

What's New at the Chamber

January Membership Luncheon

Wednesday, January 18th
11:30 a.m.

Welcoming 2006 Chairman Lila Thorn
"Setting the Tone for 2006"

Ruthe Jackson Center
3113 S. Carrier Pkwy.

Call the Chamber to make your reservations!
972-264-1558



December 2005

Volume 6, Number 12

Mark Your Calendars

Make your nomination for
Community Awards
Return Nomination forms to the
Chamber Office by January 31, 2006

Mark your Calendars to attend
the Taste and Tour and
Award Presentations

February 23, 2006.
Ruthe Jackson Center
5:00- 8:00 p.m. Taste and Tour
8:00 p.m. Community Awards

The Corner Calendar

December 2005

- 01 Executive Board 12 Noon
- 07 Women's Division "Santa's Elves Workshop"
11:30 a.m. at
Grand Prairie Women's Building
1 Park Square North, G.P.
- 08 Leadership Grand Prairie 8:30 a.m.
- 09 Branding Iron Breakfast
Texas Trust Credit Union 7:45 a.m.
425 W. Jefferson St. G.P.
- 13 Board of Directors 4:00 p. m.
- 14 Business Development 7:45 a.m.
- 15 Chamber Holiday Open House
Sponsored by Pat Watson,
Prudential Lone Star Realtors
at the Chamber Office
5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Leadership Alumni 1:00 p.m.
- 21 Women's Division Board 4:00 p.m.
- 26 - Jan. 1 Chamber Office Closed
- 29 Branding Iron Breakfast 7:45 a.m

January 2006

- 05 Executive Board 12 Noon
- 09 Education Committee 12 Noon
- 10 Board of Directors 4:00 p. m.
- 11 Business Development 7:45 a.m.
- 12 Leadership Grand Prairie 8:30 a.m.
- 16 Leadership Alumni 1:00 p.m.
- 18 Chamber Monthly Luncheon 11:30 a.m.
Ruthe Jackson Center
- 18 Women's Division Board 4:00 p.m.
- 25 Women's Division Luncheon 11:30 a.m.
- 25 Government Relations 4:00 p.m.
- 26 Branding Iron Breakfast 7:45 a.m.
- 26 Workforce Coalition 9:00 a.m.
- 26 Business After Hours 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

February 2006

- 02 Executive Board 12 Noon
- 08 Business Development 7:45 a.m.
- 09 Leadership Grand Prairie 8:30 a.m.
- 13 Education Committee 12 Noon
- 14 Board of Directors 4:00 p. m.
- 15 Chamber Monthly Luncheon 11:30 a.m.
Ruthe Jackson Center
- 15 Women's Division Board 4:00 p.m.
- 20 Leadership Alumni 1:00 p.m.
- 22 Women's Division Luncheon 11:30 a.m.
- 22 Government Relations 4:00 p.m.
- 23 Branding Iron Breakfast 7:45 a.m.
- 23 Taste and Tour of Grand Prairie 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Ruthe Jackson Center
- 28 Community Awards 8:00 p.m. following
Taste and Tour of Grand Prairie

All meetings are held at the chamber office
unless otherwise noted.

The Luncheons will be held at the Ruthe Jackson Center
3113 S. Carrier Parkway

The Mission of the
Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce
is to promote, strengthen and expand our
business community.

May this Holiday Season Bring - "Peace on Earth"



The tradition of the Holiday Open House continues this year. It is a wonderful, warm event. Pat Watson, along with Prudential Lones Star will be hosting it again this year. Come and join the chamber for food, fun and merriment. Renew some old friendships and make new acquaintances. Holiday spirit and music of the season will abound.

Each guest is asked to bring a new toy or gift item, a canned good and an ornament for the tree. These items will be donated to Santa Cop, Brighter Tomorrows and Grand Prairie United Charities.

