



Annual Report 2009

400 N. Heaton St, PO Box 5, Knox, IN 46534

2009 Board of Directors

John Howard, President (North Judson)

Glenn Wilson, Vice President (Knox)

M.J. Zembala, Treasurer (North Judson)

Donna Henry, Secretary (North Judson)

Augie Gappa (Knox)

Charlie Weaver (Knox)

Barbara Allen (North Judson)

Judy Caudill (Knox)

John Sheetz (Hamlet)

Rich Wieczorek (Monterey)

Dorothy Osinski (North Judson)

Flora Tibbetts (Koontz Lake)

David Hyatt (Knox)

Todd Zeltwanger (Donaldson)

Carla Musial (Knox)

James Wagner (Knox)

Anthony Manning, Director

Director's Report 2009

The Starke County Chamber of Commerce has experienced continued growth over the past 12 months. With the support of the board, new programming and services, we have increased our membership to a ten year high of 162 members. We will continue to grow as the business community will support a strong & viable chamber and that is what we are striving to deliver to our members. As my tag line in my emails say, "Your chamber at work, working for you".

Our monthly networking event "AM Starke County" is continuing to grow every month. It is on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30am. It is held at various locations throughout the county. It is a great way to meet new people, potential clients and find out about businesses and services in our community. We had a record number attend our event on November 4th at Country Kettle Restaurant. There were 45 in attendance.

The chamber has also sponsored three (3) quarterly meeting this year. Our first one in April had a presentation by Representative Nancy Dembowski & Senator Ed Charbonneau on "State Legislative Update". In July we had a representative from the State Attorney General's Office inform the audience on their responsibilities. We had nearly 100 people in attendance at this event. In October we held a very informative meeting "Reference USA", this is an internet based data resource library.

The Chamber also hosted New Business Ribbon Cuttings & Grand Openings, some of these included; Sear's of Knox, Country Kettle Restaurant, Hair Therapy, Hunter's Insurance, NWI Computer Supplies and Lil Hair Huts together with Business Open Houses held at Grovertown Fruit Farm and Born in a Barn.

The chamber also continued its successful fundraising events; Scavenger Hunt and Live Auction, Booth at the North Judson Mint Festival, and the Golf Outing held at Bass Lake Golf Course was very successful, with 27 teams entering.

Two new events we held this year were the Starke County Business Expo held in July in conjunction with the Bass Lake Splash. We had eleven member businesses participate and all said they would be back next year. We also brought back Chamber Sponsor Wheel at the Starke County Fair, also in July. This was a successful event with over 30 member businesses being involved.

The chamber is also partnering with other area organizations. Partnerships include the Chamber & Starke County Public Library in successfully writing a grant for purchase of additional units of ReferenceUSA. Another partnership we were involved with was the 2009 Volunteer Fair. We also worked closely with Starke County Tourism Commission in putting together the County Map Guide, Quin County Rural & Rustic Tourism Group in creating area brochures (Farm Markets, Antiques & Museums, future brochures include

Outdoor Recreation and Lodging). The partnership with the Chamber and Tourism works hand in hand to promote local businesses within and outside the county.

We have also partnered with WKVI Radio. The Chamber Segment airs each Monday morning. It provides information to the community and lets them know of upcoming events. It is a great tool to promote our events as well as member events. WKVI also have a link to our community calendar on their website.

The chamber also launched our new website in June. This was a culmination of 6 months work in preparing files, pictures, new logos and many other details in putting together a website. I would like to thank Angelique Milo of Jonquil Design for her work in coordinating our new website. We have had a fantastic response from the community with over 9,000 hits. The website includes a membership directory in alpha and a category listing, community calendar, events, news and many other information pages on our county.

2009 has been a great year. We have built on the growth from last year and we look forward to continued growth in 2010, the 10th anniversary of the Starke County Chamber of Commerce.

This year also sees after many years of service, James Wagner (Embarq) and Carla Musial (DeMotte State Bank) stepping down from the board. I would like to thank them for their hard work over the years and I wish them well in their future endeavors.

The chamber of commerce promotes local businesses in the area to the community. With the guidance and support of the board, we have created a strong vision of success for our membership.

