

Tahlequah Area Chamber Board of Directors
President's Report Presented by Dr. Steve Turner
November 25, 2014

Today's meeting agenda includes items that have taken countless volunteer hours. I want to thank each of the Vice Presidents for their engaged leadership and hard work. We need to express our appreciation to Angela Tinsley and the Community Development Committee and Mindy Barnard for creating and hosting a very successful "Taste of Tahlequah." This event was well attended and supported by local merchants, restaurant owners, table sponsors, and individual ticket purchasers.

Today the Organizational Development Committee led by Jodeen Worth will present much needed bylaw changes. These changes will provide for additional internal controls, align the bylaws with Robert's Rules of Order, and create a committee structure that should serve the Chamber for years to come. Special thanks goes to the committee and the volunteers who have worked tirelessly to move us forward. Thank you Jodeen and Anna Knight for getting us to this point.

We need to recognize Jason Wright and the Economic Development Committee for increasing communication and collaboration with the Tahlequah Industrial Development Authority. Our ability to advance our community is vested in the strength of the relationships between the Chamber, the Industrial Authority, Tahlequah Main Street, and the Tourism and Conventions Bureau.

Dana Boren Boer, Chair of the Tourism and Convention Bureau, along with Ed Fite, Vice President for Tourism, will present a hiring recommendation today that is a culmination of a lengthy search process and due diligence. We look forward to advancing the mission of the Chamber and Tourism and Conventions Bureau.

On Monday, November 24, 2014, the Chamber Director Screening Committee met to review applications. We are in the process of gathering additional information from three applicants. Once we receive the information a decision will be made as to how many interviews should be conducted.

The Executive Committee met on Monday, November 24, 2014, with Alan Chapman, the CPA who is completing the Balance Sheet Only audit. The audit is substantially complete but Mr. Chapman needs to receive the investigative report from the State Auditor and Inspector to insure that notes to management actually reflect the Chambers financial position as of June 30, 2014, and clearly identifies the remaining liability for collected but unremitted state and federal payroll taxes. I want to point out that one element of the criminal investigation is for the IRS and the Oklahoma Tax Commission to determine where the liability for unpaid taxes rests. I will be meeting with the Tahlequah City Council on December 1, to provide this update.

On Thursday, November 20, I visited by phone with an investigator from the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation to get an update on when the investigative report from the State Auditor would be released. Although they were hopeful that the report would be completed about three weeks ago, the work continues. I know we are all eager to get this first official report but we must remember the complex nature of a criminal investigation that spans several years. I have every confidence that the law

enforcement community is doing everything that can and should be done to complete the criminal investigation phase.

On a very positive note, I am happy to report that as of Friday, November 21, all past due bills and outstanding loans that existed as of July 1, 2014, are now paid in full. Our treasurer, Stephen Hires has done an amazing job to provide fiscal responsibility to this body. Thank you Stephen.

As the Holiday Season is upon us I want to remind you of some events:

Tuesday, December 2, 6:00 PM, Lights on at Seminary Hall

Saturday, December 6, 5:30 PM, Cherokee Nation Lighting Ceremony at the Cherokee Capital Square

Saturday, December 6, 6:00 PM, Christmas Parade coordinated by the Chamber and Parade Committee

In conclusion, I want to thank you for your individual and collective hard work to strengthen the Tahlequah Area Chamber of Commerce. The past five months have been difficult but we are in a better place today. Additionally, we should all be thankful for the faithful support of the valued members of the Tahlequah Area Chamber of Commerce.