

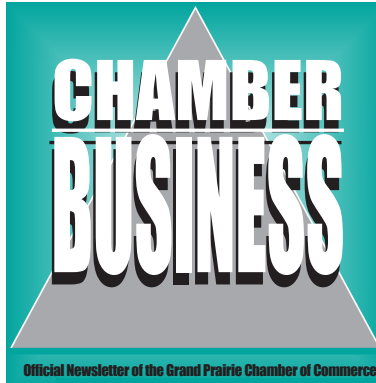
What's New at the Chamber

Mountain Creek Retirement Living

will be hosting the
Business After Hours
and Card Connection

Located at 2305 Corn Valley
Thursday, September 29th
from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Enjoy fun, food and great
networking with Mountain Creek
Retirement Living



September, 2005

Volume 6, Number 9

Mark Your Calendars

Your "Fall Fantasy" is coming

October 29, 7:00 p.m.- Midnight
Ruthe Jackson Center

Big Spender Cards are now on sale!

Register for
Exclusive - Texas Hold 'Em Poker
Blackjack
Slot
Tournaments

Call the chamber to make your reservation now
972-264-1558

The Corner Calendar

September 2005

- 1 Executive Board, 12 Noon
- 05 Labor Day Chamber Office Closed
- 08 Fall Fantasy Auction Committee 6:00 p.m.
- 12 Education Committee 12 Noon
- 13 Board of Directors 4:00 p. m.
- 14 Business Development 7:45 a.m.
- 15 Leadership Grand Prairie Orientation 8:30 a.m.
- 19 Leadership Alumni 1:00 p.m.
- 21 Chamber Monthly Luncheon 11:30 a.m. Ruthe Jackson Center
- 21 Women's Division Board 4:00 p.m.
- 22 Workforce Coalition 9:00 a.m.
- 26 Fall Fantasy Committee 12 Noon
- 28 Women's Division Luncheon 11:30 a.m.
- 28 Government Relations 4:00 p.m.
- 29 Branding Iron Breakfast 7:45 a.m. Curtiss Wright Village 867 Lindbergh GP
- 29 Business After Hours 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Mountain Creek Retirement Living

October 2005

- 06 Executive Board, 12 Noon
- 10 Education Committee 12 Noon
- 11 Board of Directors 4:00 p. m.
- 12 Business Development 7:45 a.m.
- 13 Leadership Grand Prairie 8:00 a.m.
- 17 Leadership Alumni 1:00 p.m.
- 19 Chamber Monthly Luncheon 11:30 a.m. Ruthe Jackson Center
- 19 Women's Division Board 4:00 p.m.
- 24 Fall Fantasy Committee Meeting 12 Noon
- 26 Women's Division Luncheon 11:30 a.m.
- 26 Government Relations 4:00 p.m.
- 27 Branding Iron Breakfast 7:45 a.m.
- 27 Business After Hours 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Grand Bank 2405 W. Hwy 120
- 29 Fall Fantasy, 7 pm - Midnight at the RJC

November 2005

- 04 Executive Board 12 Noon
- 08 Board of Directors 4:00 p. m.
- 09 Business Development 7:45 a.m.
- 10 Leadership Grand Prairie 8:30 a.m.
- 10 Board Retreat Noon - 5:30 p.m.
- 10 New Member Orientation 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- 10 Business After Hours 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie 1000 Lone Star Parkway
- 14 Education Committee 12 Noon
- 16 Chamber Monthly Luncheon 11:30 a.m.
- 16 Women's Division Board 4:00 p.m.
- 17 Branding Iron Breakfast 7:45 a.m. Merrill Gardens 355 Westchester Parkway, GP
- 21 Leadership Alumni 1:00 p.m.

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

It's Time for Your "Fall Fantasy"

It's September and thoughts are turning to Fall, and so it must be time for Fall Fantasy. This is the 4th year of this wonderful Chamber Event, and it promises to be really exciting! What is Fall Fantasy? Why, it's a Fantasy of a Party! You don't have to travel to Las Vegas or Monte Carlo- we will bring the casino to you, complete with tables of blackjack, roulette, poker, craps, bingo, and slot machines. Special opportunities for the evening include the Exclusive Poker Tournament, limited to the first fifty paid players at a cost of \$100. The tournament winner will receive a trip to Las Vegas complete with airfare and a stay at a luxurious Hotel and Casino donated by CPC Travel. Of course, the winner will be invited back to defend his or her title next year at no charge. The slot machine tournament is great fun. The cost to enter is \$25.00. The Blackjack Tournament entry fee is \$50.00. The bingo room will be available as well.

