

# Amarillo Chamber eNews

1000 SOUTH POLK - AMARILLO, TEXAS

MAY 2009

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PO Box 9480

Amarillo, TX 79105

806.373.7800

806.373.3909 fax

Amarillo-Chamber.org

## Sensible Solution...an Alternative Coverage to Workers' Comp

By: Dianne McClish, VP of Finance & Administration

[Dianne@amarillo-chamber.org](mailto:Dianne@amarillo-chamber.org)

The Amarillo Chamber of Commerce announces a partnership with Jackson-Lloyd Insurance Management to provide "Amarillo's Sensible Solution", an insurance choice for workplace related injuries with lower premium payments as well as a vehicle for controlling claims costs. This plan has been developed to protect the business interests of the membership by providing real insurance protection in an affordable way.

Amarillo's Sensible Solution offers three different policies available to chamber members. Each policy contains different pricing levels to fit any budget, thereby enabling not only large employers but small employers the ability to choose their desired level of coverage for on-the-job injuries. Business members can be assured that their employee injury claims will be treated by Amarillo hospitals and doctors with quality care that each employee deserves.



Amarillo's Sensible Solution is a timely insurance product that will give our business members a real advantage in a rocky economy. This new product will empower our members with a superior, low cost product utilizing a fresh, alternative approach and keeps our healthcare treatment at home, providing quality care and convenience for injured workers.

Amarillo's Sensible Solution is an answer to employers who have elected to forgo work place injury insurance and may face financial disaster if a work-related catastrophe results in death or serious injury to employee(s).

All three policies available are comprehensive plans providing non-subscribers with protection from the financial worries of an on-the-job injury. These plans are affordable and offer benefits for covered losses that include bodily injury, occupational sickness or disease, cumulative trauma and Employers Liability Coverage.

Amarillo Sensible Solution is underwritten by a nationally prominent insurance company rated "Superior" (A+XV) as assigned by A.M. Best. Development of Amarillo's Sensible Solution has been a team effort of the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce, Jackson-Lloyd Insurance Management and the agency service team plus healthcare providers of the Amarillo area. BSA Hospital and Northwest Texas Healthcare System support this concept of occupational healthcare. Chamber member business owners can be assured that their employee injury claims will be treated by Amarillo hospitals and doctors.

Policy highlights are available on the chamber website [www.amarillo-chamber.org](http://www.amarillo-chamber.org) under the HEALTH CARE tab and [INSURANCE COVERAGE](#) quicklink. An exclusive panel of local insurance agents will assist the Chamber membership with sales and service.

### Agency Service Team:

Edmond Deaton & Stephens	356-6000	<a href="http://www.edsinsurance.com">www.edsinsurance.com</a>
Fuqua-Bryson Benefits Group	350-6660	
Hilb Rogal & Hobbs Co of Amarillo (HRH)	376-8275	<a href="http://www.hrh.com">www.hrh.com</a>
Neely Craig & Walton	376-6301	<a href="http://www.neely.com">www.neely.com</a>
PIA Insurance	374-4621	<a href="http://www.plainsinsurance.com">www.plainsinsurance.com</a>
Upshaw Insurance Agency	468-0400	<a href="http://www.upshaw-insurance.com">www.upshaw-insurance.com</a>
Williams-Boyce Agency, LLP	376-4247	<a href="http://www.williamsboyce.com">www.williamsboyce.com</a>
Willis HRH	376-4761	<a href="http://www.hrh.com">www.hrh.com</a>



# Welcome New Members

## AJR Media Group

Nelson Gumm  
Larry Schweirsburg  
25132 Oakhurst Drive, Suite 201  
Spring, TX 77386  
(713) 942-7676

Fax: (713) 942-0277

<http://www.ajrmediagroup.com>

AJR Media Group is a Texas-based integrated media services company providing turnkey marketing solutions including web redesign, development & maintenance. AJR Media Group also offers targeted effective advertising solutions for the travel industry.

## Amarillo Area Business Co-Op

Robin Genetonson  
Daniel Johnson  
Jody Holland  
112 SW 8th Ave., Ste. 301  
Amarillo, TX 79101

(806) 350-7414

Fax: (806) 350-7415

<http://www.amarilloabc.com>

We exist to leverage collective buying power, reduce costs of doing business, provide opportunities for education and networking for the greater good of all members.

