



CHAMBER NEWS

MARCH 2021

BUSINESS ANNIVERSARIES

David K. Petty PLLC
Established March 31, 1964

Southern Office Supply
Established March 1, 1985

Roberts Brothers Funeral Home
Established March 1, 2003

MoTown's Music and Sound
Established March 1, 2019

Congratulations to these hometown businesses and members. We appreciate your membership and your contribution to our community.

Upcoming Events

Chamber Easter Egg Hunt

This year we are expanding our easter egg hunt to include a drawing for a Chamber Easter Basket. People will be able to enter the drawing at chamber businesses March 22-26. The drawing will be held at the easter egg hunt on March 27th. **There is still time to contribute items to the basket. If you have an item to add in, bring it to Mary Beth or Brenda at the bank or call me and we will pick it up.**

The Chamber Easter Egg Hunt will be held Saturday, March 27th at the Hooker City Park at 1 pm. Prizes and games are also planned. We do need volunteers, so let us know if you can help.



100th Anniversary Celebration

Plans are coming together for the chamber's 100th anniversary celebration in June. Radio and print ads with chamber business promotions are planned throughout the month, ending with a downtown celebration and banquet on Saturday, June 26th. The day will begin with the Hooker Junk Fest (flea market) and rides for kids. The evening will include the chamber banquet on main street, with entertainment by Ashley Jimenez and Katelynn Thomas, chamber member awards, and a meal catered by Smitty's Bar & Grill. A concert by Casi Joy (contestant on The Voice) will cap the day.

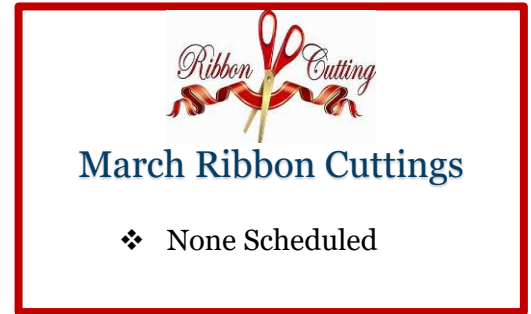
This month-long celebration will be an opportunity for us to promote our member businesses. If you would like your business to be considered for a promotion or advertising spotlight during June, contact Mary Beth. Final plans for these promotions will be made in May, so don't delay. We have received support from the Hooker Economic Development Board and the Hooker Parks & Rec Department for the events, and we encourage our chamber members to get involved as well. Sponsors and volunteers are needed. If you are able to help, call Mary Beth and I will be happy to put you on the list.



Casi Joy

TCEC Reps Speak to Chamber

Juliann Graham and Maribel Esquivel from TCEC were welcomed as guest speakers at our March Membership Meeting. They presented information about TCEC's new Operation Round Up program that will award grants to local organizations from funds collected by rounding up electric bills each month. Organizations may apply for up to \$5,000 per calendar year, with applications available on TCEC's website, www.tcec.coop/oru. Applications will be reviewed quarterly. March 31st is the deadline to submit apps for this quarter.



2021 Chamber Membership Drive

Thank you to each of you who has renewed your chamber membership for 2021. We also welcome two new members, Pizza on Broadway and David K. Petty, PLLC. 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.

April Membership Meeting

Mark your calendars to attend our April Membership Meeting on Thursday, April 1st, at noon. We will be discussing plans for the June 100th anniversary and 4th of July events 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

PO Box 989
Hooker OK 73945
580-522-1655
mail@hookerokcofc.net
www.hookerokcofc.net

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, March 4, 2021

The Hooker Chamber of Commerce membership luncheon was held on Thursday, March 4 at 12 noon at the Hooker Community Center. Present. Lunch was available from Pizza On Broadway. Present were Laneta Adams, Craig Adams, Mary Beth Puyear, Brenda Romero, Rowdy McBee, Velma Smothermon, Buddy Holbert, Linda Brown, Susie Zuniga, Juliann Graham, Maribel Esquivel and Sheila Blankenship.

Mary Beth called the meeting to order and those present were offered a \$5 lunch from Pizza On Broadway. The minutes had been emailed to all members. Brenda made the motion to approve the minutes, Velma seconded and the motion passed.

Craig presented the treasurer report noting a balance of \$15,497.90 with some \$5,000 in membership dues. Mary Beth added that 27 past members have not renewed for 2021 so letters will be sent. Susie made the motion to approve the report, Brenda seconded and the motion seconded.

Mary Beth presented an overview of the 2021 budget. She added that there were several past funds that will not be available this year including the TSET membership so she budgeted less with emphasis on the centennial celebration in June. The Hooker Economic Development Committee has donated \$3,000 toward the centennial celebration. Craig made the motion to approve the budget, Velma seconded and the motion passed.

Mary Beth had asked HALO members to take charge of the March 27 Easter egg hunt but that is the HHS prom so we need volunteers to help. Last year Walmart donated plastic eggs and she has people to fill the eggs with candy but we need people at the city park for the hunt. It was agreed to follow the 2019 event with three age categories for hunting eggs and games: up to kindergarten, first through third grade and fourth through sixth grade. The hunt, featuring three “prize” eggs in each category will begin at 1 p.m. and then it is hoped games or activities will be offered. If possible, the Easter Bunny will be invited to attend.

She also suggested an Easter basket giveaway to involve local businesses. It was decided to ask members who wish to contribute to the prize basket to deliver items to Brenda at the bank and the drawing will be held at the egg hunt. Businesses will receive boxes for their drawing tickets on Monday, March 22 and the tickets will be picked up Friday, March 26. Juliann Graham noted that TCEC will also publicize the event in their employee newsletter.

Mary Beth welcomed the newest members of the Chamber and asked for suggestions for the centennial celebration in June. Promotions include ads on the radio. Cost will be basically be covered by the Economic Development donation will cover. Promotions will also include newspaper ads and possibly some social media ads. Maybe we can offer extended radio ads if businesses want to pay for the long spots. We could offer weekly prize drawings leading up to the June 26 banquet downtown. The meal will be by pre-sold tickets only and will include a featured performer meet and greet. but entertainment afterward that night will be free to all and include local vocalists plus a full free concert sponsored by the Hooker Economic Development Committee. It was suggested to ask Aaron Witt to do another business video so we will have the one from February 2020 and a new one to cover most merchants and show downtown. It is possible we can offer a junkfest earlier in the day downtown and also have the Lions’ Club kiddie rides and the Ekkel train. Various promotional items were discussed including t-shirts with a new centennial logo.

Juliann Graham and Maribel Esquivel of TCEC offered information about the new Operation Round-Up program which collects change from member customer bills and donates the funds to various non-profit organizations. Juliann explained the process for groups to request a Round-Up grant. She discussed the independent TCEC Foundation which handles the funds. The program expresses the Cooperative goal, Concern for Community. They expect to earn some \$8,000 a month so funds add up quickly and the next meeting is April 14 to consider applications. Groups may receive up to \$5,000 in Round-Up grants. 100% of funds will remain in the TCEC service territory to community based organizations that serve their towns. The program is based on similar programs of cooperatives for 30 years. The Foundation board meets quarterly but can also meet on an emergency basis to address grants. Juliann reviewed the simple application available on-line.

Buddy made the motion to adjourn, Brenda seconded and the motion passed.

Sheila Blankenship
Secretary