

2020 Annual Report - COVID Year

We thank you for your continued support during this unusual year – Jennifer Keller, 2020 Chair, Baker-Donelson

Governmental Relations – Chaired by Dr. McKenzie Highsmith

- Coordinated 1 legislative meeting for the membership
- Co-hosted the Regional Legislative breakfast with the Bristol and Kingsport Chambers and Regional Legislative Dinner with the Kingsport Chamber
- Coordinated a GO VOTE Campaign with A.O. Smith, Century21 Legacy, ETSU Gatton College of Pharmacy, and SunTrust Bank sponsoring
- Hosted candidate Meet and Greet:
 - o TN Senate Candidate Manny Sethi
 - o US Congressional Candidates Steve Darden, Diana Harshbarger, and Blair Walsingham
 - o TN House Candidates Rebecca Alexander and Tim Hicks
- Surveyed candidates, posting results on our website and distributing to the community:
 - o Candidates running for 1st Congressional District and TN House Districts 6 and 7
 - o Candidates running for JC Commission and JC School Board
- Coordinated 1st District Congressional Debate, livestreamed on WCYB.com, with Bristol, Greeneville, and Kingsport Chambers
- Coordinated JC City Commission Forum, livestreamed on WJHL.com
- Coordinated Congressman Roe Retirement Reception with Bristol and Kingsport Chambers
- Continued to monitor and advocate for legislation that impacts business with letters of support
- Participated in numerous webinars and conference calls to stay abreast of latest COVID news, resources, and opportunities
- Cancelled due to COVID: Annual State of the City-County-Town Luncheon

Membership Services – Chaired by Scott Ledford

- Coordinated Annual Membership Meeting, 2 Membership Breakfasts, and 1 Business After Hours
 - o During COVID: Coordinated 5 virtual Membership Meetings
- Added 42 new members during the pandemic
- Assisted with thirteen ribbon cuttings celebrating new business in our community
- Served as Business Ambassadors to reach out to area businesses during the pandemic
- Provided continual email and social media updates on COVID resources and grant opportunities
- Served on RegionAHEAD committee to secure financial support and distribute grants to small businesses throughout the Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia area
- Participated in Incredible Speed Networking event to promote Chamber services
- Coordinated Annual Golf Tournament
- Partnered on the Buy Different, Buy Early, Buy Local initiative to support shopping local during the holiday season with JC Press, News & Neighbor, The Business Journal, and WJHL
- Promoted events in our community and region through our social media and community calendar
- Cancelled due to COVID: ETSU Showcase, Milligan Showcase, Washington County Agricultural & Business Appreciation Dinner, and Taste of Johnson City

Workforce Education Industrial – Chaired by Tammy Gorzka

- Coordinated 2 Lunch & Learn events, 2 lunch-time seminars, and 2 Women's Power Hours
- Coordinated Youth Leadership Program with 31 high school students participating
- Partnered with Northeast State and ETSU on retention and recruitment programs
- Supported TN Promise, TN Scholar, TN Reconnect, TN Pathways, and TN Achieves
- Co-sponsored the Education 2 Employment virtual workshop
- Cancelled due to COVID: Leadership Program, CARE Youth Program, Multi-Generational Seminar, and Women's Summit

General Support and Involvement

- Introduced Model Member Program with 50 members voluntarily doubling their membership investment to support our programs and services
- Continued to play an active role in the Regionalism conversation
- Updated Chamber's logo
- Staff served on numerous committees: RegionAHEAD, Live Well Washington County, Diversity & Inclusion Alliance, Washington County Agricultural Partnership, Economic Vitality, and more
- Received unmodified opinion audits for both the Chamber and Foundation
- Reorganized Chamber staffing and hired new Director of Finance