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Greater Easley Chamber of Commerce 62nd Annual Gala

The 62nd Annual Greater Easley Chamber of Commerce Awards Gala was held on Saturday, February 6, 2010, at Southern Wesleyan University. At the "Red Carpet Event" attendees were treated like stars walking down the red carpet while being photographed by paparazzi.

Dr. David Spittal, President of Southern Wesleyan, gave the invocation followed by a "Red Carpet Dinner Buffet" and recognition of the outgoing board of directors:

Stan Brooks, Ginnye Lusk, Danny Youngblood, David Whittmore and Jeff Willis. The first award of the evening was "2009 Volunteer of the Year", presented to Pam Jeter of First Citizens Bank. Pam has gone "above and beyond" the call as chairperson of the Easley Chamber Ambassadors, with her time and energies donated to

See GALA, Page 4



Pam Jeter (Volunteer of the Year, left) with Tori White (Miss Easley Teen).



Left to right: Chris Mann, Sid Collins (YMCA), Rep. Phil Owens.



Ronny Hall (Ambassador of the Year) with Maegan Garner (Miss Easley).



*Robinson Funeral Home
 named Business of the
 Month,
 Page 3*



Leadership Board Greater Easley Chamber of Commerce

Chairman of the Board

Alex Dye — *The Peoples National Bank*

Chairman-Elect

Scott Buckhiester — *Dunburks Premier Events*

Past Chairman

Eric Goodwin — *Durham-Greene*

Treasurer

Rusty Bynum — *Bynum Financial Group*

Board of Directors

Michael Dent	<i>Allstate Insurance</i>
Fox Simons	<i>City of Easley</i>
Tracy Martin	<i>CommunitySouth Be&T</i>
Todd Merriss	<i>Dixie Lumber Company</i>
Emily DeRoberts	<i>Duke Energy</i>
Jonathan Strange, DMD	<i>Easley Dental Ctr</i>
Tripp Martin	<i>Palmetto Bank</i>
Vicki Fletcher	<i>Pendleton District Comm.</i>
Tiffany Martin	<i>Pickens County YMCA</i>
Gordon Brush	<i>Powersville Water District</i>
Janelle Beamer	<i>Southern Wesleyan U.</i>
Brian Swords, Ed.D.	<i>Tri-County Tech</i>

President

Kent Dykes

Operations Director Membership Director

Fran R. Cape

Tourism Coordinator

Jean Riggins

Volunteer

Mary Kay — Consultant

Webmaster

Sam Lawrence

Easley Chamber Notes is published monthly by The Pickens County Courier for the Easley Chamber of Commerce. For content information, contact the Easley Chamber of Commerce at 864-859-2693 or ecc@easleychamber.org. For advertising information, contact Mignonne Matheson at 864-306-6450 or mmatheson@thepccourier.com.



Thanks for a great Annual Meeting and Gala

We had 128 attendees at our 62nd annual meeting at Southern Wesleyan University. Led by Chairman Tiffany Martin, the committee worked hard on the programs, decorations, food, and atmosphere to create an event where each attendee was given the “red carpet” treatment and treated like a star. Janelle Beamer coordinated with SWU, who went the extra mile to give the Easley Chamber value for the evening. Southern Wesleyan is a great place in the county to have

President's Corner

business conferences plus their Chef Karl Ekberg prepares delicious food. Michael Dent put much effort into a PowerPoint presentation that led the awards portion of the evening. The gala was academy award quality!

Special thanks go to my friend Durwood Fincher- Mr. Doubletalk. Durwood confused and entertained the attendees with the role of Dr. Robert Payne, administration economic advisor from Washington. The interviews with members Emily DeRoberts, Susan Gist, Dr. William Scott, Brenda Kay Trent, Mr. Alfred Robinson and Chris Robinson, David Whitmore, and Sen. Larry Martin and Rep. Phil Owens were a highlight. All these chamber members were good sports to be subjected to doubletalk on camera. Finally - the after party at Dunburks Premier Events was successful with a smaller group that did not want the evening to end.

