

March 2015

BELHAVEN *Chamber News*

BELHAVEN Community CHAMBER of Commerce

Promoting Belhaven and all of Northeastern Beaufort County, including Bath, Pantego, and Ponzer

belhaveninfo@gotricounty.com

Board of Directors Officers

Dianne Bowen,
President

Jerry Stubberfield,
Vice President

Martha White,
Secretary/Treasurer

Board Members

Ed Drew

Karen Fisher

Butch Harris

Lindsay Hubers

Stan Lamkin

Ricky Radcliffe

Executive Director

Diana Lambeth

Wine, Dine and Design

The "Wine, Dine & Design" event on Saturday March 21, 2015, starting at 11 a.m. will be a fun-filled day for women of all ages. The day will begin with a social hour and table viewing, followed by a delicious luncheon, wonderful entertainment and a silent auction.

Scheduled entertainment includes keynote speaker Debra Ryals, who is President of the Board of Directors of Ruth's House. Mrs. Ryals is a wonderful storyteller, who finds humor in most every day situations. She will also offer insight about domestic violence, and how it effects 1 of every 4 women.

A Spring Fashion Show will be hosted by Nicole O'Neal. It will be exciting for all ladies in attendance as we watch the new Spring line of clothing on the runway at the Wilkinson Center.

"Buy" a table and surround it with your invited guests. Enjoy the afternoon full of wonderful entertainment, great fellowship, and a delicious meal. Hostesses may decorate their table in any theme they choose.

Sponsorships are available for this new and exciting event at the Wilkinson Center.

Tables are limited - please book yours today.

For more information, please call Deb Johnson 943-6207, Sandra Andrews 964-3370 or Ellen Allen 943-7463.

Belhaven Chamber of Commerce 2015 Awards Banquet

Wilkinson Center
Belhaven, NC

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Social Hour: 6:00 p.m.

Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

Please RSVP no later than March 9th

Call: 252 943 3770 or

Email: belhaveninfo@gotricounty.com

Ticket price \$30 per person

Don't forget to send in your nominations for awards

IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Wine, Dine & Design | 1 |
| Annual Banquet Invitation | 1 |
| Introducing Your Directors..... | 2 |
| Calendar of Events | 2 |
| Belhaven Buccaneer Festival | 2 |
| Goose Creek March Events..... | 2 |
| Proposed By-laws changes..... | 3 |

Getting to Know Your Chamber Directors

Dianne Bowen

Dianne L. Bowen, was most recently elected to the Chamber in 2013, and began serving as President in 2014. Her term expires in 2016. She was previously on the Board from 1989 to 1991, serving as President from 1990 to 1991.

Dianne and her husband, Neil, work together in their business, Pantego Plantation Gourmet Foods, a wholesale company selling flour products, which was spawned from their farm-raised catfish operation. Their signature product is their award winning Plantation Breader used on all fish, shellfish, chicken, pork, beef, vegetables, breads and snacks.

Dianne was raised on her family's farm in the suburbs of Pantego. Neil is a California native from a ranching family. They moved to Pantego from Oregon thirty years ago to join the family business, Swindell Grain Company and Laughing-house Farms. They have one daughter, Kathryn Margarette Bowen, who currently resides in Chicago but is looking forward to relocating to NC and its milder climate.

Calendar of Events

March

- 2 Nominations due for Awards
- 9 RSVP if attending Awards Banquet
- 19 Chamber Board of Directors Meeting, 6:30-8:30
- 21 "Wine, Dine and Design," Wilkinson Center
- 26 Chamber Annual Awards Banquet

May

- 15-17 Belhaven Buccaneer Festival and Pirates on the Pungo Regatta (see next month's newsletter for more details.)

