBA

Correction

In the December newsletter, Magna Tech was inadvertently listed as a new Chamber member. The Orr family has been active with the Chamber for more than 50 years. The Chamber apologizes for the error and thanks David Orr and his family for their ongoing support and membership.

Thank You

The Chamber would like to thank the sponsors of its newsletter in 2007. Your support was much appreciated.

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Tickets Available

The Chamber has Operation Soupline tickets for sale for \$5 each, which will get you a bowl of soup or chili and a piece of delicious pie. Soupline is Feb. 7.



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Chamber Annual Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2008

Mo Gedi's

6:00 p.m. Reception

6:25 p.m. Dinner

7:00 p.m. Program

\$20 per person

Please join us as the
Partner in Progress award
is presented and
the Chamber begins the celebration
of its 80th year of serving
Chanute's business community.

Thank you to those of you who helped the Chamber locate past presidents. There are still a few for whom we don't have current information. If you know someone on the list below, please let the Chamber know.

Steve Hutchens, David Bixby, Audrey Graff, Jane McKinney, Kent McKinney

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February Ambassador Lunch

Tuesday, February 12

NCCC — Oak Room

Ambassadors Committee is open to all Chamber members who would like to get more involved in Chamber programs.

The annual Chamber Expo is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will once again be held in partnership with NCCC and the Martin and Osa Johnson Safari Museum's Safari Film Fest. Contact the Chamber now to reserve your booth space.

**CHAMBER MISSION STATEMENT
TO PROMOTE, ATTRACT AND
REPRESENT NEW AND
EXISTING BUSINESS.**



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"Get in the Picture"

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