Additional value for membership

Look at our website www.easleychamber.org for a new tab that groups

member to member discounts on one page. Remember that the Easley Chamber of Commerce offers group health insurance available only to our members through the Blue Cross Blue Shield Chamber Advantage program. If your business struggles to offer employees adequate health coverage with an affordable plan call 800-641-2977 and tell her you are with the Easley Chamber.

New to member to member discounts for Long Term Care Insurance are John Hancock phone Ronny Hall at 306-1407 and Mass Mutual phone Lynn Weirick at 681-0107.

Easley Chamber's 17th Annual Golf and Business Expo 5/4/10

It is not too soon to get your team together and sign up for the best golf tournament in Pickens County which will be held at Smithfields Country Club. Michael Dent will chair the event that promises good golf, food, fellowship, prizes, and the opportunity to showcase your business on a golf hole. Call 859-2693 for sponsorships and team reservations.

March 2010 Calendar of Events

Wednesday, March 3

10:00 am **Business of the Month**, SC Telco Federal Credit Union.

program on Tax Entity & Tax Traps. \$15.00/monthly session; \$50.00 for all 7 sessions. Contact Krimson Brown at 220-5222 for more information.

Tuesday, March 9

8:30 am **Ambassadors Meeting** in Chamber boardroom.

Thursday, March 18

11:45 am – 1:00 pm **3rd Thursday Luncheon** held at Dunburks Premier Events, 110 S. Pendleton Street, Easley. Catered by Taste of Distinction. Mike Hayes, General Manager of WYFF television and chairman of the Greenville Chamber of Commerce is the speaker. \$15 for members \$18 for non-members. **RSVP by 3/16 to 859-2693.**

Thursday, March 11

5:30 – 7:00 pm **Business after Hours**, Investment Concepts, 200 Wall Street, Powersville, 220-5222. Come enjoy great shrimp & grits and meet great people. No charge. **RSVP to the Chamber 859-2693.**

Thursday, March 25

Noon **Powersville Council Luncheon** at Powersville Library, Hwy 81. Catered by Taste of Distinction. Will Merritt, local businessman and radio talk show host is the speaker. \$12 for members \$15 for non-members. **RSVP by 3/23 to 859-2693.**

Tuesday, March 16

8:00 am **Board of Directors** meeting in Chamber Boardroom.

Tuesday, April 6

5:30 – 9:00 pm **Upstate Regional Business after Hours**, Greenville Drive Stadium/Fluor Field.

Wednesday, March 17

7:30 am – 9:00 am **Excellence in Business Series** held at Powersville Water District, 1719 Circle Road, Powersville. Continental breakfast served. Richard A. Jones with Dobson Law Firm will provide the

Member Renewals

Thank you to the following members who renewed their memberships in January & February.

Bynum Financial Group
 CPI Security
 Easley Little League
 Foothills Retirement Community
 Joe's Ice Cream Parlor
 Leadership Painting
 Marathon Community Church
 Michael's Pizzeria
 Pickens County Historical Society
 Pickens County Republican Party
 Pickens County Vision 2025

Pickens District-Boy Scouts of America
 Piedmont Tax Service
 Pinnacle Bank
 Prime Line Communications
 Quick Copy/Print Center
 SC Telco Federal Credit Union
 Sauer-Danfoss Manufacturing
 Smith Cleaning & Restoration
 Sports Display
 The New Easley Car Wash

Robinson Funeral Home named Chamber's Business of the Month

The Greater Easley Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors selected Robinson Funeral Home as the Business of the Month for February. Robinson Funeral Home was recently awarded the 2009 Business of Integrity Award for Customer Service by the Better Business Bureau Education Foundation and BBB Board of Directors of the Upstate South Carolina. The company has demonstrated high ethical standards of behavior toward customers, vendors, and employees, along with having a history of strong ethics in the workplace. By displaying mar-

keting and advertising strategies that reflect a true representation of the product, Robinson Funeral Home has also been recognized by the community and their industry for sound business practices.