July

- 4 Independence Day parade, all-day festivities, and fireworks

September

- 19 87th Anniversary Celebration of the Intracoastal Waterway

Chamber Plans to Revise By-laws

The Chamber Directors appointed a By-Laws Committee at its October meeting. Over the past few months they have reviewed by-laws from similar Chambers of Commerce and have incorporated changes suggested by various Board members. They have produced several drafts with the final draft discussed at the Chamber's January retreat. They believe they now have a set of proposed by-laws that better meet the needs of our Chamber and will better allow them to serve the community in the future. A copy of the proposed By-Laws is included in the newsletter. Please note that language in "red" indicates those portions that are to be removed and language in "blue" represents the proposed additions. The By-Laws may be amended by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of those present at any regular or special meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, provided that at least a ten day prior notification has been given. You are encouraged to attend and participate.



The Pirates are planning to invade Downtown Belhaven on May 16th. Come join the fun and be a Pirate for the day!

For more information call 252-943-3770

www.PiratesOnPungo.org

Goose Creek State Park

Schedule of Events for March

Saturday, March 7 2:00 p.m. Welcome to Goose Creek

This presentation will introduce all of the wonderful things you can find at the park from recreational opportunities to our wonderful natural communities. This is great for first-time visitors or anyone wanting to get to know the park. Meet at the visitor center.

Sunday, March 8 2:00 p.m. Aquatic Life of the Pamlico

Learn about the habitat that the Pamlico River provides and the many different animals that thrive in our area of the Pamlico and in Goose Creek itself. Meet at the visitor center.

Sunday, March 15 2:00 p.m. Black Bears

Do you think there are more black bears located in the mountains of North Carolina or along the coast of North Carolina? Are all black bears actually black? Do we have grizzly bears or brown bears? Meet at the park visitor center to learn some cool facts and debunk a lot of myths about our native black bears. There will be mounts on display for great photo opportunities.

Tuesday, March 17 10:00 a.m. Discovery Room

Bring the family out to see mounts of all different kinds of animals that live in our area. We'll learn about reptiles, amphibians, mammals and birds, as well as their preferred habitats. Meet at the visitor center.

Saturday, March 28 2:00 p.m. Ticks, Chiggers and Mosquitoes

Learn about everyone's least favorite critters, how to avoid them, get rid of them, and what diseases they can potentially carry. Meet at the visitor center.

BELHAVEN COMMUNITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INCORPORATED

“Promoting Belhaven, Pantego, Bath and all of Northeastern Beaufort County”

P.O. Box 147, Belhaven, North Carolina 27810

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I – NAME AND OBJECT

SECTION 1. The name of this organization shall be the BELHAVEN COMMUNITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

SECTION 2. The Belhaven Community Chamber of Commerce is organized for the purpose of advancing the commercial, industrial, and civic interests of Belhaven and its trade center.

SECTION 3. The Chamber shall be nonpartisan, non-sectional, nonsectarian, and shall take no part in, or lend support to, the election or appointment of any candidate for public office.

Section 1. Name

This organization is incorporated under the state laws of North Carolina and shall be known as the Belhaven Community Chamber of Commerce, Inc. hereafter referred to as the Chamber.

Section 2. Object

The Chamber is organized for the purpose of advancing the economic, industrial, professional, cultural and civic welfare of the Belhaven Community and its surrounding area.

To encourage the growth of existing industries and businesses while giving all proper assistance to any new firms or individuals seeking to locate in the Belhaven area.

To support all those activities believed to be beneficial to the community and area; to oppose those which might be detrimental, and in general, to promote the welfare of all area citizens, following always those policies intended to accomplish the greatest good for the greatest number.

Section 3 Limitations of Methods

The Chamber shall be nonprofit, nonpartisan, nonsectarian and nonpolitical

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP & DUES

SECTION 1. Any reputable person, association, corporation, partnership, or estate shall be eligible for membership in the Belhaven Community Chamber of Commerce.

SECTION 2. Membership shall be divided into the following classes: Individual, non-profit, small business (less than 10 employees), and large business (10 or more employees). The fees for each membership class shall be set each year by the Board of Directors. Membership dues shall be pro-rated monthly. Election to membership shall require the affirmative vote of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 3. Any person, firm, association, or corporation eligible for membership may acquire more than one membership by undertaking to pay the annual dues of each such membership, and may designate an individual to represent each such membership, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 4. Any person, firm, association or corporation holding more than one membership shall be entitled to cast only one vote; except that individuals who have been designated to represent said additional memberships shall vote as members.

