

# OKOLONA HIGHLIGHTS

VOLUME 3, NO. 3

OKOLONA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE/MAIN STREET

SUMMER 2012

## A WORD FROM PRESIDENT THELMA DAVIS ...



The 2012 directors of the Chamber of Commerce take their responsibility seriously. These persons are outstanding leaders and are involved in virtually every facet of the Okolona community. It is a joy and privilege to be a part of this fine group of individuals. You will see a list of directors on page three of this newsletter. Note the diversity of these professionals. We work as a team ... That's important. Our responsibility includes promotion, design, and economic development of our community. We have made excellent progress thus far this year.

We strive as directors to provide programs, services and activities which are of value to the Okolona community; we strive to provide a positive community image for business and promote a business-friendly environment in Okolona and East Chickasaw County; we encourage a cooperative and favorable local government climate that promotes an understanding of the need of the business community; and, we strive to communicate with business owners and the community with newsletters, newspaper articles, email, and personally.

You have heard it before ... In the life of every community there comes a special time ... when it responds to the needs of the day ... when it answers the call to serve others ... and when it holds itself to high standards of performance. As a team, the directors of the chamber are approaching the good people of the community with boldness and optimism...

To build community and extend the hand of love and fellowship;

To cherish the good memories, let go of the past, and embrace the future; and

To spread hope throughout our community and region.

Thank you for your encouragement and financial support. We continue to seek opportunities both locally and regionally. The directors are looking at every possibility and are involving business persons in the area and beyond in our meetings and discussion. We are optimistic about our future growth and invite your suggestions and recommendations.



**OKOLONA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE/MAIN STREET**

219 West Main Street

Post Office Box 446

Okolona, Mississippi 38860

## ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET ... EXCELLENT!

The Okolona Area Chamber of Commerce/Main Street held its 78th Annual Awards Banquet on March 29, 2012, at the Okolona National Guard Armory. This year's program centered around the idea that Okolona is known as the "City of Athletes". Okolona is blessed with nine professional athletes and one Olympian. Tim Bowens (first round draft pick by the Miami Dolphins); Kareem Moore (Washington Redskins); Jack Gregory, Jr. (Cleveland Browns and New York Giants); and Tommie Bowens (St. Louis Hawks and Denver Rockets) were recognized for their achievements as superior athletes. Dr. Patricia Sistrunk (golf) and Cynthia Autry (professional basketball player in Europe and New Zealand prior to the WNBA in the U.S.) were acknowledged for their success. Also recognized were those who had played for high schools, colleges and universities throughout the country. These athletes have become successful persons in their chosen professions, but did not choose to continue to seek a career in the field of athletics.

Dennis Grubbs, previous Okolona High School coach, was the speaker for the event. Grubbs held the audience to attention as he presented areas and advantages that he felt were learned by those who participate in athletics. He expanded on areas including making a living, obtaining an education, learning discipline, learning to sacrifice to succeed, long and short-term goal setting, teamwork, overcoming adversity and building relationships. His presentation was outstanding.

Awards were given in the following categories:

Educator of the year: Dewayne Singleton

Golden Heart: Gib Wise

Golden Heart Organization: Okolona First Baptist Church

Business of the Year: Okolona Messenger (Murry Blankenship)

Main Street Business of the year: Dr. William Simpson

Industry of the Year: Snergy Furniture Industries

Spirit of Philanthropy: United Furniture Industries

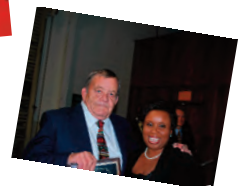
Citizen of the Year: Jerry Morgan

Past President of the Chamber Award: Scott Bigham

Special Award: Excel

Humanitarian Award: Bobby Hester

Human Welfare Award: National Council of Negro Women (Okolona Section)



Okolona Area Chamber of Commerce/Main Street  
Board of Directors For 2012

President: Thelma Davis (Business Owner) Design Committee  
 First Vice President: Susie Morgan (Business Owner) Chair of Design Committee  
 Second Vice President: William Bailey (Business Owner) Design Committee  
 Treasurer: Debra Shelton (Banker) Promotions Committee  
 Murry Blankenship (Newspaper Owner and Editor) Design Committee  
 Jimmy Bryan: (Minister) Promotions Committee  
 Debbie Corley: (Businesswoman) Promotions Committee  
 Harolyn Flynt: (Business Owner) Design Committee  
 Annie Gates (Educator) Promotions Committee  
 Mary Gates: (Educator) Promotions Committee  
 Martha Gordon (Business Owner and Educator) Design Committee  
 John Hedges (Past President of Corporation) Economic Development Committee  
 Jay Mann ( Banker) Chair of Economic Development Committee  
 Lorene Moore: (Educator) Promotions Committee  
 Steve Schultz: (Businessman) Chair of Promotions Committee  
 Danny Smith (Business Owner) Economic Development Committee  
 Sumeka Thomas (Attorney) Promotions Committee  
 Dona Wise (Postmistress) Promotions Committee

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide a quality of life for our citizens through promoting Economic Growth, Community Service and  
Community Pride.