"Robinson Funeral Home has been a very long time member of the Easley Chamber of Commerce and has been a great support over the years and we commend Robinson Funeral Home for this prestigious award from the Better Business Bureau," stated Kent Dykes, President of the Chamber.



From left behind the banner are Christa McDonald, Alfred Robinson, Anna Mauldin, Lori LaBrash, Steve Culbertson, Chris Robinson, Richard Holcombe, & Lynn Hammett.

Welcome to our new members!

Thank you to the new Easley Chamber members that joined in January & February!

For detailed contact information, visit our business directory at www.easleychamber.org.

The Journey Home

Brenda Kay Trent
 303 South First Street
 Easley, SC 29640
 864-855-3231

Community First Real Estate

Judy Gilstrap
 5608 Calhoun Memorial Hwy
 Easley, SC 29640
 864-855-4858

Glasby Insurance Agency

Rebecca Glasby
 1723 E. Main Street
 Easley, SC 29641
 864-859-3414

Bob Young

307 Burdine Drive
 Easley, SC 29640
 864-850-5203

Wayne Kaye & Associates

Sarah Moise
 135 S. Main Street
 Greenville, SC 29601
 864-991-7111

Signature Pointe Apt. Homes

Michelle Gray
 607 Emily Lane
 Piedmont, SC 29673
 864-277-2900

See the Chamber Notes online at
www.easleychamber.org

*We Are Honored To Have Been Chosen
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 Downtown Easley
 (864) 859-4001



Robinson Funeral Home & Crematory
 Powdersville Road, Easley
 (864) 442-1800

Robinson Memorial Gardens
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Greater Easley Chamber of Commerce 2010 Board of Directors

Front row: Rusty Bynum – Treasurer, Alex Dye – Chairman, Tripp Martin, Scott Buckhiester – Chairman Elect, Emily DeRoberts. Back Row: Dr. Brian Swords, Dr. Jonathan Strange, Fox Simons, Tracy Martin, Todd Merriss, Eric Goodwin – Past Chairman, Tiffany Martin, Gordon Brush.



Greater Easley Chamber of Commerce 2010 Ambassadors

From left: Ronny Hall, Ken Stewart, Terry Harrington, Pam Jeter – Chairperson, Pam Bridges, John Eaves, Donna Owens, Joan Beal, Bryon Culbertson.

GALA

From Page 1

Easley Chamber events.

The “2009 Ambassador of the Year” award was presented to Ronny Hall of the Bynum Financial Group. Ronny excelled in achieving the most contacts with chamber members, attending chamber functions and helping with chamber events.

The “2009 Business of the Year” award was presented to the Pickens County YMCA by Roddey Gettys from Baptist

Easley Hospital, the award recipient for 2008. The Chamber Board of Directors selected the YMCA from among the twelve (12) Businesses of the Month for 2009. The YMCA launched the highly successful “Save a Life” program, due to community drownings. The YMCA hosted the 2009 Carolina YMCA State Championship Swim Meet with over 300 swimmers in attendance. The YMCA provided over

See GALA, Page 8



Softball • Tennis • Football • Basketball
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Camp Starts Monday, June 14th

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Mon. – Fri. from 7AM – 6 PM

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Must pay for one week when registering

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For More Information Contact

864.855.7933



Mayor Larry Bagwell gives state of the city address

The Easley Chamber of Commerce hosted Easley Mayor Larry Bagwell who addressed the capacity gathering meeting on February 6 with the state of the city. Mayor Bagwell and city administrator Fox Simons have just come back from the South Carolina Municipal Association and shared information on the state level.

