

President's Report to Tahlequah Area Chamber Of Commerce
Board of Directors
Tuesday, October 28, 2014
Dr. Steve Turner

I am pleased to report today that there is a lot of activity thanks to the Vice Presidents and their committees. Today you will hear an update on the revised Chamber Bylaws by Jodeen Worth, VP of Organizational Development. The revision will be posted very soon on the Chamber web page for all members to review and comment. I also want to point out that great effort has been made to insure the Bylaws align with Robert's Rules of Order.

The Convention and Visitors Bureau (Formerly the Tourism Advisory Council) has completed some interviews and I anticipate a recommendation to hire the next Convention and Visitors Bureau Director within a couple of weeks.

The Chamber Executive Director Search Committee met on Monday, October 27 to discuss the job description. The full job description will be modified based the position announcement published in a variety of media outlets and will include additional language about business and retail development, strategic planning, creating and communicating a vision, and will have provisions to assist with industrial development in support of the Tahlequah Industrial Development Authority. I appreciate the hard work of the Screening Committee. We plan to begin the review of applicants after November 1st.

The Chamber Director Position Announcement was published in the Tahlequah Daily Press, the Tulsa World and their job posting web site, the Oklahoman's web site, OKJOBSMATCH.com, and distributed by the Oklahoma State Chamber of Commerce via a portal managed by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce.

The new Chamber website is now live and I encourage each of you to go to tahlequahchamber.com and scroll through the site. We need to thank Mindy Barnard for taking on this project. Through her efforts we are now able to manage the site internally and make changes in real time.

A Taste of Tahlequah is Tuesday, November 18 from 6-9 pm at the University Center Ballroom. The event showcases area restaurants and caterers who provide ticket holders with samplings of their cuisine. A silent auction is also being held in conjunction with the event. Tickets are \$30 per person and we have a limited amount available. Corporate tables are \$400 and we currently have sold 19 tables of 8. Tickets are available at the

Chamber Office. Angela Tinsley, VP of Community Development will provide additional information later in the agenda.

Leadership Tahlequah Class 18 met Thursday, October 16 for History Day (20 members) and joined former class members at the Leadership Reunion Picnic for lunch.

J.D. Carey, special audit advisor to the Executive Committee, expects the Balance Sheet Only Audit of the Chamber to be available to review at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors on November 25th. I am prepared to present it to the Tahlequah City Council on December 1.

Criminal Investigation Update: Last week I was contacted the OSBI and informed that the investigative report from the State Auditor and Inspector should be made available to the Board of Directors any day now. Please be prepared for an emergency meeting to go over the report with our legal counsel, Angela Jones, and J.D. Carey, audit advisor to the Executive Committee. The State Auditor will determine what information will be made available to the public to avoid compromising the ongoing criminal investigation. Please understand that this report is only one step in the complex investigation. As I have stated before, the investigators from the OSBI and the State Auditor and Inspector will determine two numbers: (1) How much money was taken in total, and (2) the unpaid liability for collected but unremitted payroll taxes to the IRS and the state of Oklahoma.

Here are some other Chamber and Chamber supported events in the days ahead.

The Veterans Day Parade is Tuesday, November 11 at 11 am. The Parade Committee members assist the Veterans Council with line up for the parade.

Christmas Parade is Saturday, December 6 at 6 pm and forms are available at the Chamber Office. The entry fee is \$15.

In conclusion, I want to thank the Board of Directors and the entire Chamber membership for continuing the effort to advance our mission as we promote all things good in Tahlequah and the surrounding area.