Another special part of the evening will be the drawing for the Big Spender prize of \$5,000. A limit of 208 playing cards (4 decks) will be sold at the cost of \$100. each. If shopping is your fantasy of entertainment, we will have a live and a silent auction. Should your fantasy include dancing, you can swing, sway, boogie to the "Monster Mash" or all kinds of danceable tunes that will be playing throughout the night! Of course there will be delicious fare from Eddleman's and a cash bar to quench your thirst as you play, visit, shop and dance the night away.

No fantasy would be complete without the opportunity to dress the part. Just think of your fantasy character. Be Scarlett O'Hara, Rhett Butler, Charlie Brown, Madonna, Boy George, Cleopatra - it's your choice and because it's your Fall Fantasy, remember, costumes are encouraged, but not required. You may choose to come as a guest at a casino party. But those who come in costume will compete for prizes. There is plenty of time to create a terrific costume or practice your poker face. The party will be Saturday, October 29th at the Ruthe Jackson Center. Party starts at 7:00 p.m. and continues until the fantasy hour of midnight! So come to Fall Fantasy and make it your own.

Current Fall Fantasy Sponsors

Ace Sponsor - \$2,500

TXU Electric Delivery
Ruthe Jackson Center

King - \$1000

Northwood University
Grand Prairie Ford

Queen - \$750

Atmos Energy

Jack - \$500 -

Heritage Direct Investments
Methodist Health Systems

Joker - \$300 (Table Sponsorships)

Gail Wills CPA / Conditioning Air
Services, Inc.

Russell's Telecom Solutions

Giessner Insurance Agency
Grand Prairie Disposal

POKER TOURNAMENT Prize- CPC Travel

PHOTO SPONSOR - \$1,000 -

American Eurocopter

BINGO SPONSOR - \$500 Traders Village

PROGRAM SPONSOR. - \$500 Louis Tussaud's

Palace of Wax & Ripley's

Believe It or Not!

VALET PARKING SPONSOR- Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie

SLOT SPONSOR - \$1500

SIGN SPONSOR - \$1000

BLACKJACK TOURNAMENT - \$1500

SLOT TOURNAMENT - \$1500

There are still opportunities for Ace,
King, Queen, Jack, Joker, Slot,
Valet, Sign, Blackjack Tournament
and Slot Tournament sponsorships.

Ready or Not! School is Back in Session!

The 2005 - 2006 school year has begun. The Education Committee is looking forward to their first team meeting on Monday, September 12th at Noon. We meet at the Chamber Office.

The first matter of business will be a review of the Great Texas Scholar Presentation. They want to make certain that the presentation offers relevant and accurate information.

It all starts in the Ninth Grade. Each year business leaders, just like you, go into the two Ninth Grade Campuses and share our Presentation with the students. These Presentations are part of a four year program that challenges Grand Prairie students to strive for the best they can be and not settle for the minimum effort.

Why the Ninth Grade? Each spring ninth grade students select the courses that lay the foundation for their high school degree plan and success after graduation.

What is a Great Texas Scholar? A Great Texas Scholar is a student who graduates from Grand Prairie ISD who has completed a challenging

academic plan with a C average or better. In addition to this they will complete a designated number of hours of community service for a Grand Prairie non-profit organizations. They will attend a Grand Prairie ISD School Board meeting as well as a Grand Prairie City Council meeting. They will provide documentation of these activities to the Chamber office prior to the Great Texas Scholar deadline.

What is the Business/Community Role? Come and share yourself with these students by being a presenter to the Ninth Grade students. Encourage and incent students that work for you to do well in school. Make the Great Texas Scholars students a priority in your hiring practices by making this a requirement for high school students in your employ.