Sincerely,

Anthony Manning
Director

President's Report 2009

Hello, John M. Howard here, your current President of the Starke County Chamber of Commerce. I would like to thank all the members as well as those on the Board of Directors for making the chamber what it is today, a working and viable organization. I would consider 2009, a year that has built credibility for the Starke County Chamber, and I am proud to have been a part of it. Throughout the year, we have continued to make strides to improve our organization. Some items that come to mind are, implementing our new and improved website, following through with our trend of growth in our membership, and finally the continuation and expansion of the programs and services we provide to our members. These items are just a half of what has made this organization grow; the other half is the individuals who showed up early and or stayed late throughout the year. We as an organization owe our successes to the members and volunteers who made this year's events possible and to those individuals I say, thank you.

One highlight of the year was the new and improved Chamber of Commerce website, www.starkecountychamber.com which was launched in June 2009. Special thanks go out to Mrs. Angelique Milo of Jonquil Design for her time and effort in designing a new logo for the Chamber as well as the overall implementation of the site. With over 9,000 hits so far this site serves as a go to source for news and information in Starke county and surrounding areas. The searchable member directory is what I find most useful, because it allows me to see who I can do business with that is a chamber member in order to support our local businesses.

I feel the devotion of our Director Anthony Manning, has a direct correlation to the continued growth in our membership numbers. When Anthony was hired, we had about 80 members. We had an increase of 85% in 2008 to around 148 members and we currently have 163 which is another 10% increase. There are even a number of members from outside the county which to me represents two things, one the successful efforts that have been made to reach outside the county lines to strike relationships in other regions, and two it speaks to the viability of the Chamber, and to the fact that there are other regions that are taking notice to what we are doing and want to be a part of it.

Our A. M. Starke County meetings were started to promote exposure and networking amongst local area businesses. These monthly events allow business people to come together and each person gets 60 seconds promote their business, or to highlight a special event coming up. These meetings have proven to be a huge success, and have been a great addition to our practices. Aside from our quarterly meetings another new event was the Starke Co. Business Expo at the Bass Lake Festival. Another advancement I feel has had a positive impact on the chamber is our partnership with WKVI our local radio station. Special thanks go to Mr. Ted Hayes for allowing the

chamber a time slot on Monday morning to highlight up and coming events. This has lead to a great deal of positive exposure and we hope to continue these and other events in the years to come.

2009 has been a great year and we must strive to make 2010 even better. In Order to comply with the new bylaws which were voted into place this year, this will complete my term as your President. I thank everyone again for allowing me to represent the organization, it has been a great two years and I look forward to continue working to make the business environment in Starke County grow into the best it can be.

Sincerely,

John M. Howard

STARKE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL MEETING REPORT - 2008 SECRETARY

The Starke County Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting for 2008 was held on November 21, 2008, at the Knox Community Center.

President John Howard reported on the Starke County Chamber of Commerce activities for 2008. These included monthly Board of Director meetings, quarterly membership meetings, monthly breakfast "network" events, and membership drive among other activities as well.

The present Board of Directors was introduced to those in attendance. The 2008 Board of Directors were:

John Howard, President
Augie Gappa, First Vice President
Glenn Wilson, Second Vice President
Donna Henry, Secretary
Carla Musial, Treasurer
Barbara Allen, Member
Charlie Weaver, Member
John Sheets, Member
Judy Caudill, Member
MJ Zembala, Member
Richard Wiczorek, Member
Dorothy Osinski, Member
Jim Wagner, Ex Officio Member

Respectively Submitted

Donna Henry, Secretary
12/3/09

Treasurer's Report 2009

Available on request, please call 772-5548.

