



Amarillo Chamber eNews

1000 SOUTH POLK - AMARILLO, TEXAS

FEB 2010

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806.373.7800
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Annual Banquet Wraps Up 2008-09 Year Motivates for the Future

By: Penni Bentley, Chamber Director of Communications

The Amarillo Chamber of Commerce recently wrapped up its 2008-09 fiscal year with its Annual Banquet on January 21st. More than 420 Chamber members, sponsors, volunteers, staff and board members were in attendance to celebrate the last year's accomplishments. Highlights included recognizing the Chamber's four Volunteers of the Year: Steve Berner, Rabern Rentals; Leon Church; Denise Blanchard, AISD; and Daphne Adkins, Texas Travel Information Center-Amarillo. These four individuals have shown great support of the Chamber over the years, and have contributed their time and energy to seeing our programs succeed. Each received a plaque in their honor, and Wendi Finney-Swope presented each with a flag flown over the State's capitol on behalf of State Representative John Smithee.

Also recognized for outstanding service at the Annual Banquet was Chamber long-time employee, Becky Zenor. Zenor, who started with the Chamber in 1985, was surprised with a plaque for 25 years of service to the Quality of Life Council and Arts.

The evening wasn't all focused on past accom-

plishments. Keynote speaker, Pat Johns, brought an enlightening program about *how we can change when we do difficult things*. Pat, an elite endurance athlete, has run in more than 60 ultra marathons and marathons around the world. He's the only one in the WORLD to have finished "The Himalayan 100 Mile Stage Race"...not just once, but **four times**. "The Himalayan 100" is a high altitude, **100 mile running race** that takes place every year in the Himalayan Mountains near the border between India and Nepal. With humor and photos, the author and global adventurer entertained and inspired banquet attendees to be willing to change and stretch oneself to achieve great things.

Banquet sponsors included: Atmos Energy, La Fiesta Grande & Happy State Bank.



Left: Leon Church recognized as one of the Volunteers of the Year.



Left: More than 420 banquet attendees



Lower Left: Becky Zenor recognized for 25 years of service to the Chamber.



Below: Keynote Speaker Pat Johns

www.PatJohns.com

View more Annual Banquet Photos at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/amarillochamber/sets/72157623267769063/>

Mark Your Calendar

May 4	BusinessConnection
May 13	Ready for the Real World
May 18	Top Two Percent Awards
May 22	Golden Nail Awards
Jun 24	Summer Fiesta
July 29	Chamber Open Golf Tournament
Sep 9	Good Times Celebration Barbecue Cook-Off

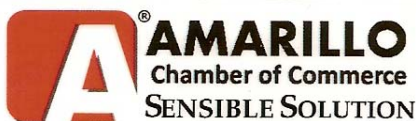


Sensible Solution...an Alternative Coverage to Workers' Comp

For more info: Dianne@amarillo-chamber.org

Policy highlights are available on the chamber website 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.

Diane Wall Insurance Agency	468-9034	
Edmond Deaton & Stephens	356-6000	www.edsinsurance.com
Fuqua-Bryson Benefits Group	350-6660	www.myfbbenefits.com
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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.

2009-10 Board of Directors Executive Committee

Chair	Laura Street
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Visit our website at:
Amarillo-Chamber.org

Penni Bentley, Editor
News@Amarillo-Chamber.org

Welcome New Members

Thanks for Joining in January

Amarillo Women's Network

Rhonda Dittfurth

Elane Seidlitz

P O Box 1661

Amarillo, TX 79105

www.amarillowomensnetwork.org

AWN is a premier source of information, resources, contacts and opportunities for women business owners and professionals to assist in their success in the business world.

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Fax: (806) 345-7254

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BusinessConnection is Open for Business

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Make plans to visit old business acquaintances and develop new relationships at the Chamber's business to business annual tradeshow, BusinessConnection, on Tuesday, May 4, 2010 at the Amarillo Civic Center from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY: The tradeshow's theme this year is Open for Business. Therefore, over 350 exhibitors will be open for business, showcasing and selling their products and services to thousands of potential customers on May 4th. Several exhibitors will be distributing at the tradeshow connect deal coupons. Thousands of tradeshow attendees will be encouraged to support our local business community by taking advantage of these special deals.

TRADESHOW TICKETS: As a Chamber member, you can pick up your complimentary tickets to the tradeshow from April 1st through May 3rd at our office located at 1000 S. Polk between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The complimentary tickets will only be available to Chamber members, so take this opportunity to thank your customers by distributing these tickets at your place of business. The general public can purchase tickets the day of the event for \$5.