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2012 PARTNERS AND SPONSORS**

GRAND PARTNER: (\$10,000+)  
 Chickasaw County  
 PARTNERS: (\$5,000-\$9,999)  
 City of Okolona, City of Okolona Electric Department  
 DIAMOND SPONSOR: (\$2,000-\$4,999)  
 Bank of Okolona, Okolona Drug Company, United Furniture Industries  
 GOLD SPONSOR: (\$1,000-\$1,999)  
 Renasant Bank  
 SILVER SPONSOR: (\$500-\$999)  
 Perry and Sue Grubbs, Scott's Auto Parts  
 COPPER SPONSOR: (\$300-\$499):  
 James and Nellie Adams, Senator Jack Gordon Memorial,  
 Todd's Okolona Food Center  
 BRASS SPONSOR: (\$200-\$299)  
 John and Ruby Hedges, Okolona Messenger, Law Office of Sumeka Thomas

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2012 MEMBERS

### MEMBERS

#### Businesses (\$150.00)

AJR Catering  
 Atmos Energy  
 Gene Barton Law Firm  
 Jerome Brezinski, Ltd.  
 Brody's Restaurant  
 Cash Title Exchange  
 Chandler Furniture  
 Chickasaw Container Corporation  
 Dalton Christian Associates  
 Comcast  
 Dodge's Stores  
 Eastwood Plantation, LLC  
 Elam Trucking  
 Holland Funeral Directors  
 Itawamba Community College  
 Jake's Restaurant, LLC  
 J. E. Vance & Company, P.A.  
 Jim's Auto Parts  
 Journal, Inc.  
 Kaiva LLC (Subway)  
 Larry Clark Chev-Cad-GMC  
 Madison Ridge LLC  
 North Mississippi Medical Clinics, Inc.  
 Okolona Auto Company, Inc.  
 Okolona Cardboard, Inc.  
 Okolona Family Dentistry  
 Pennington Home Center  
 Rogers Furniture  
 Shearer Richardson Memorial Nursing Home  
 Sonic Drive-In  
 Synergy Furniture Industries  
 T's Mfg. & Sales, Inc.  
 The Honey Bee Indoor Boutique  
 The Rose Hill Company  
 Turner's Flowers and Gifts  
 Waste Management  
 Watkins, Ward and Stafford  
 WCPC Broadcasting

#### Nonprofit {Corporations and Churches} (\$50.00)

Calvary Baptist Church  
 Chickasaw Development Foundation  
 Dollars for Scholars  
 Eastern Star Baptist Church  
 First Baptist Church

First Presbyterian Church  
 First United Methodist Church  
 EXCEL, Inc.  
 Lanier Club  
 Mission Okolona  
 Mt. Pisgah United Methodist Church  
 Okolona School District  
 Okolona Section of the National  
 Council of Negro Women  
 Okolona Christian Church of Okolona  
 Save Okolona Society  
 St. Bernard's Episcopal Church

#### Individual Executive Members

Justin and Emily Sullivan (\$100.00)  
 Gib and Dona Wise

#### Individual Members (\$35.00)

Mr. and Mrs. Earl A. Anderson, Jr.  
 Ms. Imogene Armstrong  
 Mr. and Mrs. William Bailey  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Bryan  
 Honorable and Mrs. Kenneth Burns  
 Eddie and Deborah Corley  
 Ms. Margaret Davis  
 Travis and Thelma Davis  
 Ms. Margaret DeMoville  
 Mrs. Frances Edens  
 Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Fisher  
 Robert Gaines  
 Ms. Annie Gates  
 Ms. Mary Gates  
 Martha Gordon  
 Bill and Jeanine Gregory  
 Honorable John Gregory  
 Melinda Hood  
 Ms. Lena Hykes  
 Watsie and Sarah Jenkins  
 Ms. Ruby Kirk  
 Genevia Larry  
 Carolyn Long  
 Jack and Linda Loudermill  
 Eldridge and Odesser Lowe  
 Linda Malone  
 Jay Mann  
 Mr. and Mrs. James McCain  
 Ms. Vera Mitchell  
 Bennett and Toni Moore

Ms. Lorene Moore  
 Mr. Omar Moore  
 Idanelle J. Paternostro  
 Albert and Linda Rayford  
 Gloria Robbins  
 Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Schultz  
 Ms. Debra Shelton  
 Dr. Patricia D. Sistrunk  
 John and Mary Stone  
 Michael and Nancy Sullivan  
 Scott Sullivan  
 Mr. and Mrs. Doug Sweeney  
 Miss Bettye B.E. Thompson  
 Terry and Lisa Tucker  
 Lisa Voyles  
 Charles and Susie Wardlaw  
 Fred and Linda Watson  
 Ms. Sandra Willis  
 Ms. Brenda Wise

#### Honorary Members (\$35.00)

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Adams  
 Dr. and Mrs. Terry Collier  
 Dr. and Mrs. Demos Gallender  
 Mr. and Mrs. Sterling Grubbs  
 Ms. Ruth Christine Maxwell  
 Dr. and Mrs. James E. Williams

#### Memorial (\$35.00)