## Amarillo Elite Volleyball

LaParsha Wise  
Deana Zaccardo  
Box 19626  
Amarillo, TX 79114  
(806) 584-7027

<http://www.aevclub.com>

A competitive volleyball club for girls 5th-12th grade. Several programs are offered to teach and improve basic to advanced volleyball skills through leagues, clinics, camps & Junior Olympic tournament play.

## Avon Independent Sales Rep and Recruiter

Angie Keith  
Amarillo, TX 79109  
[www.youravon.com/mkeith](http://www.youravon.com/mkeith)

## Banbury Cross

Liz & Jay Banbury  
3511 Lenwood  
Amarillo, TX 79109  
(806) 418-4018  
Quality Photography and graphic design.

## Barnhart Crane & Rigging

Homer Aikin  
Glen Robinson  
409 S. Lakeside Drive  
Amarillo, TX 79118  
(806) 789-7525  
Fax: (806) 748-8517  
<http://www.barnhartcrane.com>

## ComData Solutions

Johnny Kincanon  
600 S Tyler, Suite 1405  
Amarillo, TX 79101  
(806) 350-7194  
Fax: (806) 350-7100  
<http://www.comdatasolutions.com>  
Business Phone Systems, Hosted Business Phone Systems, Business Class Internet, HD Video Conferencing, Wireless LAN, IT Services, Data Back Up, Hosted Email.

## Copy Doctor

Robin Liles  
Krista Orr  
343 E. Hastings  
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(806) 381-1010  
Fax: (806) 381-1020  
"Home of the 90-Day Lease" we provide service and repair to most home or office laser printers.

## Corporate Technology Group

Travis Weich  
Roxanne Hudson  
509 S Arthur  
Amarillo, TX 79102  
(806) 355-3316  
Fax: (806) 355-9063  
<http://www.ctgyourit.com>  
C. T. G. provides outsourced I.T. for small to medium sized business in the Texas Panhandle & DFW Metroplex.

## Farmers Insurance

Leslie Massey  
600 S. Tyler St. #900  
Amarillo, TX 79101  
(806) 350-7950  
Fax: (806) 350-7954  
Leslie Massey is a new agent with Farmers Insurance. Farmers offers auto, home, life and business insurance.

## JAG Properties

Jamie Luchay  
6900 Interstate 40 West, Ste 280  
Amarillo, TX 79106  
(806) 355-8300  
Fax: (806) 355-8303  
An onsite management company offering personalized service to tenants in a prime location. Executive Office Suites, ranging in size, and Conference Room accommodations are available.

# Your Fingers Will Do Less Walking

*When you come see us at the  
Chamber's Business Connection  
May 5th!*

*Be sure to pick up your free 2009*

*Amarillo User-Friendly Phone Book,*

*and don't forget to ask about our website,*

**amarillo247.com!**



## The User-Friendly Phone Book

1616 S. Kentucky St., Ste B100 - Amarillo, TX 79102 • 806-356-7042

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# Don't Miss Your Connection at



**BusinessConnection 2009**  
hosted by Amarillo Chamber of Commerce

**Pick up free tickets  
for the Business To Business Show  
10am-5pm  
at the Chamber Office now  
through May 4th.**

**Tuesday, May 5th  
Amarillo Civic Center**

Photography by The Photo Store



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- ☆ KAMR-4 ☆ KFDD-10
- ☆ KGNC FM ☆ KVII-7

## Silent Auction Items

**Adaberry Inn** Value: \$225. Gift Certificate for (1) Night Stay in Royal Suite

**AMA Techtel** Value: \$500. Pilates Power Gym

**Amarillo Chamber of Commerce** Value: \$200. (6) Tickets to Good Times Barbecue Cook Off on September 10th, (2) Aprons, (2) Tumblers and (1) Cutting Board

**Amarillo Civic Center** Value: \$400. (2) Season Tickets to Civic Amarillo's Broadway Spotlight Series 09/10 Season and (4) Show Series Including the Blockbuster "Mamma Mia"

**Amarillo Convention & Visitor Council** Value: \$250. Amarillo Items Including Leather Tote, Candy Dish, Umbrella, Flashlight, Cap/T-Shirt, Cheese Board and History Book

**Amarillo Family Wellness Group** Value \$3,730. (1) year of wellness chiropractic care.

**Amarillo Residence Inn by Marriott** Value: \$220. (2) night weekend stay (either Friday/Saturday or Saturday/Sunday)

**Ambassador Hotel** Value \$400. (1) night stay Skyscraper Package, dinner for (2) at Macaroni Joe's and (2) tickets to the Amarillo Little Theatre.