As you consider your toy or gift item, in addition to the traditional gifts for young children, please include items for older children such as board games, hair dryers, make-up kits, radios, sports items, skateboards, etc. Remember that your gift item should be unwrapped. The organizations would also prefer non-violent items.

The Christmas tree we decorate will be given to a family that would not have a tree if not for your generosity. Think of the joy visible in some child's eyes on Christmas morning and open your hearts to these families.

Please plan to come by between 5:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on December 15th at the Chamber Office. If you have any questions, please call 972-264-1558.

2005 Community Award Nomination Forms in This Issue

Each Year the Grand Prairie Chamber recognizes those individuals who have given selflessly of their time and resources to make this a better community in which to live and to do business. These awards celebrate the accomplishments of businesses as well as individuals.

Enclosed in this newsletter is a nomination form so that each of you have an opportunity to share your thoughts on deserving individuals/companies and the impact they have on our community. The deadline for submission of a nomination is January 31, 2006.

The presentation of 2005 Community Awards will be held immediately after the *Taste and Tour of Grand Prairie* on February 23 at the Ruthe Jackson Center. The awards will be presented at 8:00 p.m. Come celebrate the accomplishments of outstanding individuals and businesses.

Get Ready for 2006!

The key to maximizing your investment in your chamber is to involve yourself and your business in the marketing and networking opportunities we offer. People do repeat business with individuals they know, like, and trust. Get to know who your fellow members are so they can support your business and you can support theirs. That is one way to "promote, strengthen and expand our business community".

These are committees and events you will want to explore. The committee chair contacts are listed for your convenience in seeking out ways to market your business.

Business Development - Meeting 2nd Wednesday, 7:45 a.m. at the chamber, *Chairman Bill Thorn, Bill Thorn Real Estate 972-263-8517*

Education Committee - Meeting 2nd Monday, 12:00 noon at the chamber, *Chairman - Debbie Dobbs Vernon, GPISD 972-809-5756 debbie.dobbs@gpisd.org*

Government Relations - Meeting 4th Wednesday, 4:00 p.m. at the chamber, *Chairman - Greg Giessner, Giessner Insurance Agency 972-262-5151*

Women's Division - Meeting 4th Wed., 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. various locations, *Chairman - Kelly Giessner, Giessner Insurance Agency 972-262-5151*

Grand Prairie Work Coalition - Every other month, 4th Thurs. at 9:00 a.m., *Chairman - David Littlefield, TWC (972) 264-5881 david.littlefield@twc.state.tx.us*

Fulfillment Committee - Once a quarter, restaurant locations vary *Chairman - Melanie Gulley, Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce 972-264-1558*

Branding Iron Committee - Meeting last Thursday, 7:45 a.m. (various locations) *Chairman - Karen Carpenter, Texas Trust Credit Union 972-263-5171*

Golf Tournament Classic - May 5, 2006
Chairman - Ron Jensen, Control Products (972) 264-0368 ronj@cptexas.com

Procurement Conference - February, 2007
Chairman - Cathy Usztan-Bedford, Lockheed Martin Missiles & Fire Control, (972) 603-1268 cathy.usztan-bedford@lmco.com

Chairman - Linda Thomas, Vought Aircraft Industries, Inc. (972) 946-4107 linda_thomas@voughtaircraft.com

Fall Fantasy Casino Night - September 16, 2006
Chairman - Buddy Bridges, TXU Electric Delivery (972) 260-3110 bbridge3@txued.com

Please contact these committee chairs and offer your assistance. If you have questions and prefer to talk to chamber staff, feel free to call us at 972-264-1558. Most meetings are held at the chamber offices at 900 Conover Dr unless otherwise specified. Check your monthly calendars for updates of time and place.

2006 Entrepreneurs Should Sign up Early

Join the 2006 Entrepreneurs Club! Each month the Chamber holds a membership luncheon to provide an opportunity to network with other businesses. Members have the option of paying \$150 at the first of the year to join the Entrepreneurs Club to save \$60.00 over the span of the year. In addition, this prepays you or your designee for the year, provides for monthly reminders of the luncheon, and a permanent name badge. These luncheons include the Procurement Conference, Christmas in July and the Great Texas Scholar Luncheon.