SECTION 5. Any person, firm, association or corporation holding one or more memberships shall have the right at any time to change any or all of its representatives upon written notice to the Chamber.

Note: Text in red is to be deleted Text in blue is to be added

SECTION 6. Distinction in public affairs shall confer eligibility to honorary membership. Honorary membership shall include all the privileges of active membership, except that of holding office, with exemption from the payment of dues. Dues for all businesses will be pro-rated on a monthly basis. Election to honorary membership shall require the affirmative vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 1. Eligibility

Any business, firm, individual, association, corporation, partnership or estate having an interest in the above objective shall be eligible to apply for membership.

Section 2. Election

Application for membership shall be in writing on the forms specified. Applications will be submitted to the Membership Committee for their recommendations and to the Board of Directors for their final approval. Election to membership shall require the affirmative vote of the Board of Directors. Newly elected members will be notified by mail within 10 business days following their approval by the Board of Directors. Membership will begin upon payment of the prescribed membership dues.

Section 3. Dues

Membership shall be divided into the following classes: Individual, small business & non-profit (less than 10 employees) and large businesses & non-profit (10 or more employees). Membership dues shall be prescribed by the Board of Directors and payable annually in advance. Dues for any new member joining after the beginning of a fiscal year shall be paid on a pro-rated basis.

Section 4. Termination

- (a) Any member may resign from the Chamber upon written request to the Board of Directors.
- (b) Any member shall be expelled by the Board of Directors by a two-thirds vote for nonpayment of dues after ninety (90) days from the due date unless otherwise extended, for good cause.
- (c) Any member may be expelled by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors at a regularly scheduled meeting thereof for conduct unbecoming a member or prejudicial to the aims or repute of the Chamber after notice and opportunity for a hearing are afforded the member complained against.

Section 5. Exercise of Privileges

Any firm, association, corporation, partnership or estate holding membership may nominate individuals whom the holder desires to exercise the privileges of membership covered by its subscription subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

Section 6. Any firm, association, corporation, partnership or estate holding membership may acquire more than one membership by undertaking to pay the annual dues of each such membership, and may designate an individual to represent each such membership, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 7. Any firm, association, corporation, partnership or estate holding membership holding more than one membership shall be entitled to cast only one vote; except that individuals who have been designated to represent said additional memberships shall vote as members.

Section 8. Any firm, association, corporation, partnership or estate holding membership shall have the right at any time to change any or all of its representatives upon written notice to the Board of Directors.

Section 9. Voting Restriction of Members

Every member of the Chamber in good standing is entitled to one vote in any election, referendum, or membership meeting. No voting by proxy shall be permitted. Ballots will be addressed to the business address of members.

Section 10. Orientation

Annually, every member of the Board of Directors, Committee personnel and Staff shall participate in an Orientation Program outlining their respective duties prior to assuming their duties. Every effort will be made to orient new members regarding the aims, objectives and work program of the Chamber. This training will be the responsibility of the Vice President, or their designee.

Section 11. Honorary Membership.

The Chamber may confer an honorary membership to an individual for distinguished service. Honorary membership shall include all the privileges of active membership, except that of holding office, with exemption for the payment of dues for a period of one year. Election to honorary membership shall require the affirmative vote of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE III- MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Chamber shall be held on call of the Board of Directors in the first quarter of the calendar year at a time and place determined by the Board of Directors and may be conducted at the Annual Membership Banquet. Notice of at least ten days shall be provided before said meeting.

Section 2. Additional Meetings

a) General Meetings of the Chamber may be called by the President at any time or upon petition in writing of any twenty-five members in good standing. Notice of special meetings shall be give at least ten days prior to such meetings.

b) Board meetings may be called by the President or upon written application of three members of the Board. Notice (including the purpose of the meeting) shall be given to each director at least one day prior to said meeting.

c) Committee Meetings may be called at any time by the President, or Committee Chair.