South Carolina is having problems with its budget currently and more cut-backs are expected. Through good planning this past year, the city of Easley is in much better shape financially and has a \$4 million reserve. The mayor communicated the approval of the bicycle and pedestrian friendly study for Easley and work is

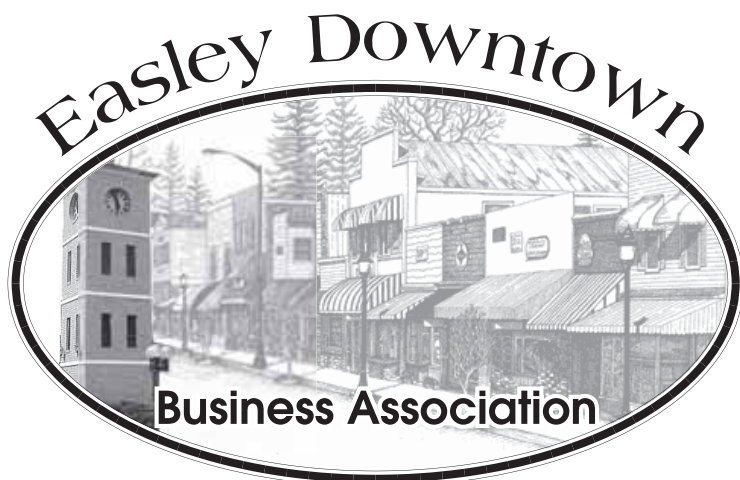
beginning on sidewalks and bicycle lanes in the city. It is at a pace that the city can afford to finance.

Work is underway on the Easley Towne City (old Saco Lowell) and the opening of the shopping center will be first quarter 2011. Major bridge and road-work is also underway along highway 123 to support this shopping center.

A new city park is completed on Pendleton St. across from Dunburks Premier Events that will have a fountain and benches for citizens. A grand opening and dedication is planned for April 15 as part of a chamber of commerce business after hours. All are encouraged to attend this from 5:30 – 7:00 PM.



Easley Mayor Larry Bagwell delivered the 2010 state of the city address Feb. 6.



- Where Old & New Come Together -



Announces

**EASLEY SPRING FLING
2010**

April 10, 2010



Business after Hours scheduled

After hours business networking events are always well attended with many different sponsoring businesses and many different themes. We are pleased to continue this highly successful benefit to our members through 2010.

Time for each event is 5:30 p.m.-7 p.m. and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Following is the schedule with the host businesses:

Date.....	Host
March 11.....	Investment Concepts
April 15.....	City of Easley at Pendleton St. City Park
May 13.....	Easley Living Center
June.....	Available
July.....	Available
August 12.....	Greenwave Travel
September.....	Available
October 14.....	Foothills Retirement Community
November.....	Available

Call Fran at the chamber office 859-2693 to schedule future business after hours.

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Easley
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Easley, SC 29642
864.855.1633

Pickens
837 Pendleton Street
Pickens, SC 29671
864.878.4532



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Fox 21 anchor Diana Watson addresses Powdersville Council

At the February 25th Powdersville Council luncheon Diana Watson addressed a group of 41 attendees which was held at the Powdersville Branch Library and catered by Taste of Distinction.

Diana spoke on the evolution of news reporting since she first started in broadcasting in Casper Wyoming in the early 90's. Technology has driven the process to smaller, lighter, video equipment and faster transmission of information.

Diana went through a typical workday at Fox 21 television preparing her for the 6:30 and 10:00 PM news anchor. She answered many questions from the Powdersville Council members and was very candid and informative.

The next luncheon is March 25 at noon at the library with local businessman and WCCP radio sports talk show host Will Merritt as the speaker. Luncheons are \$12 for members, \$15 for guests. RSVP to 859-2693 by March 23.



Fox 21 news anchor Diana Watson.

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Spotlight on... Easley Veterinary Clinic, P.A.

