

DIXON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
APRIL 12, 2012
ANNUAL BANQUET MINUTES
SPEAKING NOTES

Chamber of Commerce Banquet and Awards presentationApril 12, 2012

Good evening and thank you for being here tonight. I realize that, with the way our lives are today, you could have been at any of several places instead of here. So, thank you for spending your evening with us.

I am Tommy Nichols and I am the current President of the Dixon Chamber of Commerce. And I can tell you, it's been an extremely busy time, these past few months, for us. We normally meet once a month but we've had some special meetings to get everything going that we want to do. It's an exciting time for our community and we want to do whatever we can to get Dixon out into the limelight, as often as possible, in a positive way.

I want to say it has been a real pleasure to work on behalf of this community and I've had the great opportunity to work with many good people...that includes the officers and board members of the Chamber as well as many of you who have businesses in...or around...our city. So, if you are interested in joining, please sign up, pay the dues (don't worry.....they are not very much) and join us whenever you can. We have our regular meeting once a month at the Dixon Caring Center. You don't have to come every single month. But we need help in getting some programs going that we have plans for. It's just too much for a small group of people.

Tonight, with this dinner, we are saying "thank you" to all of you for what you do that makes the community of Dixon look good. We need positive role models for our young people to look up to. And that, my friends, is you.

I would like to encourage anyone here tonight...whether you own a business or not...to join our chamber of Commerce. You Do NOT have to own a business to be in the Chamber. This is why our name is the Dixon AREA Chamber of Commerce. It's open to ALL those who wish to be a part of helping our city and its businesses.

I. Tommy: Introduce prayer (perhaps Tom Cromwell)

AFTER DINNER: First of all, are you enjoying your meal tonight? Let's give a round of applause to our caterers, Mike and Holly Shaunasy.....they have just purchased and reopened the Full Belly Deli in town.

II. Introduce all current officers and ask them to stand:

Other officers:

VP: Roger Graves Sec: Jennifer Elson Treasurer: Dixie Rollins

Board members:

Lisa Campbell, Mark Parker, Karen Reese, Kay Withers, Faye, Renee Rickerson, Rhonda Maddox, Phyllis Graves, Bill Johnson, Beryl Baker, ?????Charollette Thompson?????? Anyone else?

New officers: (Their terms will be from May 1 to April 30, 2013.)

President: Brenda Belle VP: Tommy Nichols Sec: Jennifer Elson Treasurer: Dixie Rollins

Board members: Lisa Campbell, Roger Graves, Mark Parker and Renee Rickerson. Phyllis Graves is our alternate.

AWARDS:

Tonight we are honored to be presenting the Dixon Chamber's annual awards for citizens in our community. Awards will include plaques and recognition for those selected as Citizen of the Year, Entertainer of the Year, Educator of the Year, Organization of the Year, Volunteer of the Year and Business of the Year.

To give you an idea of how these awards are chosen, Voting is done by ballots turned in by citizens of the Dixon area. People could clip a ballot from the Dixon Pilot newspaper or any of several businesses in town. They had the option of voting for whomever they believed best fit each of the categories. Their votes were then sent to the Chamber offices....and that was done by US Mail or email. The Dixon Pilot newspaper office was also kind enough to accept ballots from anyone that chose to drop them off there.

WE NEED PICTURES!!!!

Entertainer award -Jayce Hurst
Organization - A + program (Christie Russell)

Business – Dixon Caring Center

Volunteer - Rhonda Mattox

Citizen - Doug Dake

Educator – Coach Michael Phillips

Honorary memberships to the Dixon Area Chamber of Commerce:

We also want to give a couple of honorary memberships out to some deserving folks tonight.

Those go to the Dixon Caring Center for allowing us to intrude and have office space and a place to hold our meetings. We are truly in their debt for allowing us to use their building.....it's so nice to be able to have our own office and a place to meet on a regular basis without having to get a key! Thank you!!

And the other goes to the Dixon Lions Club for partnering with us for what we hope to be the Annual Dixon Nighttime Christmas Parade. They were a tremendous help in that area. And we thank them!

GUEST SPEAKER: Introduce Beth Wiles, the director of the Pulaski County Tourism Board. Beth is a tremendous worker for the county. She goes everywhere and just such a pleasant person to be around. Just talking to her, she makes people WANT to come to Pulaski County. She does an outstanding job of representing all the communities of the county. Beth has worked with the Dixon Chamber for a number of years now and is always upbeat and positive when talking to her. For my part, and also in speaking for the Chamber, it's a pleasure to work with such a person.

We are bringing back a tradition that we started some time ago but we've kinda gotten away from lately and that is the ribbon cutting ceremonies to welcome our new businesses. We have some new businesses that are open or preparing to open.

POSSIBLE RIBBON CUTTINGS

Oh Baby

The new Drive In Restaurant (Brian Williams)

Java Zone

The auto shop at the Bottom of the hill on 28 going south, just below Gascoage Electric and across the street from the Church of Christ.

Shaunasee's Deli (Mike and Holly)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our plans for the upcoming year include several events. If you read in the Dixon Pilot you saw our list.

First, we will be having a "Riddle Me "D" Business Open House for Saturday, April. Brenda, will you tell the folks a little about that?

Then, we are looking at having a barbeque on May 18 as a fundraiser for the Chamber

A combination City Wide Yard Sale/Picnic in the Park/Movie in the Park set for June 16

a Shooting Match on October 27

Halloween events in the downtown area October 31

the Miss Merry Christmas Pageant on November 10

and the Christmas in the Park & Parade on December 1. We had it last December and it was really a great success. I know there are others who helped get it organized. But I want to publicly thank Mark Parker. He mentioned it to me back in December of 2010 and I said.....sure. Inside I was thinking "it'll never work." But he brought it up again this year and Renee jumped on board with it and said, in her quiet way, "yes, yes!!! That'll be fun! I'll help!!" So we tried it.....and it DID

work. We received a lot of very positive feedback about it. So it'll be exciting to see what we can do this year.

And of course we'll be having our biggest event....the annual Dixon Cow Days Fall Festival....on Friday and Saturday, September Of course, the Chamber's big event of the year will be the annual Dixon Cow Days Fall Festival September 14-15. After a lot of discussion, the members attending a meeting on April 5 decided on a theme for the 2012 Cow Days.

And that theme will be....."**Nacho your average Cow Days; Taco bout fiesta.**"

We hope to have some different things this year. We discussed a chili cook-off, a hot pepper eating contest, and some other things too. We are looking to changing things up a bit. We're talking about possibly having a street dance on Friday night of Cow Days too.

So we've got a lot of plans for the rest of 2012 and we'd like to have as many of you helping us and working with us as possible. Please fill out the form to join the Chamber....your membership will run from May 1 until the end of April next year.

Now, I've rambled on long enough. I again want to say thank you to each and every one of you for what you do and what you stand for....and for being here tonight. If anyone has any questions, feel free to stay and we'll answer them for you.

Be careful going home.....Good night!