RESERVE BOOTH OR SPONSOR EVENT: If you would like to open your business to thousands of potential customers at BusinessConnection, click on <http://bit.ly/beLOk5> and go to the "Register Now" link or contact Kim Woolsey at 342-2009, for more information on how to reserve a booth space. If you would like to support your business community by sponsoring this successful event contact Jason Harrison at 373-7800.

**RESERVE BOOTHS NOW FOR
Tuesday, May 4, 2010**


BusinessConnection 2010
hosted by Amarillo Chamber of Commerce



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photos/amarillochamber

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You Tube

AmarilloChamber

Don't forget...Golden Nail
Award nominations
are due by
March 1st.



Contact Becky at 342-2010 for details.
becky@amarillo-chamber.org

**Convention & Visitor Council
2009-10 Year-To-Date Statistics**

Tourism

Occupancy Rate	51.41
Room Nights	308,410
Overnight Visitors	524,297
Visitor Center Guests	1,917
Group Tours	119
Inquiries for Amarillo Information	4,847
Overnight Travel Impact (\$)	\$89,130,490

Film Office

Information requests	1
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Conventions

# of Conventions/Groups in Amarillo	14
Delegates	9,175
Room Nights	4,965
Delegate Spending (\$)	\$5,872,000
Delegates Booked-Future Conventions	7,415
Delegate Room Nights Booked	5,540

CVC Website

Ave Monthly Visits	26,054
Ave Monthly Page Views	167,265
Page Views / Visit	6.42

WELCOME THESE CONVENTION GROUPS

February 2010

18-20	Health Occupations Students of America Area 4 Competition	530
22-27	Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Annual Festival	700
24-26	Building Officials Associations of Texas Mid Year Meeting	150

March 2010

21-26	Texas Department of Assistive & Rehabilitative Services Division for the Blind Training	40
22-23	Baptist General Convention of Texas Senior Adult Choir Festival	350
23-27	Amarillo Hardware Show Annual Show	500
25-27	Southwestern American Music Therapy Association Regional Conference	100



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Suzanne Putman
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(806) 674-8503
Fax: (806) 353-4703

www.suzyputman.com

I am a Realtor for Century 21, I started selling Real Estate in Dumas in 1988. My motto is "Y Rent when you can own".

Chris Walker Concrete

Chris Walker
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Amarillo, TX 79109
(806) 433-8278

Downtown Amarillo, Inc.

Melissa Dailey
801 S Fillmore, Suite 205
Amarillo, TX 79102
(806) 640-4406
Fax: (806) 372-3502
www.downtownamarillo.com
Downtown Amarillo, Inc. is committed to making Downtown Amarillo, a place rich in history and culture, a vibrant and attractive place for people to live, work, play and worship.

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Dave Clark
Rachel Davidson
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Fax: (806) 337-4551
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Fax: (806) 337-4551
www.highplainsclinic.com
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KGNC/TPAB Museum

Brice Edwards
Shirley Brinkley
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Amarillo, TX 79109
(806) 355-9801
Fax: (806) 354-8779
A museum that consists of an old radio control room, old radio & TV broadcast equipment & photo personalities which all have captions.

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February 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 ★Arts	3 ★Sports Selection	4	5 UHC Insurance Certification Training	6
7	8 ★WC Steering	9	10 ★Conv. & Tourism ★Communications Govt Affairs Council Ag Council	11	12	13
14 Panhandle Sports Hall of Fame	15 Women's Council Luncheon	16	17 Executive Board Full Board ★Golden Nail	18 Sports Luncheon Round-Up Club Luncheon	19	20
21	22	23 CVC Council Business Council	24 DC DAYS 	25 Quality of Life Council ★Real World	26 DC DAYS 	27
28	<p>Events in RED are closed meetings and for committee or council members only. Events in Black are open to Chamber members and/or the public. Some events may have a fee or be open for sponsorship and benefits. Contact the Chamber for any information on events, meetings, committees, sponsorships, volunteering and more. ★=Committee Mtg 806-373-7800 www.amarillo-chamber.org</p>					

Welcome New Members

Moss Body Shop, Inc.

Don Moss
Melissa Beene
3000 W 26th Ave.
Amarillo, TX 79109
(806) 355-9208
Fax: (806) 355-1393
Body Shop—Automotive collision repair and paint.