Section 3. Quorums

a) At any duly called General Meeting of the Chamber, twenty-five members shall constitute a quorum.

b) A majority of directors shall constitute a quorum of the Board of Directors.

c) At Committee Meetings, a majority, either in attendance or connected electronically, shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE III IV- BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 1. The government of the Chamber of Commerce and the direction of its work shall be vested in a Board of Directors consisting of twelve (12) seven 7 members

a) one-third of whom shall be elected annually for a term of three years, as hereinafter provided Beginning with the 2015 elections three Directors will be elected; in 2016 two Directors will be elected, and in 2017 two Directors will be elected.

b) With the exception of the immediate past President, nNo member of the Board of Directors who has completed a three year term shall be eligible for reelection until after the lapse of one year after the completion of his/her term.

c) The Directors shall have power to fill all vacancies on the Board.

d) They may adopt rules for conducting the business of the Chamber.

e) They shall meet no less frequently than once a month, at such time and place as will be determined by them.

f) Any Director who is absent from three (3) consecutive monthly meetings shall be dismissed from the Board of Directors; except for illness, family emergency or upon excused absence requested in writing or person, approved by the Board at a meeting prior to, at the time of or the next one after the absence.

g) The immediate past President can serve as a Director for one additional year, should their presidency occur in the third year of their term.

SECTION 2. The Board of Directors shall be elected by ballot received in the November newsletter and returned to the Chamber office by December 1.

SECTION 3. A nominating committee of not less than three members shall be appointed by the President by October 1st of each year, whose duty shall be to nominate from the membership of the Chamber a slate of as many candidates as there are vacancies on the Board to be filled. Other nominations can also be made by members other than the slate being presented by the nominating committee by filing the name of the nominee with the Chamber's Executive Director secretary, by October 15th.

SECTION 4. All voting shall be by ballot contained in the November newsletter. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes for the nominated office shall be declared elected to that respective office. No votes received by the Chamber after December 1 shall be counted.

ARTICLE IV Y– OFFICERS

SECTION 1. At the next scheduled meeting after the annual election, the Directors shall elect officers for the ensuing year; a president, a vice-president, and a secretary/treasurer. The officers shall be elected from the members of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Chamber and of the Board of Directors, and perform all duties incident to office. He The President shall be authorized to sign checks.

SECTION 3. The Vice-President shall act in the absence of the President, including being authorized to sign checks. In the absence of both President and the Vice-President, a member of the Board of Directors shall be chosen to act temporarily.

SECTION 4. The Secretary-Treasurer office shall be consolidated. The Secretary-Treasurer shall conduct the official correspondence; preserve all books, documents, and communications; keep books of account, and maintain an accurate record of the proceedings of the Chamber and of the Board of Directors meetings.

SECTION 5. 4The Secretary-Treasurer shall receive and disburse the funds of the Chamber and shall be authorized to sign checks. The Treasurer may delegate the responsibility of receiving and disbursing funds to the Executive Director. No disbursements shall be made unless they have been authorized and ordered by the Board of Directors. All disbursements shall be made by checks, which shall be signed by the executive director and at least one officer. At frequent intervals, the Secretary-Treasurer shall make reports to the Board of Directors, which may, at its discretion, require him to give acceptable bond, in such sum as the Board may determine, for the faithful performance of his duties. The Board of Directors have an annual decision to give the Secretary-Treasurer the authority to disburse checks for incidentals pertaining to the operating and maintaining of a Chamber office. Annually the Board of Directors shall approve the accounts to which funds may be deposited and shall authorize the Treasurer to disburse checks for incidentals pertaining to the operating and maintaining of a Chamber office.

ARTICLE V – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SECTION 1. The Board of Directors shall be authorized to employ an Executive Director who shall conduct the day to day operations of the Chamber.

