

# The Bel Aire

# Chamber Review

## Facts & Figures

- **Mission:** Enrich the lives of Bel Aire citizens and businesses.
- **Goals:** Business retention & expansion, recruitment of new members, development of an online business database, sponsorship of training and leadership events.
- **Size:** Approximately 35 active members
- **Benefits:** Published in Business Directory, access to government officials, training seminars, sponsorship opportunities.

## Membership

**Interested in joining? Plan on attending the first meeting of the year on January 6th. All meetings take place at 12pm in City Hall. If you have additional questions about the meeting contact Matt Stiles by phone at (316) 744-2451 or by email at [mstiles@belaireks.gov](mailto:mstiles@belaireks.gov)**

## Speakers Provide Insight to Chamber Members

The Bel Aire Area Chamber completed a year of securing several insightful speakers, to achieve their goal of providing relevant information and resources to the Bel Aire business community.

Several elected officials including Sedgwick County Commissioner Dave Unruh and Kansas State Representative Carolyn McGinn spoke about local, state and federal issues that affected our community and businesses. The Chamber received valuable information about loans and grants for job training, adding new jobs, low interest and forgivable loans, new construction tax incentives as well as federal stimulus monies available for businesses from the South Central Economic Development District, Greater Wichita Economic Development Coalition and the Kansas Department of

Commerce. Attorney Kevin Cowan from Gilmore and Bell law firm talked about public financing opportunities available to businesses. Wichita State University Center for Economic Development and the Center for



Entrepreneurship shared insights from an academic perspective of the business climate in Wichita and how academia can assist with local businesses.

Members garnered a great deal of insight, contacts and information from these speakers to assist in their business operations. 2010 will continue to hold a strong speaker schedule to enhance, educate and offer aid to our members in becoming more profitable and grow.



## First Year Accomplishments



As a first year organization, the Chamber started with a blank slate. However, the Bel Aire Area Chamber of Commerce made some sizeable accomplishments in its first year. Some of the major accomplishments include securing a 501(c)(6) exemption as well as a designation with the Secretary of the State. Throughout the year

members elected a board of directors and officers, adopted bylaws, set a dues schedule, and establish standard meeting times. Each of these accomplishments combined have set the foundation for a successful organization, and they will help the chamber reach goals for years to come.

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## Branding the Chamber



The Chamber decided to start an active campaign towards branding the organization.

Visibility and recognition are vital to the success of this strategy. Taking steps toward achieving this goal, the chamber sponsored the Bel Aire Days Fall Festival. Chamber members decided to hire a local consulting firm to create a new logo for the organization.

The top designs chosen by members are shown to the left, courtesy of Jacques Designs. The top three designs chosen by members are shown to the left, and the final version will be voted on in January. These combined efforts are a step in the right direction for the Chamber in achieving its goals

## Member Views

*"I joined the Chamber in an effort to get to know the business people in our community and to promote cooperation among them for a safer more prosperous community. The Chamber has benefited me and the police department through a closer community relationship between ourselves which means a closer working relationship. My favorite part of the meetings is the opportunity to network with community leaders. The speakers are always interesting and bring something to the table that the members can benefit from."*

*John R. Daily, Chief of Police  
Bel Aire Police Department*

*"I joined the Chamber to meet other business leaders in our community. My intention is to support their businesses above others. Ruth's HomeWorks is always interested in meeting new faces, and the Bel Aire Chamber of Commerce is a steady source. My favorite 'meeting' was actually a tour of the new arena several months ago. It was a privilege to see the arena during construction. Quite impressive."*

*Sarah Ruth Gilbert, President  
Ruth's HomeWorks Inc*

*"As one of the city's largest employers I think it is important for the Catholic Care Center to be represented and a participating member. Our expectation is that participation will facilitate communication between the city and our company regarding business initiatives both the city and we may be taking to foster a positive relationship between both entities and with other city businesses."*

*Thomas M. Church, President/CEO  
Catholic Care Center*



## Goals for Next Year



**Push yourself. That's what the Chamber wants to do next year. We hope to have even more accomplishments to**

**brag about next year, and in order to achieve them, we have set some goals:**

- **Increase sponsorship opportunities for the Chamber and its members, as part of an overall branding goal.**
- **Promote business and economic development within the City of Bel Aire by providing assistance and resources to current and prospective businesses.**
- **Become an active, integral part of the community.**
- **Increase membership and attendance**
- **Provide more educational opportunities and increase membership benefits.**

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## Speaker Schedule

Jan. 6	<b>MISTY BRUCKNER</b> <i>WSU Hugo Wall School</i>
Feb. 3	<b>JOHN ALLISON</b> <i>USD 259 Superintendent</i>
Mar. 3	<b>KEITH LAWING</b> <i>Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas</i>
Apr. 7	<b>MARK LARSON</b> <i>KWCH Meteorologist</i>
May 5	<b>KAREN PAGE</b> <i>Kansas World Trade Center</i>
Jun. 2	<b>DAVE UNRUH</b> <i>Sedgwick County Commissioner</i>

Jul. 7	<b>WENDY VEATCH</b> <i>WSU Center for Entrepreneurship</i>
Aug. 4	<b>CAROLYN MCGINN</b> <i>Kansas State Senator</i>
Sept. 1	<b>ERIC SEXTON</b> <i>WSU Athletic Director</i>
Oct. 6	<b>MELISSA WALKER</b> <i>WSU Hugo Wall School</i>
Nov. 3	<b>STEVE BRUNK</b> <i>Kansas House of Representatives</i>
Dec. 1	<b>KENT BEISNER</b> <i>Kansas Chamber of Commerce</i>

*\*Speakers subject to change without notice.*

## Membership Renewal

To renew your membership fill out the following form, detach and bring with payment to the first meeting of the year. If you can't make it, submit by mail or in person to Matt Stiles at 7651 E. Central Avenue; Bel Aire, KS 67226

### *Dues Schedule:*

0 - 4 Employees	\$25/yr
5 - 9 Employees	\$50/yr
10 - 20 Employees	\$75/yr
21 - 49 Employees	\$100/yr
50 - Up employee's	\$150/yr



## Bel Aire Area Chamber of Commerce Membership Form

Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of employees enrolled: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_