



CHAMBER LIFE

"MISSION: TO STRENGTHEN, PROMOTE, AND CREATE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS AND EDUCATION THAT ENCOURAGE MEMBER SUCCESS."

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A PUBLICATION OF THE FARRAGUT WEST KNOX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

MAY 2020



Terry Rutherford, Chair



Steven Rutherford, Vice Chair



Angela Harvey, Treasurer



Beth Ann Carter, 2020-21 Past Chair



Stephanie Eastman-Vozar



Ryan Distelberg



John Volpe



Matthew Bryan



Natasha Bohannon



New Directors Eager to Offer Talents

Even in the midst of a pandemic, planning for the chamber's future goes on. In April 2020, the Board of Directors of the Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce unanimously approved five new additions for the upcoming 2020-21 fiscal year, including agreeing on a slate of new Executive Board officer roles. The board is the governing force of the chamber, acting in a volunteer capacity and guiding the organization to ensure its mission is upheld through various programs and services.

The following directors were approved in the slate, which was presented before the membership for 10 days before becoming official: Ryan Distelberg-TDS Telecom (3 year term), Stephanie Eastman-Vozar-Young Williams Animal Center (3 year term), Natasha Bohannon-First Citizens Bank (3 year term), John Volpe-Abuelo's: The Flavor of Mexico (3 year term), Matthew Bryan-Bryan Insurance (3 year term), Terry Rutherford-Regions Bank (Chairman, 2 year term), Steven Lipsey-Lipsey Morrison Attorneys (Vice-Chair, 1 year term), and Angela Harvey-First Horizons Bank (Treasurer, 1 year term). Current chairman since July 2017, Beth Ann Carter-MBI Companies, will move to an ex-officio role serving

as the Immediate Past Chairman.

Ryan Distelberg started with charter member of the chamber, **TDS Telecom**, in 2011. He has held multiple positions through his career with the company. He is currently an account manager on the Commercial Sales team, covering the East Tennessee and Northern Georgia markets. Prior to TDS, he had several successful opportunities in management and business development. Altogether, he has over 20 years of sales and customer focused experience.

Stephanie Eastman-Vozar moved to Knoxville to join **Young-Williams Animal Center** as Director of Development from Bonita Springs, FL. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in marketing with a minor in music from the University of Michigan and has 20 years of development, marketing and fundraising experience in nonprofit and business fields. Eastman-Vozar served the American Red Cross in both South Florida and Michigan regions as Major Gift Officer and previously worked for the United Way and Palace Sports & Entertainment, handling corporate sales for the Detroit Pistons. She sits on the board for the Association of Fundraising Professionals Great Smoky Mountain Chapter and the National Philanthropy Day committee.

With 14 years of experience in the financial industry, **Natasha Bohannon** serves as Business Services Representative for **First**

Citizens Bank, a position she has held since 2018. She brings knowledge and understanding of the financial landscape in an effort to help clients achieve their personal and business goals. Previously, Bohannon served as an Ambassador for the Farragut West Knox Chamber for 5 years since moving to Knoxville in 2015. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in 2005 from Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville.

John Volpe is General Manager of the **Abuelo's** restaurant located in Turkey Creek on Parkside Drive. He has been with Abuelo's for 15 years, 13 of which have been in Knoxville. Volpe is originally from Houston, TX. He is also the founder of the popular Southern Taco & Tequila Festival, which has taken place in the Farragut West Knox area for 5 years running, has featured multiple vendors showcasing over 100 tequilas, and has donated over \$100,000 in proceeds to Remote Area Medical.

Matthew Bryan purchased Hitson Insurance in January 2016. Hitson Insurance merged with Crum & Blazer to become Hitson, Crum & Blazer Insurance, Inc. In January 2017, Bryan re-aligned the company with the new name of **Bryan Insurance Group, Inc.** in 2018 and opened an additional location in Knoxville's Farragut area to serve more clients throughout East Tennessee. Bryan continues to uphold the values of honesty and integrity for the firm, with exceptional customer service for clients.

All directors participated in their first meeting via conference call in April, with hopes to gather in person as soon as guidance allows. The chamber looks forward to each individual's unique contributions to the growth of the Farragut West Knox area and business community.