Current Listing of Member of Starke County Chamber of Commerce November 2009

1st Choice Insurance Services
1st Source Insurance
Wealth Care Group, LLC
Mikey's Pizza Pit Stop
Alvin Morris Insurance
Ancilla College
Back to Basics Healthfoods
Bank of Indiana
Bielava Resort
Block Buster - Thayer Entertainment
Born in a Barn
Byer's Turflect
Cambe Chevrolet-Buick-Olds-Pontiac
Center for Family Health
Center for Hospice & Palliative Care
Behind Bars Motorsports Inc.
McKesson Title Corporation
Community Services of Starke County
Crown Industrial Supply
Davis Plumbing & Heating, Inc.
Drug & Tobacco Free Starke County
Dunebrook
Economy Auto Sales
Embarq
Fifth Third Bank
Fingerhut Bakery, Inc.
First National Bank of Monterey
Geisler Law Office
Grovertown Fruit Farm
Hair Styling by Phyllis
Hamstra Builder's, Inc.
Hensler's Nursery
The Stunning Group
Jim & Melba Shilling
Dalphond Clinic
Integrity Trade Services, Inc.
Ivy Tech Community College

1st Source Bank
4C's
A.L. Olson Real Estate
Affordable Insurance, Inc.
Anchor Real Estate
B & K Drive In
Bailey's Furniture
Bass Lake Golf Course
Binkley Real Estate
Body Reflections
Cherry Gumz
C & D Family Farms
Carpenter's Oil Co., Inc.
Centier Bank
Christo's/Latos, Inc.
City of Knox
Collision Auto Body
Physician's Hospital System
Data Quest, Inc.
DeMotte State Bank
Dragon Industrial, Inc.
Duneland Dialysis, LLC
Adams Family Photography
Family Health Specialists
Financial Partners
First Farmers Bank & Trust
Five Star Foods
Golden Living Center
H & R Block
Knox Community Schools
HealthLinc, Inc.
Hickory Hills Camp Ground
Indiana Farm Bureau
Gene Blastic
Richard & Lillian Gollnick
Jain Express LLC
Jonquil Design Associates

KV Works, Inc.
Kankakee Valley REMC
Key Bank
Knox Fertilizer
Knox Veterinary Clinic
LeRoy Gudeman Attorney
Lindenwood Retreat & Conference Center
Marshall-Starke Development Center
McGrath Refrigeration
Meridian Title Company
N.I.T./Knox Computers
Nichols & Wallsmith Law Office
N. Judson Wayne Township Library
Northwestern Mutual Financial Network
One Stop Appliance & Electronic
Osinski Auction Service, Inc.
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Pathfinder Services
Porter/Starke Services
Purdue University - North Central
Ray's Super Foods
Richard's Disposal
Advance Auto
Save-A-Lot
Starke County Youth Club
Smith Farm Store
Standard Pallet
Starke County Airport Authority
Starke County Community Foundation
Starke County Development Foundation
Bass Lake Beach & Campground
Starke - Pulaski Board of Realtors
Statewide Tree Service, Inc.
Super Value Inn
The Leader
The Pork Shop
The Viking Trader
Van Vactor Construction, LLC
Weninger Insurance
Wintersong Village
Courtside View Restaurant
Wooden Nickel
Cancer Treatment Health Center, PC
Knox Friend's of the Park Association

Kankakee Valley Ford
Kerstings's Cycle Center, Inc.
Apron's Strings
Knox Liquors
Ladybug Cleaners, LLC
Lilypad Antiques
Kathy Norem
Ma's Maids
Memorial Home Care
Mike's Mower Mart
St. Peter's Lutheran School
NIPSCO
Odenthal Real Estate
Office Products Professionals
Osborne Advantage Real Estate
Web and Sound
Pat & Associates
Pioneer Florist
Preferred Group Realtors
R & B on Lane Street, LLC
ReMax 1st Choice Realtors
Richard's of Toto
Sabre Manufacturing, LLC
SCILL Center
Country Kettle Restaurant
Sporty'z Grill and Bar
Starke County Abstract
Starke County Glass
Starke County NewsHawk
Starke County Public Library
Starke Memorial Hospital
Starke United
Studio Printers
Territorial Engineering, LLC
The Market
The Specialty Shoppe
Thermo Products, LLC
Walgreens
White Flyer (Reagent Chemical)
WKVI
Osborne's Mini Mart
IN Wesleyan University - LEAP
Miller's Senior Living Community

Fernbaugh's Diamonds and Fine Jewelry