Come and join the Education Committee on September 12th at 12 Noon at the Chamber Office. Be part of a team that is making a difference in the lives of our young people. Call Lynn at the Chamber 972-264-1558 if you would like to know what you can do to support this program.

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

Secure Sentry, 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 Dowell, Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie

C W Higgins, Graff Chevrolet

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

Whitney Strauss,

Lockheed Martin Missiles & Fire Control

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

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our business community.

Got A Minute

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

Ex-Officio Reports:

Bob O'Neal, Economic Development Director noted that the Southwest Airlines facility on Palace Parkway has been purchased, and will become a training center. The Opus facility on 120 at Matthew has been purchased by Cooper Tires. He also noted that there will be two new Starbucks at Hwy. 360 and Mayfield and I-30 and Beltline Rd.

Marketing & Communications: Allan Hughes provided the board with the new map, community directory and referral guide, as well as CD's of the E-Link community video. Each of these projects are now complete for 2005. The directories have been mailed out to the membership. The maps and CD's are available through the chamber office.

Community Development: Lisa Arnold reported the Leadership class of 2005-2006 applications are out for the next class. The Alumni kickoff will be held in August as they organize to begin planning for this year's class. A change to the program will be that it will meet on the 2nd Thursdays of the month. Darla Langkamp reported for the Women's Division that the Christmas in July was successful. Lisa reported that the Chamber sponsored "Meet & Greet the Troops" at DFW airport August 1 - 7 was a tremendous success. Lisa noted that Grand Prairie was asked to consider taking another week.

Workforce Development: Tim Bordelon reported that the Education committee will begin meeting in September. Tim also thanked those chamber members who provided items for the goodie bags distributed at the New Teacher Luncheon.

Chamber Development: Sandi Morrison reported that the Branding Irons continue to host ribbon cuttings for the new members who request them, although several new members choose to receive their plaques at the luncheons.

It was reported that the Business After Hours in August will be at Grand Prairie Ford. Barbara Baker invited all members to attend.

Buddy Bridges reported the next Fall Fantasy committee meeting will be in August. The Big Spender playing cards have been distributed to the board members to begin those sales.

Chamber / City Partnership: Billy Dunn noted the Government and Legislative committee met and voted to recommend that the board provide a letter of support repealing the Wright Amendment. This recommendation was presented to the Executive Board, who in turn was providing that recommendation in the form of a motion to the board of directors. After much discussion, the vote was 21 in favor of supporting the repealing of the Wright Amendment, with four abstaining from the vote.

Business Development: Don Goldsmith noted that the committee continues to have speakers each month. The committee is also looking at new ideas and new focus as they continue in the future. The 2005 Procurement Conference will be in August. Members were encouraged to participate in and to promote the event.

President's Report: The board was updated on the property acquisition, parking lot and technology purchases. The project has almost been completed and will be well under budget.

The Board was also informed that the Chamber staff has continued to work with the city in renewing "Prairie Lights" with a different light product. A counter offer was made by the Parks Department. That offer was accepted, and now the City will have final approval.

The Sister City organization has asked that the Chamber host a luncheon, along with a question and answer session for their visitors from Austria on Tuesday, Oct. 4.

It was also noted that the final publication of the Grand Prairie News in the Dallas Morning News will be Sunday, August 21, 2005. Following that date, Grand Prairie will be placed in the "Central Zone", with the first edition published on August 25th.

Women's Division

With Labor Day upon us, it looks like the official end of summer, and with the end of summer comes the annual Yard of Year Winners recognition. With 12 judging areas in Grand Prairie, we are able to award recognition signs to some very deserving people in all areas of the city. Congratulations to the entire Yard of the Month and Yard of the Year winners.

Our regular September luncheon will be our Annual Business meeting on Wednesday, September 28th, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. It will be held at the Women's Building. You may call Carol Parker at 972-595-1239 to make your reservations.

Congratulations to Member of the Month Jeannie Carreno for the month of July and Debbie McCrary for the month of August. Be sure to congratulate them when you see them.

If you or someone from your company is not a member of the Women's Division and would be interested in joining, please come by and check us out. The networking and leadership opportunities afforded to women in your company and community are well worth it. "Come be a part of something wonderful".