Call the Chamber of Commerce office, 972-264-1558, to sign-up and save \$60!

Grand PRAIRIE CHAMBER LEADERSHIP

2005 SLATE OF OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN

Roy Wilson

Northwood University

CHAIR-ELECT

Lila Thorn

Hexter-Fair Title Company

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Darin Wilson

Mesa National, Inc.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Tim Bordelon

Ripley Entertainment, Inc.

CHAMBER CITY PARTNERSHIP

Billy Dunn

BDunn & Company, LLC

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Don Goldsmith

Grand Bank of Texas

MARKETING & COMMUNICATION

Allan Hughes

Traders Village

TREASURER

Gail Wills

Gail Wills, CPA

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Lisa Arnold

Arnold Brothers Dry Cleaning & Laundry

PAST CHAIRMAN

Greg Giessner

Giessner Insurance Agency

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Barbara Baker, Grand Prairie Ford

Buddy Bridges, TXU Electric Delivery

Karen Carpenter, Texas Trust Credit Union

Spencer Clemson, Product Sales

Paula Newman, Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie

Vince Hrabal, Grand Prairie Disposal

Darla Langkamp, Prudential Lone Star Realtors

Clem Maddox, Comcast

Rudy Martinez, SBC

Mike Medrano, Texas Roadhouse

Sandi Morrison, Commerce Title

Melinda Polley, Trinity Analytical

Renaldo Ramirez, Sun Chemical

Brenda Reuland, American Eurocopter

Danny Reyes, U.S. Post Office

Don Stanfield, Stanfield Realtors

Chris Thomas, NOKIA Theatre at Grand Prairie

Emelda Valcarcel, Medical Center of Arlington

Jeanine Walker, Bon Air Service Co.

EX-OFFICIO

Ray Allen, State Representative

Dr. David Barbosa, GPISD Superintendent

Charles England, Mayor

Tom Hart, City of Grand Prairie

Bob O'Neal, City Economic Development

PAST CHAMBER CHAIRMEN WHO MAINTAIN

ACTIVE BOARD STATUS

Steve Adams, Stephen M. Adams Creative Advertising

Jayne Christian, Creative Embroidery

Mildred Walker, Lynn Creek Marina/The Oasis

Restaurant

Pat Watson-Capps, Watson & Assoc.

CHAMBER STAFF

RaDonna Hessel, President

Beverly Grogan, Vice President

Lynn McGinley, Vice President

Darcy Harris, Office Manager

Greg Cashman, Membership Services

Melanie Gulley, Membership Services

The Mission of the
Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce
is to promote, strengthen and expand
our business community.

Got A Minute

Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce Board of Director's Meeting November 2005

On Thursday, November 10, 2005 the Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met for their annual Board Retreat with Chairman Roy Wilson asking the board members to do an indepth review of the Chamber's year. With a limited timeframe, the thirty-five board members went straight to work discussing the future of the Chamber's program of work.

With businesses facing even more in the way of limited resources and staffing, the Board members were focused on ways to maximize their membership investment and their organizations resources. 2006 Chairman Lila Thorn asked the board to "rebuild" their chamber from the ground up. Knowing that there was a building and staff, she encouraged the board members to only put the events, committees and projects on the program that would work for the chamber's mission statement to "promote, strengthen and expand the business community".

There was much discussion on various programs and their benefit. As groups of board members presented their findings and suggestions there was lively debate, and serious consideration.

Due to the indepth discussion, the board did not make it all the way through the review, and therefore the retreat will be continuing at their upcoming board meeting in December. In the meantime, board members were encouraged to discuss their ideas further with each other as well as with chamber members to assist in the process.