**Barbara Parker** Value: \$500. (2) Gift Baskets Including Arbonne Botanically Based Skin Care for Men & Aromatherapy for Ladies

**Best Western Amarillo Inn** Value: \$300. (1) Weekend Stay in President's Suite

**BL Bistro and Zen 721** Value: \$400. (4) \$100 Gift Certificates

**Coyote Flight Centers** Value: \$225. Amarillo By Air - (1) Gift Certificate for Sight Seeing Tour, (2) T-Shirts, (1) Flying Bear Stuffed Animal

**Coyote Flight Centers** Value: \$350. Learn to Fly...The Coyote Way (1) Gift Certificate for an Introductory Flight Lesson - Starting Pilot's Gift Items

**Curves** Value: \$250. (1) Gym Membership for (6) Months

**Custom Gardens** Value: \$525. 3" Tree Installed

**El Manantial Mexican Restaurant** Value: \$600. (20) \$30 Gift Certificates

**Entrepreneur Alliance** Value: \$1,150. Gift Basket Including (1) Scholarship to the First Annual Business Boot Camp to be held September 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> (\$795 Value) and (1) Gift Certificate for QuickBooks Pro 2008 Training (\$225 Value) and Various Giveaways

**General Office Supply, Inc** Value: \$1,054. (1) Black Leather Executive Office Chair

**March of Dimes** Value: \$200. (2) Tickets to the Signature Chefs Event in October 2009

**Nick's Fight Club** Value: \$200. Gym Bag, NFC T-shirt, NFC Keychain, Boxing Gloves, Hand Wraps and (2) Month Membership to Nick's Fight Club

**Ralph Duke Photographer** Value: \$575. 13x19 Black and White Fine Art Print - Framed, Matted and Signed

**Schokolad Chocolate Factory** Value: \$500. (5) Chocolate Packages

**Southwest Airlines** Value: \$800. (2) Roundtrip Tickets Anywhere SWA Flies

**Wal-Mart Super Center** Value: \$600. Vizio 37" LCD HD TV

**Westgate Mall** Value: \$200. "Mom & Me - Shopping Spree and a Movie" (1) \$100 Gift Card to New York & Company, (1) \$75 Gift Card to Justice, (1)\$25 Gift Card to Premiere Cinema

**Willow Creek Kennels** Value: \$450. (1) Gift Certificate for 2 Week In House Training and Other Giveaways

**WTAMU Intercollegiate Athletics** Value: \$180. Centennial Family Pass - Admission to All WTAMU Sporting Event & (4) Hats

**Your Décor** Value: \$300. "Half Day Room Makeover" Gift Certificate. Tropical Paradise Candle, Candy, and Assorted Accessories

**Bid on Silent Auction items during  
BusinessConnection on May 5th from 10am-4:30 pm.  
Contact Kim at 342-2009 for more info.**

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**AMARILLO  
CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE**

The *Chamber eNewsletter* is published by the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce, 1000 South Polk, Amarillo, Texas 79101. It is provided free of charge to Chamber members. Address correspondence to Chamber Communications at the address listed above, or call 806.373.7800, fax 806.373.3909.

### **2008-09 Board of Directors Executive Committee**

Chair	Kelvin Betzen
Chair-Elect	Laura Street
President/CEO	Gary Molberg
Finance	J. Pat Richmond
Membership Council	Bill Jenkins
Business Council	David Hemphill
Governmental Affairs Council	Bill Harris
Quality of Life Council	Penelope Davies
Ag Council	Leon Church
Convention & Visitor Council	Patty Bryant
City of Amarillo	Mayor Debra McCartt
	Commissioner Madison Scott

### **Directors**

Tim Archer	Brad Martin
Roy Bara	Greg Meyer
Scott Bentley	Cameron Monroe
David Craig	Robert Murray
Michael Cruz	David Prescott
Al Cunningham	John Salazar, Jr.
Jill Dana	Leah Satterwhite
Buzz David	Rod Schroder
Edmond Esparza	Les Simpson
David Eves	Cliff Vanderpool
Bob Garrett	Prenis Williams
Marjorie Jenkins	Jeff Yarber

***Visit our website at:***

***Amarillo-Chamber.org***

*Penni Bentley, Editor*  
[News@Amarillo-Chamber.org](mailto:News@Amarillo-Chamber.org)



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## Welcome New Members

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(806) 354-3550  
Fax: (806) 354-3559  
<http://www.mcgavocknissan.com>

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### Nationwide Insurance - Rick Hernandez Agency

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Check out our lunch menu like our  
hot pita sandwich and quiche. Car-  
tering available.