In 1972, Veterinary Clinic, P.A. opened as a satellite clinic in Easley, treating small and large animals. Dr. Mullikin was the primary veterinarian during the earlier years, and bought this location from his partners in 1976. Dr. Jerry Orr joined the practice in 1981 and became a partner in 1982. Dr. Mullikin did his undergraduate at Clemson University and received his Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Georgia. Dr. Orr received a B.S. degree from Clemson University before attending Tuskegee Institute, where he received his Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine.

Although the practice continues to treat small and large animals, with the change in the agriculture scene, small animals have become a primary part of the practice.

Dr. Mullikin hired his first licensed veterinary technician from Tri County

Tech's first graduating class in 1976 and has had at least one of their graduates on staff since that time.

Veterinary Clinic, P.A. is a full service Veterinary Clinic offering wellness and preventive medicine, surgery (soft tissue and orthopedic) and dentistry. The clinic can perform most routine laboratory tests in house. Radiographs, x-rays, are done in house as well.

Surgery can be performed with a laser, which will minimize bleeding, pain and tissue damage. The clinic also offers laser therapy. Laser therapy is used for arthritis, sprains, and wounds and to stimulate the healing process.

The clinic staff is a caring and compassionate team, providing excellent care for your beloved pets.

The clinic is located at 503 Ross Ave. Easley, SC.



(Left-Right) Nick Smith, Samantha Doyle, Libby Brown, Dr. Orr, Betty Mullikin, Kathy Davis, Dr. Mullikin, Carol Crawford.

Joint Business after Hours February 25 at Duke World of Energy

The Easley Chamber of Commerce participated jointly with six other chambers from Pickens and Oconee counties on February 25 5:30 – 7:30 PM at Duke Energy's

World of Energy visitors center for a business after hours. Participation was good from all chambers and many business contacts were made to new markets.



Pictured above are: Brad Johnson – Powdersville Council, Chris Hardy – President, Clemson Area Chamber, Emily DeRoberts – Easley Chamber Director, Bryon Culbertson – Powdersville Council, Kent Dykes – President, Easley Chamber of Commerce, Steven Lambright – Easley Chamber Ambassador.

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GALA

From Page 4

\$43,000 in financial aid to the community in 2009 and reached a new record of 10,000 members in June of 2009. To say they are community minded would be an understatement.

The Duke Citizenship Award was presented by Emily DeRoberts, Duke Energy, and Joel Ledbetter, Easley Combined Utilities. Richard H. Gettys was the recipient of this year's award because of his outstanding contributions to his community, his state and the nation. Dick Gettys served as a commissioner of Easley Combined Utilities for 42 years and has been a key driver in the construction of utility infrastructure for the city of Easley that has allowed its recent growth.

Eric Goodwin, Chairman of the Easley Chamber Board for 2009, "Passed the Gavel" to Alex Dye of The People's National Bank, who will be Chairman of the Board for 2010.

The surprise speaker for the Gala was nationally acclaimed entertainer Durwood Fincher, also known as "Mr. Double Talk".

The Easley Chamber of Commerce gratefully acknowledges the presenting sponsors for this year's gala:

City of Easley
Duke Energy
Easley Combined Utilities
Garrison Business & Tax Services
Easley Living Center

The Peoples National Bank
Southern Wesleyan University
SunTrust Bank
Occasions at Wedgefield
Albright Associates Tax & Bookkeeping
Baptist Easley Hospital
Charter Business
Alice Manufacturing
CommunitySouth Bank & Trust
Easley Dental Center
The Palmetto Bank
SC Telco Federal Credit Union



Durwood Fincher "Mr. Double Talk"



Left to right: Emily DeRoberts (Duke Energy), Richard H. Gettys, Maegan Garner & Joel Ledbetter (Combined Utilities).



Left to right Eric Goodwin "Passing the Gavel" to Alex Dye.



Dr. & Mrs. Bill Scott enjoying the interviews video at the Gala.



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APPROX. ½ ACRE OR LESS - Beautiful level building lot on water. One of the last lots with a water view & priced to sell. Lot has been cleared of trees & has power & water... ready to build. Sub-Division has Pool, Exercise Facility, Clubhouse, & more! MLS# 1189277 - \$70,000.