While the 2006 Program of Work is still under construction, the Board members were excited about the potential for the organizations coming year and were looking forward to their involvement in making the Grand Prairie Chamber continue its success.

Winners of the Fall Fantasy Big Spender Drawing!

Buddy Bridges, Chairman of the Fall Fantasy event presents Big Spender Winners with their Cash. Left: **Sylvia Guerrero-Dean**, \$1,000 Winner of the Early Bird Drawing Right: **Terry and James Cain**, \$5,000 Winner. **Melinda Polley** sold both winning tickets and both tickets were sold in the Tuesday Rotary Club. Don't miss out on next years drawing! .



Medical Center of Arlington Shouts about Successes



Mayor Pro-Tem Ruthe Jackson, along with Mayor Robert Cluck of Arlington and Mayor Mel Neuman of Mansfield are present to announce MCA as Arlington's First Accredited Chest Pain Center. The Center was a recipient of the Texas Medical Foundation's 2005 Quality Improvement Award of Excellence. Congratulations! MCA.

Special Thanks to Our Sustaining Members

Member firms volunteering financial support to the Chamber above and beyond their regularly scheduled basic dues to offset building expense, utilities, insurance and taxes.



Sustaining Member

haynesboone
Setting precedent.

Haynes and Boone, LLP has a long-standing commitment to public service. We strongly believe it is incumbent on us to "give back" to our communities, making a positive difference in the lives of those around us.

The law firm's pro bono commitment is an integral part of its culture. Haynes and Boone formed its Pro Bono/Public Service Committee in 1989, recognizing that a focused commitment is necessary to broaden volunteer opportunities and maximize their reach. Since that time, the pro bono efforts have blossomed.

This year, our 450 attorneys spread across 10 offices worldwide have donated their skills in 157 new cases. Together, they spent more than 9,800 hours giving needy clients the benefit of their vast knowledge and legal expertise.

Cases we take on range from immigration court asylum proceedings for refugees to handling domestic relations and landlord-tenant disputes for the indigent. In cooperation with the Justice for Children Program, we have taken up representation of abused and neglected children. And, at the behest of the Mexican government, we are vigorously working to win new trials for two poor, hard-working immigrants wrongly convicted of murder in the Texas Panhandle.

As we give, we find benefits abound. This year, Haynes and Boone was awarded the "Angel of Freedom Award" by Human Rights Initiative of North Texas, and the "Bronze Award for Pro Bono Services" by the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program/Legal Aid

Contributing to the Greater Good

of NorthWest Texas.

Meanwhile, Kendyl Darby, a New York/Dallas appellate litigation associate, was named the American Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division "Star of the Quarter Award" for her hurricane relief work, and San Antonio litigation partner Lamont Jefferson was named a "Pro Bono Champion" by the State Bar of Texas Access to Justice Commission.

Next year, we will encourage each lawyer to render at least 50 hours of pro bono public legal service.

"Within the strong work ethic and teamwork culture of our firm, we hope to make each new generation of lawyers feel they are an integral part of something much bigger within the communities we serve," says Mike Boone, one of the firm's co-founders. "Pro bono and civic activities are as important to their advancement here as their billable hours."

Haynes and Boone, LLP is an international law firm with 10 offices throughout Texas, Washington, D.C., Mexico City, Moscow and New York, providing a full spectrum of legal services to clients around the world. The firm has been recognized as one of the "20 Best Law Firms to Work For" (Vault.com, 2004), one of the "Best Corporate Law Firms in America" (Corporate Board Member Magazine, 2001-2004) and recipient of the Minority Corporate Counsel Association's 2002 Thomas L. Sager Award for commitment to diversity.

2005 CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Roy Wilson
Northwood University



It is December and time to say good-bye. It has been my distinct pleasure to serve as your Board Chairman for this past year - and, oh, what a year it has been.