### Panhandle Job Placement Services

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7301 Interstate 40 West, Suite R  
Amarillo, TX 79106  
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Fax: (806) 353-1568

Employment agency specializing in  
meeting the employment needs of  
those with disabling conditions.

### Peppermint Garden

Shawna Hanks  
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Michael Franschheiser  
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<http://www.sparkamortho.com>  
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### Street Board, Inc.

Page Butler  
Kenny Bentley  
7415 Parkridge  
Amarillo, TX 79119  
(806) 352-5874  
Fax: (806) 352-9290

### Sound by Design

Pedro Limas  
5073 S. Coulter, Space 200  
Amarillo, TX 79119  
(806) 352-5884  
Fax: (806) 352-5884  
<http://www.soundbydesign.com>



# Welcome New Members

## Super Dollar Outlet

Larry & Keisha Green  
501 N Hughes St.  
Amarillo, TX 79107  
(806) 236-4625  
Super Dollar outlet is a store where prices are low and where you can get your every day needs. We are here to serve you.

## Texas Plains/Friendly Frontier Travel Host Magazine

Karl Rivers  
5121 69th St., Ste B-3  
Lubbock, TX 79424  
(806) 789-8385  
Fax: (806) 993-9390  
<http://www.travelhost.com>  
Travelhost Magazine is in 12,000 hotel rooms from the Texas Panhandle to Abilene & provides maps and information on restaurants, shopping, entertainment and relocation.

## ThreeLeaf

Patrick Kemp  
Jill Stennis  
203 W. 8th Ave, Ste 412  
Amarillo, TX 79101  
(806) 553-5252

Fax: (888) 882-6063

<http://threeleaf.tv>

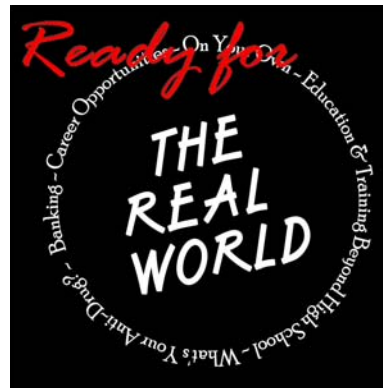
ThreeLeaf is an emerging creative firm. Focusing on new media products. We specialize in branding, software development, web design and development and mass media campaigns.

## Weight Watchers

Carolena Cogdill  
6604 Bayswater Rd  
Amarillo, TX 79109  
Fax: (806) 352-5002  
<http://www.weightwatchers.com>  
Weight Watchers is America's trusted name in weight loss and the global leader in weight-loss services, with approximately 46,000 weekly meetings in 30 countries.

## Window World of Amarillo

Kraig & Carrie Tubbs  
2440 W. Amarillo Blvd.  
Amarillo, TX 79106  
(806) 220-2630  
Fax: (806) 220-2830  
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May 12, 2009

Amarillo Civic Center

Thanks to the following sponsors:

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For more information, contact Becky Zenor at 342-2010 or [becky@amarillo-chamber.org](mailto:becky@amarillo-chamber.org) or Denise Blanchard at 326-1013 or [denise.blanchard@amaisd.org](mailto:denise.blanchard@amaisd.org)

Amarillo Chamber of Commerce  
**SUMMER**  
**Fiesta**

Thursday, June 25, 2009  
5pm - 8pm  
10th & Polk  
(Chamber grounds)

**Restaurants, Caterers & Food Service Providers**  
Want information on participating in this great networking event? Contact Andrea at 342-2007 or [andrea@amarillo-chamber.org](mailto:andrea@amarillo-chamber.org)

[Visit our website for details.](#)



**HFG**  
Harris Financial Group

806-371-7611  
[miles@harrisfg.com](mailto:miles@harrisfg.com)  
[zane@harrisfg.com](mailto:zane@harrisfg.com)

