



2017-2018 Fiscal Year End Report Brownsville Haywood County Chamber of Commerce

2017-18 Board of Directors

D. J. Brewer Chair, Brownsville and Bells Funeral Homes
Joe Barden, Past Chair, Barden Construction
Gwen Gavin, City of Brownsville
Sheronda Green, Golden Circle Insurance
Rachel Ellington, Haywood County
Ray Jones, Boys & Girls Club
Brenda Lonon, Brownsville Housing Authority
Jim McAdams, State Farm Insurance
David Scott, Brownsville PD
Shela Walker, InSouth Bank
Shane Rogers, Treasure Chest
Hayden Combs, Lasco, Inc.
Glenn Stoots, Teknor Apex
Beth Wilson, Carl Perkins Advocacy Center

Ex-Officio Members

Allan Sterbinsky, Mayor, Stanton
William Rawls, Mayor, Brownsville
Franklin Smith, Mayor, Haywood County
Joey Hassell, Superintendent, Haywood County Schools
Jeremy Jones, Trin Photography,
Chamber Ambassador President

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Economic Development and Growth

- Precision Coils announced at Chamber banquet they will double their size by 2020.
- Had 2 site visits by retail developers to look at opportunities around the bypass.
- Town of Stanton selected for new Dollar General.
- The Chamber's website now averaging over 1,000 unique visits since it went on line in 2016. That means that we're averaging over 12,000 – 15,000 visitors per year, and of those, over 50% are new inquiries.
- The Chamber houses the operations of Main Street, holds quarterly Industrial Roundtables, quarterly JECDB meetings, and hosts the regular meetings of the Brownsville Haywood County Industrial Board.
- In 2017, the Chamber hosted 220 business, community and educational meetings in our facilities, and have logged 136 from January to the end of June of this year.
- Attended 15 Industrial/Business Meetings, 11 various conferences and 14 training sessions to promote Brownsville and Haywood County to consultants and ECD professionals
- Completed Community Vision Analysis with the UT Institute for Industrial Studies and JECDB qualified for \$50,000 in Asset Enhancement grant funding. The grant was broken into 3 separate projects, health, marketing and sign wayfinding. All projects are underway and scheduled to be completed by June.
- Completed "Made in Haywood" recruitment video and website.
- Facilitated making the Stanton Cannery a full time operation, assisted the Mayor in securing USDA and ECD assistance in making it an approved kitchen and food incubator. This will allow residents to can and resell their products at local farmers markets and stores, as well as a space for budding food entrepreneurs.
- Added 2 new businesses and \$2 million in tax revenue.

Regional and Community

- State Certified Economic Developer now on staff.
- Recertified as a Three Star Community, over two decades of certification
- Graduated inaugural Junior Ambassador representatives, those members having served on 5 community boards
- Leader in Me program now expanded from intermediate into the high school.
- Jackson State Community College has located a campus at Haywood High School that will begin fall semester 2018
- Haywood County Youth Leadership Graduated 25, and Adult Leadership graduated 9 new community leaders,
- Carnegie Building basement drainage repaired and new computers and infrastructure added to enhance community usage
- Completed work on the Farmers Market Park, provided additional funds to add more amenities.
- Provided Annual Budgets to City of Brownsville and Haywood County
- Completed TVA Leadership Class.
- Designing a Customer Service training series to be held beginning in new fiscal year, as well as a minority and women's entrepreneur forum with the state and region to be hosted in Haywood County.
- Carnegie Building named to the National Historic Register.



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Regional and Community

- Helped to sponsor Christmas Parade, Exit 56 Blues Fest, Tina Turner Days and Hatchie Fall Fest.
- Helped support Career Technology at Haywood High School by serving on Career and Tech advisory Board for the second year
- Served on the West Tennessee Small Business Advisory Board
- Elected to State Board of Directors, Tennessee Chamber Executives
- Serve as President of the Brownsville Rotary Club
- Installed Traffic Count hardware and software at Farmers Market Park
- Helped Design and procure funds for Wayfinding Signage for Haywood County
- Secured grant for new sign at Farmers Market

Business Development

- Retained memberships in Tennessee Economic Development Council, West Tennessee and Tennessee Chamber Executives and the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Also a member of the Southwest Tourism Association and the Memphis Regional Megasite advisory board.
- Working on a new community publication with pull out maps
- Held 14 ribbon cuttings with assistance from Chamber Ambassadors and local dignitaries
- Held 2 Business After Hours this year.
- Held a BizTech roadshow with Social Media Marketing for Business
- Continue regular email information service and newsletter service to keep members informed of Chamber and community events, added text newsletter subscription service, Chamber Text Alerts
- Regular advertising in relevant publications and radio to promote local business of the month and Chamber awareness
- Planning Women & Minority Entrepreneur Workshop for fall 2018 as well as Customer Service workshops.
- Hosted annual Chamber Awards banquet with 12 separate award recipients.

A message from the Chairman:

It has been a good year for growth with the resources that the Chamber has had to work with, and our Chamber leadership has strived to continue to move forward to promote Haywood County. We're still in an aggressive posture to work with our communities and we continue to grow in membership and presence in the community, region and state. With Steve's persistence, the Chamber now has a state certified economic director on staff to help with our business and community development efforts, as well as TVA leadership training to make the right connections that make recruiting efforts more positive. We are constantly looking ahead to provide value to our membership with new ideas and ways to support it's growth.

Thank you to our CEO, Steve Hilton, for the leadership of the Chamber again this year, and thank you to each member of the Brownsville Haywood County Chamber board for your continued work and support. We have accomplished a lot, but there's a lot more yet to come!

....D. J. Brewer



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