

**Tahlequah Area Chamber Board of Directors  
President's Report presented by Dr. Steve Turner  
December 16, 2014**

The 2014 Christmas Parade was great. One hour of floats with amazing lights and happy people made for a wonderful evening. Mindy Barnard, the Parade Committee, along with the Community Development Committee worked very hard to create a memorable evening in Tahlequah. I really appreciate everyone involved in making the parade a huge success. Once again, we need to offer ***special thanks to Gary Chapman and the Bank of Cherokee County for their significant support.*** Additionally we appreciate the almost 70 entries.

The Chamber Director Screening Committee has scheduled the initial interviews of two applicants for later this week and we are talking with a third applicant. To date we have received a total of seven applicants: 5 in-state and 2 out-of-state. After the initial interviews have been completed, we will determine which of the applicants should move forward for a second interview. The Board will be included in the second interview. There is no timeline for when the screening and hiring process will conclude. We will take the time necessary to hire the most qualified candidate we can afford.

I do not have any update on the ongoing criminal investigation. Should we receive an update from the State Auditor and Inspector or the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation that requires action, I will let the Board know.

Today the Board of Directors approved a proposal to print the bi-annual Chamber Directory. Lawton Publishing, the company that printed the publication in 2012, was selected. We appreciate the patience of all Chamber members and sponsors who purchased ads. We hope to have the Directory ready for distribution in the next 4 – 6 weeks.

As we come to the mid-point of this fiscal year, I want to thank each of you for volunteering your time to strengthen the Tahlequah Area Chamber of Commerce. Let's continue our efforts in the new year.

Lastly, let me remind everyone to shop local first. Purchases made in Tahlequah support our friends and neighbors and provide sales tax revenue to support city services.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!