-Darla Langkamp, President

Yard of the Month and Yard of the Year winners

North Central Resident
2105 Oakwood Drive
Grand Prairie, Texas 75050

West Central Resident
305 Gramley
Grand Prairie, Texas 75051

Forum Resident
2709 Spartacus
Grand Prairie, Texas 75052

Trail wood Resident
4849 Overland Trail
Grand Prairie, Texas 75052

Northeast Resident
730 Northeast 28th
Grand Prairie, Texas 75050

Central Resident
2110 Ellis Court
Grand Prairie, Texas 75051

South Central Resident
517 Estate Drive
Grand Prairie, Texas 75052

Westchester Resident
516 Edge View Drive
Grand Prairie, Texas 75052

Northwest Resident
713 NW 14th Street
Grand Prairie, Texas 75050

East Central Resident
1811 Austine Ave.
Grand Prairie, Texas 75052

Garden Oaks Resident
2748 Wentworth
Grand Prairie, Texas 75052

Far South Resident
5523 Brazoria Drive
Grand Prairie, Texas 75052

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.



LOCKHEED MARTIN



haynesboone
Setting precedent.





Sustaining Member

Medical Center of Arlington is proud to be the only acute-care hospital in south Arlington serving Grand Prairie, Mansfield and Arlington. At MCA we strive to meet the needs of our growing community. One of our efforts this year, was to open a state-of-the-art sports medicine and rehabilitation center to compliment the outstanding professionals who choose to work at MCA. We are very proud to be the official hospital and rehabilitation provider for the Texas Rangers Baseball Club and many local schools.

MCA strives to hire the most talented staff to insure that we are a great place to receive care, practice medicine and to work. Here's a word from our accomplished sports medicine medical director, Dr. Keith Meister.

Injury Prevention in the Weekend Athlete

by Keith Meister, MD,
Medical Director of the MCA Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Center, Texas Rangers Team Physician

As I like to tell many of my patients, "you don't run a marathon before you've logged many miles before hand." Unfortunately we forget this adage as we get older and attempt to continue to participate in athletics on a recreational level although on a less frequent basis. The excuse for injury by many is that "I'm just getting old". Fortunately, that isn't quite the harsh reality. More importantly, as we get older, our lifestyle changes and we become de-conditioned. We forget that when we were younger we participated in a more active lifestyle that contributed to a greater level of overall fitness.

As a consequence, as we age, we lose muscle mass and flexibility and therefore set ourselves up for

greater chance for injury. Therefore, those pickup basketball and softball games and weekend golf and tennis, that have become less frequent as we age, become fertile ground for many of the common soft tissue injuries that are encountered.

Prevention of many of these injuries is common sensible participation in a regular program of exercise. This sounds trite, but maintaining a higher baseline level of fitness by maintaining muscle mass and cardiac fitness will allow one to continue to participate in their athletic endeavors on a more regular and rewarding basis with a significantly decreased chance for injury. A minimum of 15-20 minutes 3 times per week of aerobic exercise maintaining the heart rate at least 65 - 70% of calculated maximum (max heart rate = 220 - your age), strength training of each of the major muscle groups at least once per week, and a regular program of stretching, are the basics to maintenance of the athletic body. The higher the level of continued participation the more intense should be the exercise program.

Understanding that the one critical factor that does change as we age is our ability to recover, i.e. up time is just as important as down time. More sport specific programs that take a limited amount of time should be undertaken for continued maintenance and development of the shoulder girdle musculature for popular weekend activities such as tennis and golf. The new MCA Sports Medicine and rehabilitation center is pioneering locally many of these programs.

In short, prevention of injury occurs long before one enters onto the field of athletic participation. "Train to maintain", and train to continue to participate while decreasing our risk of injury.

2005 CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Roy Wilson

Northwood University



I ran across the following quote the other day - "Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us daily".

My wife graduated from Northwood "many years" ago and at that time one of the things graduates were allowed to do was pick an influencer that influenced them during their academic pursuit. Northwood hosted a dinner, the graduate and their influencer were recognized, and the influencer received a plaque.

My wife chose me as her influencer. I asked her why she had not selected one of her professors, her parents, or someone else for the award in other words someone who had really "done something" for her.