We have a new parking lot, we hosted our 60th anniversary, we reached out to troops and evacuees, we had a fantasy of an evening and we tried to shoot as close to par as we could. In between, we spoke to students about the importance of staying in school; we heard the tales of the CIA and awarded outstanding community people while tasting excellent food. We honored two teachers for their commitment to excellence and we trained 20 new leaders. We ate together monthly and shared at least one night each month celebrating success. It has been a very good year!

I want to say, first, thank you to RaDonna, Beverly, Lynn and Darcy. They were and are a great source of information, encouragement, and support. These ladies are the heart and soul of the Chamber.

Secondly, I want to thank the Executive Committee and Board. You helped me tremendously and I truly valued and appreciated your wisdom, insight, and knowledge as well as your support and encouragement.

"Gratitude is the memory of the heart". Please know that I am grateful to each of you and hold each of you in a special place in my heart.

In January, I challenged the Board and the membership to make the following choice for 2005:

"To promote, strengthen, and expand our business community."

What better way to end the year on.

Think of all of the possibilities if we all choose to work together and make promoting, strengthening, and expanding our business community one of our top priorities.

How can you do this?

Simply say, I choose to

"-serve on a chamber committee that best suits my or my company's interests."

"-promote the chamber to those I come into contact with who are not chamber members."

"-attend the monthly luncheons and business after hours"

"-support the fund raising events of the chamber"

"-become involved in city projects, issues, etc."

"-support the GPISD through the chamber or individually."

If we are going to accomplish our mission of promoting, strengthening, and expanding our business community it will take each of us making a choice to either stay involved or become involved. You have made an investment in this Chamber and in Grand Prairie; it is now time to choose to make that investment yield an even better return.

As we end our 60th year we need to remember those who went before us and who made those same choices. They laid the foundation for us and because of what they chose to do, we are one of the premier

Welcome



Catfish Cuisine
1801 W. Polo Rd. #106 (972) 522-1000



Pure Water Technology
2100 N. Hwy. 360, Ste. 900C (972) 606-2515



The Thompson Group with Classic Chevrolet
1101 SH 114 (817) 410-1560



Chapps Restaurant
4146 S. Carrier Pkwy 972-263-6969



20/20 Sight
4116 S. Carrier Pkwy, Suite 120 (972) 264-7200



Indoff, Inc.
2131 N. Collins, Suite 433-522 (972) 264-6123



Jackson Law Office
3758 S. Carrier Pkwy., Ste. 108 (972) 264-1100



The Sandford House & Spa
506 N. Center (817) 861-2129



Rendon Mfg, Inc.
2346 Doreen (972) 660-7120



RTM, Inc.
636 Laura Lane (972) 266-9365



Curtiss Wright Village
867 Lindbergh 972-263-6536

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**Grand Prairie
Chamber
News and Notes**



Grand Prairie Healthcare Center is having a Christmas Open House, Thursday December 1st, from 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Come and enjoy the good food, listen to wonderful holiday music and even shop for a gift or two. There will be over 30 community organizations and vendors joining us in this holiday celebration. Make sure to mark your calendars. Oh Yea, Santa will be here for the kids!

The **National Veterans Outreach Program** was formed in 1972 and has become recognized as the most experienced and successful employment and training program in the country. They have completed over 50 local, state, and national government contracts, utilizing the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Veterans Workforce Investment Program (VWIP) funds to assist veterans in job skill training and placement. Contact **Butch Burgin, Training Coordinator, 5415 Maple Ave. Suite 125, Dallas, TX 75235 call 214-631-7695**

Hats off to **Lincoln Tech**, which is offering free education opportunities in some technical fields to the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. If you know of a family who could take advantage of this service, please call **Lincoln Tech** at 972-660-5701.

This year, instead of the stuffed animal that you may usually buy for your **Santa Cop** donation, the organization needs items for older teens. This can include such items as watches, wallets, CD players, purses, make-up, gift certificates (i.e., restaurants, Wal-Mart, movie rentals), any hair care item such as pony tail holders and blow dryers, games such as Monopoly, chess or Scrabble, and any sports equipment and memorabilia.

