

## **2017 Executive Director's Report**

**Board of Directors** include Jessica Brusven, Matt Benjamin, Wilma Steiner, Marsha McCubbins, Cheri Hirst, Doug Fender, Colleen Lee, Lorelee Aikins, Ashley Kolve, Crissy Bauman, Maria Crump and Nea Rice. Nea came on Board after we lost Sandra Bucher. Each board Member brings something different to the organization and I appreciate each one. I would like to thank outgoing Board Members Matt Benjamin and Marsha McCubbins for their commitment to the Chamber of Commerce. I would also like to thank Jessica and Wilma for signing up for another term.

**Chamber After Hours** has a pretty solid number of attendees each month and is one of the perks of Chamber membership. We have steady number of attendees from the general public which gives the hosting business more community exposure. This last year the following businesses hosted the event: TD & H Engineering with co-host KW Insurance, Ten Pin Alley, Coyote Club, Friends of the Library, HiLine Design of Montana, Shelby Carousel, Marias River Electric/Shelby Gas. Upcoming is Marias Medical Center on Nov.28 and the Comfort Inn on Dec. 12. Please contact the Chamber office if your business would like to host in 2018. We have a lot of open dates.

**Chamber Banquet** was again held at the Civic Center on Wed. Feb. 8. The Coyote Club provided the bar and TLC Catering provided the beef brisket dinner. The Blazing Saddles 4-H group did a great job with serving. Dr. Rock Svennungsen and wife Joanie along with Dr. Pat Moore and his wife Connie were recognized with the President's Award. Clem Pellet was our guest speaker and had the audience in the palm of his hands when he discussed the possibility of filming a movie in Shelby about the capture of Clem's grandfathers' murderer. The auction and gun raffle were very successful and raised \$4646 for the Chamber. I would like to thank Doug Fender and CoreCivic for the large amount of handmade items that were made and donated by the inmates. Thank you also to all the businesses and individuals who donated items to the auction and all the local businesses that were table sponsors for the event.

**Central MT Tourism Board:** Since last November I have attended 5 monthly meetings Great Falls and meetings in Fort Benton and Ulm. Crissy Bauman and I have car pooled the last 2 meetings to Great Falls. This is a great networking and educational opportunity and also a wonderful avenue to share information about our community.

**Christmas Stroll/ Chili feed:** Was held on Sunday, Dec.4, 2016 at the Coyote Club from 1 to 3 pm. We fed about 180 to 200 with a huge assortment of donated chili.

**Coupon Books:** The new book should be arriving any day and will be available to purchase from any Chamber Board Member, Chamber office, Larson Clothing and Spa 30, and from Jr. and High School wrestlers. The Wrestlers will receive \$5 from every book they sell. We have 4 new coupons this year. The price is once again \$20 and is a fund raiser for the Chamber. The 2016-17 coupon books generated \$1960 for the Chamber. It also was a reason for people to shop local.

**Membership Drive:** The 2018 membership letters are being mailed this week. We currently have 123 members but have lost several from closures.

**North Toole County Appreciation Picnic** was held on Thursday, Aug. 17 at Spark Park from 5-7 pm. Approximately 180 to 200 appreciative area residents were fed burgers, hot dogs, baked beans, chips, macaroni salad and assortment of soda.

**Parades:** The Kiddie Parade continues to have very a good turnout and Dr. Hardy Clark once again provided ice cream treats to all the kids. Proud of the Past, Building the Future was the theme for the 2017 Fair Parade. Marias Medical Center won the traveling trophy for the best business float. Our Grand Marshals were the SHS

FFA and the SHS Alumni Class of 1967 who were celebrating 50 years since graduation.

**6<sup>th</sup> Annual Shelby Street Fair, Car Show, Art Walk** were held on Saturday, August 19 on Main Street. I would like to thank the very dedicated group of Chamber and community members who met for months in advance to plan the events and also the generous sponsors: Town Pump, First State Bank, CoreCivic, CHS Inc., Bear Paw Credit Union, Leavitt Great West Services and Dick Irvin Inc. who helped fund the event.

**Shelby VIC:** Our season began on from May 2 and ended Sept 15. We shortened the season but were open 7 days a week. Our very dependable, knowledgeable staff includes Beth Aklestad, Phyllis Robertson, Charlotte Hanson, and Britney Bancroft. A big thank you goes out to the Shelby TBID for the \$5000 they contribute toward staff wages. The rest of the wages are provided by Chamber funds.