She responded it was because, I encouraged her I stayed after her I helped around the house with our son and housework (I do not remember this but she said I did)

I was always there for her I listened to her I understood that this was important to her

These little or small things are probably things most of us do on a daily basis without even thinking about it. However, these little or small things, in reality, allowed my wife to accomplish a great thing.

Take a moment and let that sink in. The small things count - the friendly handshake, the encouraging phone call, letter, or card, the smile etc. etc. Just think that by doing these small things for someone - you may be the catalyst that causes him or her to do great things.

I encourage you that as you go about your daily routine look for those small ways to influence or help others.

Fall Fantasy is almost upon us. Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 29 at the Ruthe Jackson Center. It is going to be a great party and maybe, just maybe, your fantasy will come true that night. If you have not signed up for a sponsorship or donated an auction item, please do so. This is a major fundraiser for the Chamber, so we all should be looking for ways to support the event.

I would like to thank Bill Arnold for his service to the chamber. Your commitment to the chamber and Grand Prairie is appreciated and is an example for all of us to emulate.

Chamber Happenings

Welcoming the troops at DFW



13th Annual Procurement Conference



Thanks to **Lisa Arnold** for coordinating the Grand Prairie Week of Welcoming the Troops. Thanks to all the companies that volunteered their time and stayed flexible for the arrival schedule no matter what time of night or day they arrived.

God Bless America and all who serve her!

Out thanks to **Cathy Usztan-Bedford, Lockheed Martin and Linda Thomas, Vought Aircraft, Industries** for their tireless efforts each year in making this event a success.



A Retrospective of Service for 60 Years

Bill Arnold



1983

2005

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.

As told by Bill Arnold:

Let me say at the outset that I am truly honored to be asked to share what I recall about my part of the Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce and its 60 years of service to the community.

One of the benefits of being a member of the Chamber for the past 18 years is the positive working relationships that I developed into personal friendships over the years.

In 1954 my wife, Laura, and I arrived in Grand Prairie from Tyler, Texas to find a place to live. We had been employed in the Spring by H. H. Chambers, Superintendent of Schools in Grand Prairie for teaching positions. We went to the Chamber office on W. Main Street, east of the old City Hall building. As we entered the building, we saw two people sitting at a desk talking. The lady behind the desk was Mrs. Emmadean Berry, the Chamber manager at that time. Emmadean was my first Chamber friend and we have continued to be friends after these 50 years. The gentleman, Harold Bergstrom, spoke up and said he had a garage apartment for lease. We looked at the apartment and leased it on the spot. Little did I know at the time that I would ever be a member, let alone the President of the Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce.

In the fall of 1968, Mr. Combs, our new Superintendent, said that almost every project promoted by the chamber would affect the Grand Prairie schools through increased tax base or additional enrollment of students. He wanted me to become active in the organization. He said, "I can't pay your dues, since we can't spend tax money for personal dues, but I will make it up to you somehow." I became the District liaison for current interest and projects to the Chamber, which I continued until my retirement in 1986.

In 1983, the Grand Prairie business community was expanding in all areas of the city. Increase in small service businesses could be seen from the 303 corridor southward toward Joe Pool Lake, which was under construction. This was due in large measure to a number of residential developments south of I-20, such as the Trailwood addition and the Westchester addition. To the northwest, the Great Southwest Industrial District was growing exponentially.

The completion of the 360 corridor from I-30 through northwest Grand Prairie to the northeast Tarrant County triggered a lot of activity. In 1983 a major development planned and developed by the Bedrock Corporation was one of the key players in the growth and development of this area of our city.

Since the Great Southwest Industrial District was nearing capacity, attention in 1983 was focused on the Shady Grove area as prime industrial property. The area from Roy Orr Blvd. on the west to Rock Island Railroad to the north to Beltline Rd. to the east was the target.

As I recall, in 1983, the Membership Committee came through in great style. Under the leadership of Pat Watson-Capps, Chairman, the committee brought in higher than projected revenue for the budget year.

The highest priority in that year was completing and paying for our new Chamber building on Conover Drive. We had established the Quality of Life Foundation in 1982, which provided a tax write-off for businesses and individuals who made donations or pledges for donations for the completion of this much needed facility.