WEST Under 40 Guest Column

Each month this section will feature a piece written by a member business or young professional aimed at working professionals or recent graduates seeking tips and tools on how to shape and inspire their growing career, whatever the industry.

The Importance of Finding Your Core Group

By Naomi Asher

It's pretty common these days to read articles about finding your "tribe" - your network or community. Early in my career my mentor referenced this saying I would need to build my "circle." She knew I would need hard truths, love, support, listening ears and a group of people who would give me feedback in love and show up without question when I needed them. She knew this because everyone needs that.



Asher

It's important to have a place to vent - this needs to be somewhere that you know nothing you say out of momentary frustration will come back on you. It's vital to have people who will be HONEST with you - especially when it's not what you want to hear! This is one of our greatest opportunities for growth.

Additionally, it's crucial on bad days to know you have someone rooting for you.

It's not easy to build a core group, the best advice I've ever received about this is that as we move through life we need different relationships, of which there are three categories: Friends for a reason, for a season and for a lifetime. There's nothing as hurtful as wrongly

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ENTERPRISE CLUB

These Chamber members generously contribute to the Chamber and the Continuing Education Grant Program above and beyond their annual dues.

Networkings



The new normal in Chamber Networkings is Zoom. Finn's Restaurant & Tavern, Moonshine Mountain Cookie Company and Water into Wine all hosted these very unique networkings in the time of Covid.

Member Briefs

Looking for more details on a specific event, special or job?

Go to www.farragutchamber.com to see these and other member items!

- The East Tennessee Community Design Center announced its 2020 Executive Board members: Randy Merritt, regional development manager at **The Christman Company**. Congratulations Randy!

- **Chesapeake's West** earned a 2020 Orchid Award from Keep Knoxville Beautiful for the transformation of a tire center into a modern, nautical dining experience. Congratulations Chesapeake's West!

- **Pinnacle Financial Partners** ranked as the 14th-best workplace in the United States, according to a new Fortune magazine list of the 100 Best Companies to Work For.

- **Rather & Kitrell** has promoted Certified Financial Partners Skee Orr and Jay Slagle to Senior Advisors and hired Daniel Maupin as an associate advisor. Congratulations Skee, Jay, and Daniel!

- **MEDIC Regional Blood Center** recently welcomed Tracie Savage, BSN, RNC-NIC, CNML, as the senior director of Donor Services. Congratulations Tracie!

F.Y.I.

(FOR YOUR INFORMATION/INSPIRATION)

As we move toward recovery, please patronize our member businesses!

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Proud to support the wonderful work of the Farragut West Knox Chamber.

FIRST HORIZON

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Ribbon Cuttings



Water into Wine Bistro & Lounge

These businesses celebrated a Mini #Reopening Ribbon Cutting with the Chamber on May 1st after reopening due to partial or total closure under local and state orders.



Kat's Lash Lounge & Wax Studio



The Pizza Kitchen Knoxville

Please check their websites or call for updated hours of operation and to be advised of special protocols customers/clients will need to observe at this time.



Finn's Restaurant & Tavern

But most of all, please congratulate these businesses with your patronage!



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TSBDC

by Laura Overstreet,

Small Business Specialist and GrowthWheel® Certified Advisor

Small Business Development Centers provide free counseling and low cost training to help small business owners start their own businesses. Visiting your local Small Business Development Center can help direct you towards local resources and networking events within your community. Networking is a valuable way to expand your knowledge, learn from the success of others and potentially get new clients. Our business specialists provide specific training that can aid in growing your small business, help you find your specific niche' and allow your business to grow.

Small businesses are vital to their communities, strengthening and diversifying the areas in which they operate. The Knoxville Small Business Development Center is here for you; our mission is to provide services to help for-profit businesses in our community succeed. We offer one-on-one counseling, seminars on a variety of business topics, market research tools, loan packaging assistance, and much more.

Please join us for our June classes:

Business Start-Up:

The Essentials

Tuesday, June 9, 9:00-11:00 am

This is an opportunity for anyone who is thinking about starting, buying or have already started their own business! An expert from our center will answer FAQ's that every business owner has. Our business specialists will discuss different forms of business organization, tax requirements, business licenses, provide an overview of business planning and financing options (including SBA loan guarantees).

Doing Business with TVA:

Lunch & Learn: ONLINE

Tuesday, June 23, 12:00- 2:00 pm

Topics will include: The program will focus on how to participate in the TVA procurement process. How to prepare for, locate and respond to requests from purchasing organizations.