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# AMARILLO

Convention & Visitor Council

## Convention & Visitor Council 2008-09 Year-To-Date Statistics

### Tourism

Occupancy Rate	53.05%
Room Nights	477,480
Overnight Visitors	688,517
Visitor Center Guests	3,407
Group Tours	139
Inquiries for Amarillo Information	33,460
Overnight Travel Impact (\$)	\$137,991,890

### Film Office

Information requests	8
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### Conventions

# of Conventions/Groups in Amarillo	22
Delegates	12,930
Room Nights	9,995
Delegate Spending (\$)	\$7,034,006
Delegates Booked-Future Conventions	19,404
Delegate Room Nights Booked	15,178

### CVC Website

Average User Sessions / Day	12,366
Page Views / Day	95,614

## CVC Promotes from Within Harrison Named New Sales Director

In July of 2007, Jason Harrison joined the Convention & Visitor Council's sales team as a convention sales manager. Harrison has been responsible for the association convention market, and actively sells Amarillo as a potential convention site through tradeshow, sales calls, and marketing pieces at a local, state and national level.



"It is my pleasure to announce that Jason Harrison has been promoted to Director of Sales. Since taking over as Senior Sales Manager several months ago, Jason has provided great leadership and direction for the Sales department," commented Jerry Holt, VP of Convention & Visitor Council.

**Jason Harrison**  
**Director of Convention Sales**  
[Jason@visitamarillotx.com](mailto:Jason@visitamarillotx.com)

The Gold Wing Texas District Rally will be in Amarillo May 14th—17th, and are looking for vendors to sell their wares i.e., jewelry, clothing, etc.

Interested or know someone who might be interested? Contact Mindy Bradley for more information at 374-1497 or [mindy@amarillo-chamber.org](mailto:mindy@amarillo-chamber.org)



[Click Here to get the](#)

## AMARILLO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WEEK'S SNEAK PEEK

# Mark Your Calendar

May 1  
May 5  
May 12  
May 18  
May 18  
May 21  
May 21  
May 25  
Jun 11  
Jun 25  
Jul 23  
Sep 10

Golden Nail Awards  
BusinessConnection®  
Ready for the Real World?  
Women's Council Luncheon  
Top Two Percent Awards  
Sports Luncheon  
Round-Up Club Luncheon (Café Bella)  
Chamber Closed for Memorial Day  
Chamber After Hours with the Dusters  
Summer Fiesta  
Chamber Open Golf Tournament  
Good Times Celebration® Barbecue Cook-Off

## DIVERSE BY NATURE

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At Xcel Energy, we believe in teaming up with minority, women, veteran and small business enterprises when we need products and services. Our Supplier Diversity program enhances the success of our partners and the growth of our communities.

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[ResponsibleByNature.com](http://ResponsibleByNature.com)





Why travel when everything you need is right here at home? The benefits of meeting at home are doubled when you consider it not only saves you money-but boosts our local economy. Not to mention, saving yourself the time, money and stress that goes along with travel. So, hunker down now and meet at home, because after all, it just makes sense.

Go to [www.visitamarillotx.com](http://www.visitamarillotx.com) to see ideas of hosting a convention in your home town. There's sure to be some options that maybe you've never heard of, or simply taken for granted.



**(806) 374-1497**

1000 S. Polk  
Amarillo, Texas 79101

[www.visitamarillotx.com](http://www.visitamarillotx.com)

## WELCOME THESE CONVENTION GROUPS

### MAY 2009

### ATTENDANCE

1-3	Amarillo Area Tennis Association CHAMPS Major Zone Tournament	200
6-7	Nurse Oncology Education Program Tools for Texans: Helping Communities Fight Cancer	100
6-8	Greater Southwest Music Festival Annual Local Event	400
8-10	United States Bowling Congress (USBC) Annual Amarillo Mixed Invitational Benefit Bowling Tournament	300
14-17	Gold Wing Road Riders Association Texas District Rally	600
15-16	America Supports You Texas Armed Forces Day Banquet	250
15-17	United States Bowling Congress (USBC) Annual Amarillo Mixed Invitational Benefit Bowling Tournament	300
15-16	National 42 Players Association Tri- State 42 Tournament	70
15-16	FFA Area I Convention	350