In 1983 we were proud to say that we achieved the following: acquired a building site for the Chamber building; reached the funding level of \$275,000 in cash and pledges of the estimated \$300,000; plans and specifications were completed by Smith & Warder Architectural Firm; interim financing was in place; construction contract had been completed. The person that stood tallest and worked the hardest on this project was our good friend, Mr. Harry King.

It makes me smile: The day I entered Judge Barefoot Sanders' Courtroom in Dallas to testify as President of the Chamber of Commerce in support of Highway 161, I was very surprised to find one of the three attorneys in opposition to the project was one of my former students when I was the Principal of Jefferson Jr. High several years before.

Personal Information: Born Billy Len Arnold in Peerless, Texas, the Arnolds moved to Grand Prairie in June, 1954. He is married to Laura Riggs Arnold and has two sons Bryan Scott Arnold and Brent Alan Arnold. Bryan and his wife, Lori England Arnold have two children, Clint Harrison and Kathryn Janice Arnold. Brent and his wife Sally Smith Arnold have two children, Ginny Lou and Tessa Anne Arnold.

Thanks, Bill, for hard the work that produced such critical results for the success of the Grand Prairie Chamber.

World War II Veterans, We Want You! Congressman Kenny Marchant, in cooperation with the Library of Congress, is collecting oral histories from veterans in our area. If you served in the military, or worked in a civilian capacity, we want to know your story! We will videotape your story, and then we give a copy to you, and send the other copy to the Library of Congress. If you are interested in participating, please call Michael Noble, Congressman Marchant's Veterans Affairs Liaison, at 972-556-0162 and set up a time that is convenient for you. We do all the work. If you have any photographs or other memorabilia, please bring them along.

'Equal Employment Opportunity/Diversity in the Workplace' will be the topic at the September 22 Workforce Coalition Meeting. Join us at 9:00 a.m. at the Chamber office. Jacquie Jones-Mounts will be the speaker.

Jacquie Jones-Mounts has been named to the position of Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Diversity manager for Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control - Dallas. In this role, Jones-Mounts manages the company's Affirmative Action programs and diversity initiatives as well as provides training associated with equal employment opportunity.

Jones-Mounts' 16-year career includes assignments in employment discrimination complaints and charges under Title VII, the ADEA, the Equal Pay Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. She has held positions of significant leadership responsibility at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) in Raleigh, North Carolina and Greenville, South Carolina. Her previous assignment in Lockheed Martin was as Equal Employment Opportunity manager for Lockheed Martin Aircraft & Logistics Centers in Greenville, South Carolina.

She received her B.A. degree in both English and Communications from St. Augustine's College in Raleigh, North Carolina. She has been also been certified as an EEO Specialist through the Equal Employment Advisory Council.

SMU Dedman School of Law TAX CLINIC

Beginning in the Fall of 2005 semester, the SMU Dedman School of Law Tax Clinic will provide free legal services to new and existing small businesses and non-profit organizations who cannot afford to pay legal fees. This program will be instituted on a trial basis for the 2005-2006 academic year. All prospective clients must complete an application and interview for the program. The client is expected to pay all costs in connection with the filing of any documents on behalf of the client and any expenses incurred by the Tax Clinic. The school will not provide legal advice unless the person seeking advice is a client and has been accepted by the Tax Clinic. For additional information call 214-768-4935.

New Member Orientation and a Night at the Races!

Mark your Calendars! Thursday, November 10th Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie from 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. we will present a Member Orientation. No matter how long you have been a chamber member, if you are interested in learning how to maximize your chamber investment and grow your business through marketing and networking in the chamber, this is the place for you to be! Come meet with some of the Chamber Board and to learn how you can become active in the pursuit of success and growth with the Grand Prairie Chamber.

Then, from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., the membership at large will join us and we will have a great Business After Hours sponsored by Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie as we enjoy great food, a card connection and quarter horse racing.

FALL FANTASY AUCTION

The energetic Fall Fantasy auction committee, chaired by Melinda Polley of Trinity Analytical Services, will be contacting our members and other business as we seek to have an awesome auction. Donation form and sponsorship information may be found on a flyer in this newsletter. Both Live and Silent auction items are needed. Join the team and enjoy the fun and the opportunity - make your business a part of this popular event



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