What is an RFP? How you can prepare for an RFP and what to look for in an RFP! How to Locate Opportunities! Find out what products and services TVA is seeking, how to apply and participate, and if any "set asides" may be included.

Speaker(s): Paul Buerkle, TVA Senior Program Manager-Supplier Diversity & Development Supply Chain Paul Middlebrooks, UT Procurement Technical Assistance Center **Co-Sponsor(s):** TVA, PTAC

Visit our website at www.tsbdc.org to register for training.

Group

From page 1

categorizing someone. All three are valid and important in life, however, make sure when you are building a friendship that you know which category the person falls into.

Building your core group isn't necessarily about hobbies or who you can go out with and it's absolutely not about finding an echo-chamber of like-mindedness. It's about finding honest, "ride or die" friendships. These are people you trust enough to disagree with and have deep conversations. Whether for short-term or long, they are there when you need them. They will sharpen your skills and teach you more about yourself than you can ever learn alone.

Bio: Naomi Asher is a graduate of King's MBA program and is currently the Executive Director, United Way of Anderson County.



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Welcome New Members!

The Chamber welcomes these businesses who joined us recently in the month of April! Did you know businesses/organizations can submit an application & payment online? Visit www.farragutchamber.com and click "Join the Chamber!"

Law Office of Daniel Herrera
Daniel Herrera
3224 Shady Oak Lane
Knoxville, TN 37931
Website: <http://www.attorneyherrera.com>

Welcome New Propeller ENTERPRISE Member:

The Social Brand
Chad Rogers | Victory Harbin
5401 Kingston Pike | Suite 240 | Knoxville, TN 37919



Thank you for your recently upgraded Propeller Enterprise Membership!

Welcome Back Renewing Members!

The Farragut/West Knox Chamber welcomes back these businesses who have renewed their investment in the Chamber as of this past April. We are privileged to count them as Farragut/West Knox Chamber of Commerce members! We urge members to patronize one another when the goods or services a member can provide are needed. It is also our hope that area residents recognize the commitment a business makes to its community when it becomes part of its local chamber of commerce and reward that commitment with their patronage.

A special thank you goes to these renewing members who are continuing their support of our chamber and the businesses it serves through their above and beyond Enterprise Membership:



Thank you for your Admiral Elite Enterprise Membership!



Thank you for your Captain Enterprise Membership!



Thank you for your Anchor Enterprise Membership!



Thank you for your Anchor Enterprise Membership!

AA-Air Company
Appalachia Business Communications
Blue Ridge Yoga & Wellness Center, LLC
Burns Mailing & Printing, Inc.
Central Knox, Inc.
Coldwell Banker Wallace & Wallace, REALTORS
Farragut High School Education Foundation
Junior Achievement of East Tennessee

K9 Center of East Tennessee Inc
Mike Baker Insurance Consulting
Mortgage Investors Group - Farragut
New Covenant Baptist Church
Outlier's Advantage: ACT Prep Academy
Planet Fitness Farragut
Smoky Mountain Service Dogs, Inc.
WindRiver

Calendar of Events

Members can quickly RSVP for events in their Member Portal at <http://members.farragutchamber.com/login>. Call 675-7057 or email info@farragutchamber.com for a link to create your account! Visitors/Guests can register by clicking the links on the Chamber Calendar (www.farragutchamber.com > "Events") and registering under "Not a Member?".

All in-person events open to members and visitors are now cancelled/postponed through May 28, 2020, in keeping with federal/state/local orders and guidance. PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE OFTEN as events are rescheduled or converted to virtual formats, and as educational webinar programs are added.

May 14, 2020
Virtual Networking
8:00 – 9:00am
Fitness Together Northshore
Business Info:
FitnessTogether.com/northshore
Register: farragutchamber.com > Events > Link on May 14

May 15, 2020
Mini #Reopening Ribbon Cuttings
12:30 – 4:30pm
Call (865) 675-7057 or email Julie@farragutchamber.com to schedule & celebrate your business reopening after total or partial COVID19 closure

May 20, 2020
Webinar –
"Back to Business: The NOT-So-Basics"
9:00 – 10:00am
Register: farragutchamber.com > Events > Link on May 20

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