



CHAMBER NEWS

FEBRUARY 2021

BUSINESS ANNIVERSARIES

The Hooker Advance
Established January 1, 1904

Congratulations to this hometown business and member. We appreciate your membership and your contribution to our community.

100 Years

How do you acknowledge a century of community service? Our chamber will turn 100 in June. That's a big deal. It represents 100 years of people volunteering to help promote Hooker. From its beginning, this small town has been home to businesses and individuals with a passion for building our community and keeping it strong. If you look around our community, you can see the effects of all those years of community support. Members of the chamber of commerce have helped our town through community events and projects, business support, and generally promoting Hooker. The community spirit that began 100 years ago is still alive today. We think that's something to be recognized and celebrated, and we are making plans to do just that.

This June we will honor the businesses and community members who have been a part of the chamber through the years. We are asking for your help. If you have stories, memorabilia, or photos of past chamber events and members we would love to have copies of them. They will be used throughout our anniversary month in social media, print, radio, and website posts. We are also planning special promotions, and a celebration and banquet downtown on Saturday, June 27th. All chamber members are encouraged to get involved. Let's take a minute to celebrate everyone whose membership has helped, and still does help, make Hooker the great town we know and love.

Mary Beth Puyear



Vintage Chamber Welcome Sign

Arleen James Speaks to Chamber

Arleen James of the OSU Extension Office in Guymon was the guest speaker at our February Chamber meeting. Arleen presented information on ways communities can grow their downtown areas and suggested forming a sector partnership in Hooker to work toward growing our downtown and making needed building improvements. She also said the extension office has resources available to help new and struggling businesses. Anyone who would like more information can contact Arleen at arleen.james@okstate.edu or 580-338-7300.



First Signs of Spring!

2021 Chamber Membership Drive

A big thank you to each of you who has renewed your chamber membership for 2021. We also welcome two new members, Smitty's Bar and Grill and Joe and Teresa Simpson. Our membership drive continues through March 31st. If you haven't renewed yet, be sure to get your dues to us soon. If you know of a business or person who may want to join, invite them to visit our website at www.hookerokcofc.net or call a chamber officer for information. Let's grow our chamber and keep doing great things in our community.



February Ribbon Cuttings

❖ None Scheduled



Chamber Easter Egg Hunt

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt is back on the schedule this year! The event is planned for Saturday, March 27th at the Hooker City Park. There will also be a prize drawing with entry forms at chamber businesses. If you would like to participate or have an idea for the event be sure to contact us.

March Membership Meeting

Mark your calendars to attend our March Membership Meeting on Thursday, March 4th, at noon. We will be making our plans for the Easter Egg Hunt and also the June 100th anniversary celebration during this meeting. Come and share your ideas. See you there!

2021 Chamber Officers:

Mary Beth Puyear, President
Brenda Romero, Vice President
Craig Adams, Treasurer
Sheila Blankenship, Secretary

Hooker Chamber of Commerce

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2021 Chamber Events

Events are subject to change and updates will be made as needed.

March 27	Easter Egg Hunt
June 26	Chamber 100 th Anniversary Celebration
July 4	4 th of July Celebration
September 18	Chamber Golf Tournament
October 30	Halloween Parade
December 4	Christmas Parade
December 9	Christmas Cookie Crawl

CHAMBER COMMERCE CASH IS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR FOR GIFTS, PRIZES AND AWARDS. GIVE A GIFT THAT PROMOTES SHOPPING LOCALLY! SEE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF HOOKER TO PURCHASE. NO PURCHASE FEES. ALL CHAMBER MEMBERS CAN ACCEPT COMMERCE CASH.

Member Business Promotion

Gold and Silver Chamber members are eligible for 2 promotions per year on our website and member communications. To request a promotion, contact

Mary Beth Puyear at (580) 522-1655 or email mail@hookerokcofc.net

Hooker Chamber of Commerce
Thursday, February 4, 2021

The Hooker Chamber of Commerce membership luncheon was held on Thursday, Feb. 4 at 12 noon at the Hooker Community Center to better allow for social distancing. Lunch was available from Pizza on Broadway for \$5. Present were Mary Beth Puyear, Buddy Holbert, Brenda Romero, Arleen James, Linda Brown, Susie Zuniga, Laneta Adams, Craig Adams, Leslie Kraich and Doug Werner.

Minutes had been emailed to all members. Craig made the motion to approve them as written, Brenda seconded, and the motion passed.

Craig presented the treasurer's report showing a balance of \$9,199.99. Susie made a motion to approve the report, Buddy seconded, and the motion passed. Mary Beth noted the budget is not yet complete and will be presented at the March chamber meeting.

Mary Beth expressed thanks to TCEC for mailing the 2021 letters in January. She also sent 42 letters to prospective new members. The membership drive will continue through March 31st.

Mary Beth stated that only two HHS seniors submitted their scholarship essays. A committee will review the essays and choose the scholarship winner.

Members were reminded that the Hooker Historical Society will host a benefit dinner for the Hooker Senior Citizens on February 14th. Also, the First National Bank of Hooker will host a community blood drive on February 11th.

With no further chamber business, the floor was given to Arleen James from the OSU Extension Officer in Guymon. Arleen quizzed members on the attitudes about Hooker and discussed efforts other communities have made to revitalize their downtown areas. She explained that the OSU Extension has services available to help new and struggling businesses, such as window dressing assistance, business plans, budgets, etc. Arleen then suggested that a sector partnership could be formed in Hooker to raise funds and work with owners of empty buildings. Other ideas such as pop-up businesses, tiny markets, and junkfests could also be used to help bring business downtown. Mary Beth said the chamber would support a sector partnership if one is formed, adding that additional community members would need to be actively involved for it to be successful. Buddy stated that some of the ideas Arleen presented are already being addressed by the Hooker Economic Development Board, and it would be a good idea to consult with that board to prevent duplication. Arleen concluded by saying she would like to continue to pursue the sector partnership and will take the suggestions made by chamber members into consideration as she continues to look into the idea.

With no further business, Buddy made the motion to adjourn, Craig seconded and the motion passed.

Mary Beth Puyear
Acting for Secretary Blankenship