GREAT BUY ON THIS 4 BEDROOM LIKE NEW HOME! 4BR/2½ BA. Great neighborhood & location. 2½ BAs on Cul-de-sac lot, ready for new owner. Open floor plan. Community Pool & in Forest Acres School District. MLS# 1196885 - \$125,000.

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Otis Rawl speaks to Oconee-Pickens Chamber Coalition

South Carolina Chamber President Otis Rawl spoke to a gathering of the Oconee-Pickens Chamber Coalition, comprising boards of directors of six local chambers of commerce, at the Duke World of Energy complex on February 25th.



South Carolina Chamber President Otis Rawl.

Economic growth of 3 to 4 percent this year followed by a spike of 4 to 5 percent beginning in 2011 is predicted, Rawl said, but there are legislative issues in this session of the General Assembly on which pressure from local chambers of commerce might be needed to urge legislators to act.

Continuing reform of the State Employment Security Commission is one issue, he said. About \$2.5 billion will likely be needed to repay federal loans for unemployment benefits and rebuilding the state fund, Rawl said, and local business leaders should continue to push for more accountability from the commission.

Tort reform, to give the state a less litigious climate for businesses and especially to limit punitive damages, is one area where pressure from business leaders might soon be needed, Rawl said.

The state cigarette tax is also facing an increase, Rawl said, with one use of the money to help small-business owners provide employees with health insurance.

State officials are weighing a lawsuit against the federal government in view of proposed changes in union organizing rules that would do away with secret balloting in the workplace. Keeping the

ballot secret would curtail forced unionization, Rawl said, and keep the right to work that is an enticement to industry.

With the state facing an election for governor and having had a vacuum of ex-

ecutive leadership, Rawl said, business leaders in the current climate need to weigh one major factor in supporting a candidate. Which one will do the most to create jobs, he said. That's the one to support.

If you're interested in advertising in next month's Easley Chamber Notes, contact Mignonne Matheson at (864) 306-6450 or (864) 933-5684 or via e-mail at mmatheson@thepccourier.com

Regional Business after Hours — Do business in the Upstate

Tuesday, April 6 we will participate in a business after hours which will include chamber members from the whole upstate. It will be at the Greenville Drive, Fluor Field from 5:30 – 9:00 PM.

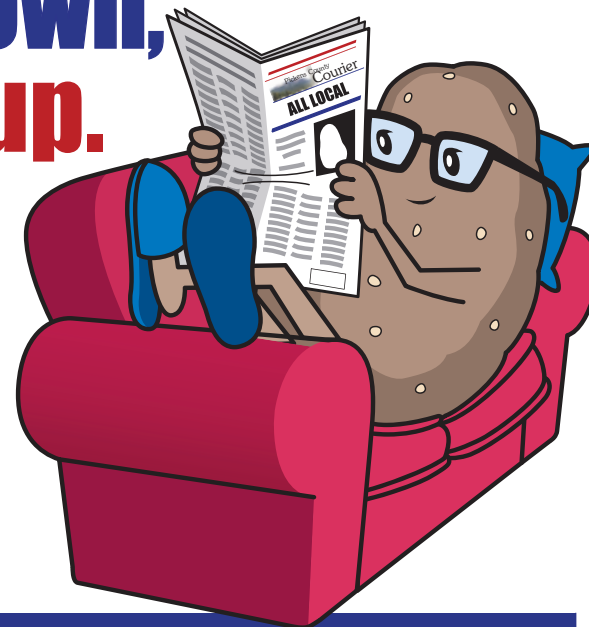
Easley Chamber members participated in this business after hours last year

and there were approximately two thousand people attending. There will again be a live band, door prizes, plenty of ball park food, and opportunity for you to make contacts in a different market. Watch for postcards and blast email information or call 859-2693.

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