**Leadership 2006 Thanks to Alumni and
Business Sponsors**

This year's Leadership program has benefited from wonderful Alumni and Grand Prairie Businesses who have made this program possible.

City Day was planned by **Ronnie Bates** and he was helped out by **Lisa Flick** and **Selena Jackson**, all terrific **City employees** and graduates of the program. In addition, the bus provided by the City as well as a delicious luncheon was most appreciated. The luncheon was co-sponsored by Water Utilities and the RJC. Also, the City was generous with the time of the following employees: Deputy City Manger **Anna Doll**, Mayor Pro Tem Councilman **Ruthe Jackson**, Police Training Sergeant **John Shaw**, Fire Chief **Cliff Nelson**, Economic Development Director **Bob O'Neal**, Planning and Development Director **Bill Crowley** and Public Utility Director **Ron McCuller**.

For Criminal Justice Day, the class thanks **Don Postell**, City Attorney, **Marilyn Little**, Dallas County Commissioner **Ken Mayfield** and Judge **Mike Petty** for helping plan the day.

Volunteer drivers were **Doranna Corley** of **Welcome Advertising**, **Terri Morgan** and **Sandi Morrison**, **Commerce Title**. Of course, they were driving brand new vans from Grand Prairie Ford, who generously offer use of the vans when needed. Thanks to **Grand Prairie Ford's Jeff** and **Barbara Baker** as well as **Mike Rose** who make the transportation possible several times throughout the year.

If you are an alumni who would like to get involved, just call Beverly at 972 264-1558. Alumni meetings are held on the Third Monday at 1:00 p.m. at the Chamber. If you are a business who would like to support this program, we have luncheon and transportation sponsorship opportunities available.

SANTA'S COMING TO TOWN AND WE NEED TO LET HIM KNOW WHERE WE ARE, SO LET'S

"LIGHT UP GRAND PRAIRIE!"

December is the month of our annual "Residential Christmas Lighting Contest". Judging will be done on December 9th thru 11th, which is the second weekend of the month. There are no forms to fill out, no entry fee or waiting list. All you do to enter this contest is simply turn on your lights from Sundown until 11:30 p.m. during the three night judging period.

Helpful Hints:

- Keep your lights straight
- Replace broken bulbs
- Spotlight cut outs
- Hide extension cords
- Mow & edge your lawn

If you would like to send a judge to your area, please contact Darla Langkamp at 469-939-3497 or at 972-264-0303-Ext. #203 or you may email me at darla486@hotmail.com. We will give your address to the judge in your area.

Members: Watch your e-mail as we continue to receive information about our families for the Santa's Elves Workshop!



1988

Looking Back As We Continue Forward
**A Retrospective of
Service for
60 Years**

**Johnny Jinks
1988**

This year marks the 60th Anniversary of the Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce. Throughout the year we plan to feature a retrospective from Past Presidents/Chairman of the Chamber.

When I became Chairman I had served four years as a Board Director and three more years as a member of the Executive Committee. It was a busy time in my life. I was serving as Chairman of the Board at DFW Medical

Center at the time, also finishing a degree plan at the University of Texas at Arlington and spending whatever time I had left in the business at Jinks Electric.

There was a lot of momentum in the Chamber at that time. Past Chairmen's Pat Watson (1985), Jim Switzer (1986), and Jimmy Allen (1987) had all furnished aggressive leadership prior to my term in 1988. Jimmy Allen, my predecessor, was managing a local bank at the time. He then became responsible for several banks in the area and was not able to make many of the Board meetings. Since I was Chairman-elect I starting fulfilling the Chairmen's duties about six months early. At the time the chamber was growing in membership and had formed a positive working relationship between the City, Schools and business community.