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Tara Reep
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Amarillo, TX 79124
(806) 371-1301
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(806) 373-1452
www.walgreens.com

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David McCarley
4504 S Western
Amarillo, TX 79109
(806) 353-1371
www.walgreens.com

Interested in advertising in this electronic publication? Get a 1/4 page ad for \$50 or a 1/2 page ad for \$100. For more information, contact Penni Bentley at 342-2005 or email penni@amarillo-chamber.org.

Ads are hyperlinked to your website or email. Click an ad and try it out. Thanks to all of our advertisers in this issue.

Member Advertising Opportunity

Did you know the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce has launched a Chamber Member advertising opportunity?

This opportunity is creating extremely high levels of exposure and return for participating members. In this economy, The Chamber has made a commitment to our Membership to provide cost-effective, affordable and on-target advertising venues. This advertising program is another way in which we are fulfilling that promise.

Visit www.amarillo-chamber.org and notice the large marketing messages at the top of our page. The rotating advertisements are only a portion of a larger package of branding messages that appear throughout the website. All major industry pages and category pages offer a multitude of advertising packages which are tracked with detailed statistics. The advertisements provide targeted opportunities for you to not only get your name and message to customers, but take them from our website to yours.

Due to the limited number of positions available advertising positions are sold on a first-come first-served basis. Call **Penni Bentley at 342-2005** to schedule a guided tour of the Chamber's Website marketing program or email penni@amarillo-chamber.org for more information.



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VOICE OF AMARILLO

By: Jason Harrison, Director of Business Development and Governmental Affairs

The Amarillo Chamber of Commerce will be the “Voice of Amarillo” to government officials in Washington, D.C. on February 25-26, 2010. The Chamber is partnering with local business leaders to secure a more productive business environment for the City of Amarillo.

Government officials’ action or inaction on key issues can affect the economic strength in our business community. Therefore, the Chamber and local business leaders will be the voice of Amarillo on issues such as agriculture, defense, energy, and healthcare to government officials in Washington, D.C., so they may make informed decisions that could ultimately have a positive impact on Amarillo.



The Chamber represents the interest of local businesses to government officials on the local, state and federal levels. If you have any questions about the Chamber's legislative agenda, contact Jason Harrison, Director of Business Development and Governmental Affairs, at 373-7800 or Jason@amarillo-chamber.org

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Ribbon Cutting & Ground Breaking Ceremonies in January

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Liberty Tax Service
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Opening a new location?

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Remodeling or expanding?

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Ribbon Cutting or Ground Breaking event! 342-2006

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**Thanks for renewing your membership in January
and for your continued support of the Chamber.**

Editor's Corner

By: Penni Bentley, Chamber Director of Communications
penni@amarillo-chamber.org

Amarillo has been blessed in recent years to not have really harsh winters or boatloads of snow. I think the general consensus is that we're getting our fair share this year. The comments around the water cooler or the facebook and twitter feeds of friends seem to all be screaming, "Enough is enough!" I agree, the cold weather tends to make me a little more cranky. The piles of dirty snow look awful, and getting stuck in my driveway is really frustrating. And about the time it starts to melt a little giving you a false sense of security that spring is coming...here comes another wave of the cold wet stuff. So how do you stay cheery when outside is gray and glum?

There are a few things I like to remind myself of when I'm wanting to gripe about the cold. I have a warm coat and gloves and home and transportation, and so many in the world do not.

Snow is good for the farmers. It soaks into the ground better, and has some extra nutrients for the soil that regular rainwater does not. (I learned that from a farmer this past weekend.)

A lot of snow for us (8 inches or more) is still nothing compared to the people in the northeast getting hammered with 20-40 inches.

The old saying of *if you don't like the weather in the panhandle, stick around 'cause it will change* is still true. Traffic and schools and work may be halted for a day or two in this weather, but for the most part, the sun will come out tomorrow.

As adults, we tend to not like the snow for a variety of reasons. But remember how you were as a kid. You woke up early to see how much snow there was, and checked the news ticker praying you didn't have to go to school that day. Frozen noses and wet clothes were just a right of passage. Snow angles and lopsided snowmen are what great childhood memories are made of.

If all else fails, cold gray days are good for curling up in front of the fire with a good book and cup of hot chocolate.

I guess my point is...look for the positive in things. Before you know it, spring and summer will have come and gone and we'll be wondering where the year went. So take time and enjoy today.

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



Sunday, Feb. 14, 2010
2 pm
Ordway Auditorium
Amarillo College

Co-Sponsored by:
YMCA

Amarillo Chamber of Commerce Sports Committee

More Information: Becky Zenor, 342-2010
becky@amarillo-chamber.org

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