### JUNE 2009

4-6	Texas Tech Medical Center Human Lactation, Clinical Research & Clinical Implication	200
5-7	Amarillo Area Tennis Association June ZAT Tournament	100
6-12	Texas State Association of Plumbing Inspectors, Inc. Annual Convention	175
12-14	Amarillo Area Tennis Association USTA Texas Section Senior Mixed Tournament	250
12-15	Girl Scouts T.O.P (Texas-Oklahoma Plains) Convention	500
16-21	United States Tumbling & Trampoline Assn (USTA) National Championships	2,000
19-20	Spring Baptist Church Youth Mission Trip	54
24-26	Texas County and District Retirement System Board Meeting	50
24-28	AQHA-YES Leadership Conference - Youth Excellence Seminar	450



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# Top Two Percent Awards

The Amarillo Chamber of Commerce annually recognizes the outstanding achievements of the top two percent of the Amarillo/Canyon graduating seniors. The Quality of Life Council of the Chamber holds an awards ceremony to honor students from the following high schools: Arbor Academy, Ascension Academy, Amarillo, Bushland, Canyon, Caprock, Highland Park, Holy Cross Catholic Academy, Palo Duro, River Road, San Jacinto Christian Academy, Randall, and Tascosa. The Council typically presents award certificates to 60 students before a crowd of nearly 200 attendees.

We recognize that today's kids will one day lead our community, own businesses, and change the world. Supporting the Chamber is supporting education.



*The Amarillo Chamber of Commerce is a Celebrate Education partner.*

**Top Two Percent  
A W A R D S**



**May 18, 2009  
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Region 16 Education  
Service Center**

Sponsored by: Amarillo  
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# Ribbon Cutting & Ground Breaking Ceremonies

Click on a photo or the Flickr link below to view and download photos.



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/amarillochamber/sets/72157617473456297/>

**Are you a new Chamber Member?**

Celebrating an anniversary year in your business?

**Remodeling or expanding?**

**Opening a new location?**

Contact [Linda](#) to schedule your Ribbon Cutting or Ground Breaking event! 342-2006

# THANK YOU RENEWING MEMBERS

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Aark Drilling  
Acute & Chronic Pain and Spine Center  
Action Design Group  
Alarm Link Security  
Allstate Insurance/Karen O'Hara  
Alternatives for Healthy Living  
Amarillo Area Corvette Club, Inc.  
Amarillo Business Concepts  
Amarillo Dillas Baseball Club  
Amarillo Globe News  
Amarillo Heart Group  
Amarillo Outdoor Power Equipment Co.  
Amarillo Physical Therapy Services, Inc.  
Amarillo Symphony, Inc  
Amarillo's Parkview Realty,  
Appearances Hair Salon & Gifts  
AquaOne  
Ascension Academy  
Atmos Energy  
B & D Properties  
Bank of America  
BeautiControl Spa  
Ben E Keith Foods  
Berg, Howard L.  
Best Western Amarillo Inn  
Better Business Bureau  
Blackburn-Shaw Funeral Homes  
Boy Scouts of America (Golden Spread Council)  
Bush-Emeny Properties  
Cain's Carpet Care, Inc.  
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**Thanks for renewing your membership in April,  
and for your continued support of the Chamber.**



# You Never Get A Second Chance To Make A First Impression

## Employee Spotlight on Mary Garcia, Chamber Director of First Impressions

**What are the basics...full name, parents, and hometown and family?** I was born in Denver, Co and my parents Victor and Maria Lopez moved the family to Amarillo when I was 5 years old and I have been here ever since. I have an older sister and two younger brothers. I met my husband his freshman year of high school and we were good friends through those exciting years. My senior year we started going out on dates and have been together for a total of 12 years and married for 5 years. We had a beautiful baby girl in December of 2005 and are expecting another princess any day now. (see PS below)

**Where did you grow up and what schools did you attend?**

I attended Humphrey's Highland Elementary, Bowie Middle School and Caprock High School.

**What is your background of experience before the Chamber?**

A couple of years after my high school graduation I spent some time at Amarillo College and received an Office Administration Associates Degree.

**Growing up, what did you envision doing as a career?**

I thought about being a nurse but the older I got I realized that I would not go that route after all. I get weak at the sight of blood and I don't think I would handle everything else that involves nursing very well. God Bless Nurses!

