



7/23/2014

Members of the Marshall Chamber of Commerce:

First, thank you for your membership and continuing support of the Chamber of Commerce. You have likely read or heard that we recently had to eliminate our paid staff due to a shortfall in funds available. This was a very difficult decision and one that was made by the Board of Directors with a heavy heart, knowing that we would be losing three fine employees who have been at the center of the Chamber for many years. However, we must move forward now, and as the board makes plans for the ongoing operation of the organization, I think it is extremely important that we keep you informed about those plans and ask you for your continued support and patience. We are off to a good start in keeping the Chamber functioning, and have laid the groundwork for development of a plan to carry the organization forward with vigor and strength.

Here are some of the key activities that are currently underway:

- A strategic planning committee made up of six current board members has been formed to address immediate operational issues and to formulate both short-term and intermediate-term plans to ensure the Chamber's ongoing success. As chairman of the board, I will be leading this committee. The committee has already had two productive meetings.
- Areas of immediate responsibility for the strategic planning committee include: finance, special events, volunteers, membership, ambassadors and communications.
 - Finance – reviewing existing financial statements and reports; in process of opening new operating and special projects accounts; reviewing several short-term fundraising projects
 - Special Events – steps are well underway to plan and execute both the Law Enforcement and Firefighters Recognition Banquet and Fire Ant Festival, with committee leadership and members already in place and meeting to ensure meaningful and successful events.
 - Volunteers – staffing of the Chamber office on a daily basis from 10 AM to 4 PM is progressing well, and we expect the office to be fully staffed Monday thru Friday very soon.
 - Membership – formation of a full committee to review all aspects of membership - from communications to services and dues - is underway.
 - Ambassadors – steps are being taken to continue to fully support the ongoing vital service these volunteers provide.
 - Communications – plans are being formulated for continued publication of the "Focus" newsletter and ongoing updates on progress and activities via emails, letters, broadcasts and social media.

As I hope you can see, much work has already been accomplished, but much more is ahead! Please know that your board of directors is fully committed to moving the Chamber forward to become THE representative organization for Marshall's business community. Again, we thank you for your ongoing support as we work through this time of planning and restructuring to better meet your needs in the future. Should you have any questions or concerns during this transition, please feel free email me.

Kris McGee
Chairman of the Board