- a) The Executive Director shall be the chief administrative and executive officer and shall be charged with the general supervision and management of the office and business affairs of the organization.
- b) The Executive Director shall perform the duties of the secretary, shall conduct the correspondences, preserve the records, documents, and communication, and maintain an accurate record of the proceedings of the Chamber and the Board of Directors Meeting.
- c) The Executive Director shall engage, discharge and have supervision over all employees including fixing their duties and compensation in accordance with policies and practices approved by the Board of Directors.
- d) Executive Director shall prepare and maintain a statement of all Chamber policies as determined by the Board of Directors, and shall recommend a plan whereby such policies may be re-examined, re-affirmed or rescinded by the Board of Directors.
- e) The Executive Director shall direct, assist and coordinate the work of the membership committee in increasing and expanding the membership support for the Chamber
- f) The Executive Director working with the Treasurer shall maintain accurate financial records and statements for Chamber accounts.
- g) The Executive Director shall periodically visit Chamber members and non-Chamber members to encourage membership
- h) The Executive Director shall serve as the day-to-day liaison with small businesses and community organizations in the Belhaven community and surrounding areas
- h) The Executive Director shall serve as the day-to-day liaison with small businesses and community organizations

in the Belhaven community and surrounding areas

i) The Executive Director shall prepare the Chamber newsletters and with the concurrence of the President shall oversee its distribution

j) The Executive Director shall provide information necessary to maintain the Chamber's website

k) The Executive Director shall inform all board members of upcoming town council meetings, ribbon cuttings, open houses, special events and public hearings. The Executive Director should attend these meeting as often as possible and encourage board members to attend also

l) The Executive Director shall, with the concurrence of the President, attend conferences, symposiums and seminars and provide feedback to the board as appropriate

m) The Executive Director shall participate in all Chamber fund raising activities.

SECTION 2. The Executive Director's compensation and benefits shall be set annually by the Board.

SECTION 3. The Board shall determine the Executive Director's duties and supervise their performance.

SECTION 4. The Executive Director shall serve at the pleasure of the Board.

ARTICLE VI – COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. The Board of Directors shall authorize and define the powers and duties of all committees.

SECTION 2. The President shall appoint all committees, subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors

ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS moved to Article III

SECTION 1. The Board of Directors may provide for holding membership meetings whenever it may be considered necessary or desirable.

SECTION 2. The Board of Directors shall call a membership meeting upon petition signed by not less than ten percent of the members.

SECTION 3. The annual meeting of the Chamber shall be held as soon as practicable after the close of the fiscal year, at a time and place to be determined by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 4. The attending Directors at a regularly scheduled meeting can pass and carry on any particular issue, without a quorum.

ARTICLE VIII – FISCAL YEAR Finances

SECTION 1. The fiscal year shall be from July 1 to June 30.

Section 2 Funds

All money paid to the Chamber shall be placed in the appropriate account(s) as defined by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Disbursements

No obligation or expense shall be incurred and no money shall be appropriated without prior approval of the Board of Directors. Upon approval of the budget, the Executive Director is authorized to make disbursements on accounts and expenses provided for in the budget without additional approval of the Board of Directors. Disbursements shall be made by check. Checks shall normally be signed by two persons of the following: The Executive Director and the Treasurer or other designated Board Member. In the absence of the Executive Director, then any two pre-designated officers may sign.

Section 4. Annual Audit

The accounts of the Chamber shall be audited by a Public Accountant or duly appointed person or firm annually, or as soon as practical, after the close of the fiscal year. The audit shall at all times be available to members of the organization within the office of the Chamber.

Section 5. Bonding

All employees of the Chamber shall be covered by an adequate Fidelity Bond.

ARTICLE IX – PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Section 1. All questions of parliamentary procedure shall be determined according to the latest edition of Robert's "Rules of Order".

Section 2. Seal

The Chamber may use a seal of such design as may be adopted by the Board of Directors

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. These By-Laws may be amended by two-thirds of those present at any regular or special meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, provided notice of the proposed change shall have been given all members not less than ten days prior to such meeting.

These by-laws may be amended or altered by a three-quarters vote of the Board of Directors or by a two thirds vote of members present at any regular or special meeting of the Chamber called for that purpose, provided at least ten (10) day prior notice has been given to the entire membership.

ARTICLE XI – COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS

No officer shall receive compensation for any service rendered to this corporation in his/her official capacity with the exception of the Chamber's **Secretary-Treasurer** Executive Director whose compensation, if any, shall be fixed by the Board of Directors.