**What led you to work at the Chamber?** I was actually working for an employment agency when I was sent for a temp job at the chamber. It became a permanent position, and of course I took the offer.

**When did you start work at the Chamber?** I started working at the chamber office November of 2000 and was offered a permanent part-time position January 2001; then October of that same year I started working full-time.

**What do you remember most about your first day of work at the Chamber?** I remember being really nervous and trying to write everything I was learning down on a note pad. I still have a few of my notes from back then and it cracks me up when I read them now!

**Who are some special people you have worked with at the Chamber and why?** I think everyone at the chamber is special! I have enjoyed working with and getting to know all of our staff through out the years. Although there is one person who I have to brag on since she did train me well (Lupe). She made sure I knew everything I needed to know and till this day she keeps me organized!



Mary Garcia  
Director of First Impressions  
[mary@amarillo-chamber.org](mailto:mary@amarillo-chamber.org)

**What accomplishment are you most proud of?** I am proud of being the best daughter, sister, Aunt, wife and momma that I know how to be. I have learned when life throws lemons at you just make some lemonade and drink up!

**What is your favorite aspect of the job you have?** The most interesting thing is the weird and funny phone calls that I get. I love that I can be myself on the phone and not have everything I say scripted out for me.

**Do you have a nickname? Who first started calling you that and why has it stuck for so long?** I really don't have any nicknames besides "Sweet Mary" or "Maria Mala".

**If you could give some key piece of advice to your coworkers who are just starting out at the Chamber, what would it be?**

My advice to them is to be a team player, respect your co-workers and love what you do for the chamber.

**Who has had the most influence over you in life?** That person would have to be my momma, she is my hero!

**If we asked those people who know you best, what kind of person would they say you are?** Gosh that would depend on who you ask, just kidding. I think they would say that I'm kind, funny and an easy person to get along with.

**What do you enjoy most outside of working at the Chamber?**

I like to spend time with my family and friends.

**What do most people not know about you?**

I'm not always as sweet as they think I am!

**What awards and recognitions have you been given for your service to the community or organizations or projects?**

UMM, I can't think of any, but I'm optimistic.

PS. Don't expect to see Mary at her desk at the Chamber for the next couple of months. Mary, Tony & daughter Sarina welcomed a new baby girl into their family on April 28th. Mariah Nevaeh weighed in at 7lb 12 oz. and 21 inches long. Best wishes to "Our Sweet Mary" and the family.



## DUSTERS FOOTBALL

THIS ISN'T YOUR DADDY'S FOOTBALL!

### HOME SCHEDULE

SAT, MAY 2  
SAT, MAY 16  
SAT, JUNE 6  
SAT, JUNE 13  
SAT, JUNE 27  
SAT, JULY 18

TULSA  
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GAMES START AT 7:05 PM CENTRAL TIME

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## KID'S NIGHT OUT!

CORPUS CHRISTI SHARKS AT AMARILLO DUSTERS  
SATURDAY, MAY 16 - AMARILLO CIVIC CENTER - 7:00 PM

COME OUT SATURDAY, MAY 16 AS THE AMARILLO DUSTERS TAKE ON THE CORPUS CHRISTI SHARKS. THE FIRST 500 FANS RECEIVE A FREE DUSTERS RALLY TOWEL COURTESY THE COUNTRY BARN!

ALSO, KID'S TICKETS FOR THE GAME ARE 50% OFF!



# Par-Tee

With the Chamber at our 10th Annual Event

July 23, 2009 at Ross Rogers Golf Complex

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<b>BEVERAGE CART</b>	
<b>BIRDIE</b> 	<b>HOLE IN ONE</b> 

There are still opportunities for you to participate in our tournament this year. We are sold out for player spots, but ask about our waiting list.

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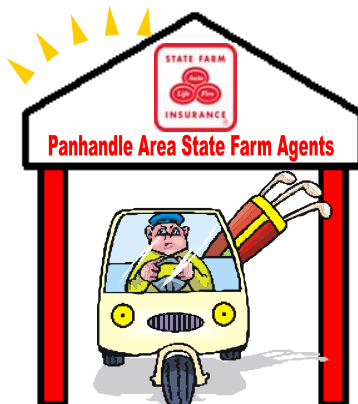
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[Click here for more golf information.](#)

Questions? For more information contact  
Becky Zenor or Lupe Fasano by phone or  
email at:

[becky@amarillo-chamber.org](mailto:becky@amarillo-chamber.org)  
or [lupe@amarillo-chamber.org](mailto:lupe@amarillo-chamber.org)

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team photo from Best Buy.