The City of Grand Prairie was taking on a new image as rapid development was beginning to occur in South Grand Prairie. Joe Pool Lake was completed and was reshaping Grand Prairie. The new lake was also complemented with the development of a new State Park. Grand Prairie was now becoming a destination location for recreation and tourism.

The Chamber's role at this time focused on the promotion of tourism under the leadership of Tag Taggart and his Tourism Committee. Other centers of focus were the Governmental Affairs Committee and the Highways and Transportation Committees who made many trips to Austin to visit with the State Legislature and staff members concerning issues that were important to Grand Prairie's future. The chamber was a strong supporter of the State Highway 161 project and also improvements to the Grand Prairie Airport.

The chamber was aided greatly by the activities within the Womens' Division of the Chamber of Commerce. The Quality of Life Foundation, an arm of the Chamber, under the leadership of Harry King and Ruthe Jackson created a charitable base from which funds received from benevolent donors were dispensed to worthy causes within the Community. Bill Arnold was instrumental as liaison between the school district and the chamber at that time. The chamber became a supporter of the Schools' scholarship program.

When I became Chairman, one of my first priorities was to erase a \$12,000 deficit in the Chamber's past years' budget. The previous years activities had left us in need of additional funds. We decided that a bike ride might be successful as a fundraiser. With the help of my son, Rod Jinks, who was an avid bike enthusiast, many, many chamber members, city staff, and police officers, we organized the first Grand Prairie Grand Prix bike ride. It exceeded our expectations and erased the red ink on our balance sheet



2005

the first year. The Grand Prairie Grand Prix became an annual fundraiser until 2005 when the event was retired.

As the chamber grew in membership it was necessary to make some changes in the way some things were done around the chamber office. The chamber at that time was using stand alone personal computers to do the work in the office. We saw a need to have our computers on a network system in order that all information was accessible to each employee. A new IBM system was installed and streamlined the work around the office.

The chamber's Membership Development Committee was responsible for adding nearly 100 new members. As an incentive for bringing in new members that year to the chamber we offered a trip to Pourta Lavarta Mexico. We were surprised at the result. We had nearly a plane load of hard membership workers go on that trip. Barbara Sargent, who was in the Travel Business, made all the arrangements and we all had a wonderful time.

Our General Membership meetings were always fun. Fran Cassils did a wonderful job of setting these up. I cannot say enough for my Executive Committee members, Tony Robertson, Lee King, Mildred Walker, Jerry Larnay-King, Brent Johnson, Jimmy Allen. Just a great group to work with. As I look back, it is not the long hours that I spent working in the chamber that I remember. Instead I remember all the friendships, the ones that were always there when something needed to be done. Those who accepted leadership roles for bike rides, kid's fishing tournaments, membership drives, committee work, planning and setup of the annual banquet, and all the other chamber activities, and staff members who always give 110 percent, and last but not least, my family who picked up the slack at Jinks Electric in my absence. When you are Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, you really appreciate that support.

Personal Information:

Johnny Jinks was born in Quanah, Texas. His family moved from Lubbock, Texas to Arlington in 1945 where he attended Arlington High School. Johnny moved to Grand Prairie in 1954. He later earned a BBA degree from UTA and an Associate in Real Estate from North Lake College. In 1957 he organized Jinks-Hall Electric Co. In 1960 the Company was re-organized as Jinks Electric. Later in 1964 Jinks Electric was incorporated as Jinks Electric Co., Inc. Johnny has served as President of Jinks Electric Co., Inc. since that time.

He has also served on the City Council, the YMCA Board of Directors, the DFW Hospital Board of Directors, the Board of Directors of the former Republic National Bank of Grand Prairie. He taught at Cedar Valley College for ten years. His wife is Vera Jinks. They have three children, Larry A. Jinks, M.D., Rodney Jinks, V.P., Jinks Electric, and Terrie Coates, a teacher in GPSISD. Johnny and Vera have eight Grand Children and two Step Grand Children.



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Web Site at:
www.grandprairiechamber.org

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