## Chamber Volunteer of the Quarter Ag Council Salutes Leon Church

By: John Teague, VP Ag Council

The Chamber is proud to have board members committed to making a difference in our community through Chamber involvement. Leon Church serves the Chamber with great enthusiasm, while going above and beyond his role on the Executive Board to participate and volunteer in our activities to this extent.

Leon has been involved with the Ag Council of the Chamber for many years, and has served as its Chair for the last two. He also helped to secure the speaker for our annual Ag Appreciation Luncheon. By doing all of this, Leon has helped keep the awareness of Agriculture in the Panhandle in front of everyone he comes in contact with on a daily basis. Leon participated in Panhandle Days in Austin serving on a team relating Ag issues to the Legislators in both the House and Senate.

Leon's dedication to the Chamber is also obvious if you have attended some of our major events last year. He might have served you a beverage at the Summer Fiesta or the Chamber Open Golf Tournament, or perhaps he delivered meat to your cooking team as he drove a gator at the Chamber BBQ. No matter the task, Leon has always risen to the occasion whenever his Chamber asked.

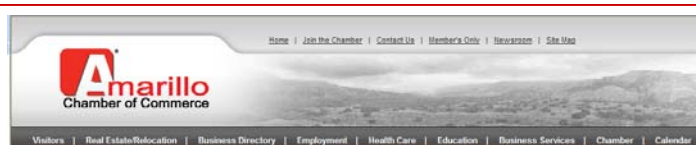
Retired from 36 years in the Cooperative Extension System in three different states, Leon most recently was the Ag and Natural Resources Agent for Potter County. Church earned his BS and MS of Science Degrees in Agriculture from the University of Idaho. He only moved to Amarillo in 2001, but quickly adapted to the community and became one of its own.



**Leon Church**  
Ag Council Chairman

Born in Oregon, this third child in a family of 10 kids quotes, "we all learned early to either speak up or get lost in the crowd!"

Leon says he is most proud of his family. He and his wife, Sue, have three children: Jake, Pat and Trisha.



Check out our NEW Chamber and Community Calendars online. You can submit events to the Community Calendar. This is a great way to show locals and visitors to the city the many things to see and do in our community. *Please keep in mind the Chamber reserves the right to include or exclude events as we deem appropriate.*

[www.Amarillo-Chamber.org](http://www.Amarillo-Chamber.org)

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## Editor's Corner

By: Penni Bentley, Membership Communications Manager

I have used this little corner of the newsletter for a lot of things. Sometimes I talk about Chamber events, the importance of our sponsors and volunteers, the economy, and occasionally I just throw my random thoughts on life out there. When I sit down to write this portion I don't typically have a thought in my head as to the point of this section. I just type until something comes out. Much like now.

I think what comes to mind is how much of a family we all are here at the Chamber. The birth of "our sweet Mary's" baby reminds me of how we all celebrate life's accomplishments together. We share that joy... much like we share the pain of someone in our family's loss.

In May, we will have "parties in the parlor" to wish Gary and Becky happy birthdays. (Gary will be the big six-O on May 23rd if you want to mark your calendars.) Without fail, we will gather, eat, laugh and celebrate. I would guess there are not too many companies that still feel the need to have these informal gatherings in the workplace. That's part of what makes working at the Chamber special. And in these uncertain times, the best thing you can do is find reason to celebrate and laugh. I think this is a testament to why so many of us have worked here so long. If you add up all the years of service, our small staff of 25 would represent 212 years. The average tenure is 8.48 years...wow. But Becky Zenor is the veteran and started here in 1985! (She was only ten, by the way.)

When you spend more time at work with coworkers than you do your own family, you develop a bond. And like a family, there are mood swings, personality clashes, stress and anger. But, for the most part, those are the people that you want beside you when it's crunch time. You each have your strengths and talents and compliment each other. I think at the Chamber we do that pretty well. And if you ever need a good laugh, come hang out with us for a while. There may be ghosts in our building, but I think they stay because it's a fun place to be.

So as always, tell us how we are doing. Give us your suggestions, feedback, and input. Get involved. We are YOUR Chamber.

[Email Me](#)