



Chillicothe Ross Chamber of Commerce
Weekly Update
www.chillicotheohio.com

Volume 2, Issue 26

February 27, 2004

WHAT A NIGHT!



The crowd arrived early and stayed late Thursday evening to revel in the celebration of the chamber's Annual Dinner at Ohio University-Chillicothe's Shoemaker Center. From the "gratitude as an attitude" and much more from Ohio State University Football Coach Jim Tressel, to Bob Litter being named Entrepreneur of the Year to the Unioto Elementary Bell Choir kicking things off, there seemed to be an air of electricity surrounding the event. The sold-out and record crowd of 750 celebrated the coach's first speech in Chillicothe and he didn't disappoint. Talking about service to a cause and leadership qualities, the coach and his wife, Ellen, also stayed to make sure everyone who wanted one got an autograph. Tim and Patty Hartsock made the evening possible with their special invitations on behalf of the chamber and Patty followed with a heartfelt introduction, showing the coach that this crowd and many others in the community are the family of their son, Ben, who just finished his playing days as a Buckeye.

TOP ENTREPRENEUR: Bob Litter seemed genuinely surprised at being named the chamber's 18th Entrepreneur of the Year. Flanked by his family, he

humbly accepted the award from last year's winner, Charlie Stevens. He recognized his family as a big reason for the success of Litter Industries. The company includes the Classic Brands beer distribution center, Litter Propane and Honda, Harley, Suzuki, Buell of Chillicothe. Classic Brands covers 16 counties and in the past decade, two new warehouses have been built. Bob is a graduate of Chillicothe High School and the Ohio University School of Business. He is an active supporter of 4-H and for 10 years was on the Ohio University Development Board. He and his wife of 45 years, Linda, have one son and three daughters.

PRIDE AWARDS: Recipients of the Pride Awards for businesses that made major capital investments in 2003 were:

- Alan Davis built a brand new studio next to his home on Braewood Lane for his business, Etched in Our Memories.



- The YMCA of Ross County renovated both its upstairs and downstairs fitness and weight rooms to better serve its members and customers.
- E.M. Smith Jewelers put on a new roof, added new windows and generally improved the outside of its North Bridge Street business.
- The Ross County Historical Society pulled off a major campaign to ensure its new \$1 million Heritage Center would serve the community for a long time to come.
- Mears Photography remodeled its studio and added framing to its repertoire on East Water Street.
- Petland's international headquarters on Riverside Street saw a new \$250,000 training center open.
- Herrnstein Chrysler added the Mitsubishi lineup to its stable, but also added a new showroom and customer service center.

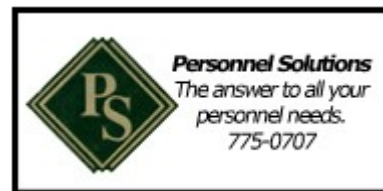


VOLUNTEER OF YEAR: The Volunteer of the Year award went to Lori Hice of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center. She is the chairman of the steering committee of the Pathfinders Leadership program. In the past year, the program underwent substantial changes in its curriculum and Lori has ensured its success by overseeing the committee and attending many of the sessions.

GAVEL IS PASSED: Bill Beatty of Basic Construction Materials/Hanson took over the chairmanship of the chamber's Board of Directors at the meeting. He succeeds Mike Hall of Aadvantage Tent Fittings who just completed his second time as chairman of the board. Joining the board this year are Christina Schramm of Chillicothe Nursing and Rehabilitation, Mac Peters of Citizens National Bank and Michael Long of Sunrush Construction. Leaving the board are Monesa Skocik of Horizon PCS and Marion Waggoner of the Scioto Society.

IF YOU MISSED IT: If you weren't able to attend Thursday's gala and you are an Horizon View customer, replays of the dinner will be shown Saturday through next Friday immediately following the "Inside the Valley" show that airs at 6:30 a.m., noon and 6:30 p.m. Also, photos from the dinner should be available on our website by early next week. Keep checking www.chillicotheohio.com.

GET TO THE POLLS: On Tuesday, many of you will have a chance to make a difference in the lives of our youths by voting for the levies and bond issues of the Chillicothe City Schools and the vocational school. The chamber board has endorsed both. The polls are open 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Every vote is critical.



ANOTHER GALA NEXT SATURDAY: Ohio University started in Chillicothe on Feb. 18, 1804 and on Saturday, March 6, the bicentennial of the school will be celebrated here. The annual Statehood Day kicks off with the annual prayer breakfast sponsored by the Kiwanis Club and the Ross County Ministerial Association at the Trinity United Methodist Church. The guest speaker is Dr. Charles Ping, a former OU president and an ordained Presbyterian minister. Tickets for the event are available from any member of the Kiwanis. At 1:30 that afternoon a special program will be held at the Majestic Theatre on East Second Street. A play of vignettes commemorating the founding of the university will be presented, followed by a ceremony involving current legislators, including Ohio Speaker of the House Larry Householder. Current OU President Robert Glidden also will be on hand as part of a delegation coming to town from Athens. The original legislation founding the university was enacted when Chillicothe was the state's first capital. Tickets for the Majestic event are available at the chamber, OU-C and the visitors bureau and they are free of charge.

CHAMBER CALENDAR:

- Thursday, March 18-Executive Committee, 8 a.m., chamber
- Wednesday, March 24-Business After Business, Scioto Paint Valley Mental Health Center, Ohio 159 north, 5-7 p.m., [BAB registration](#)
- Thursday, March 25-Board of Directors, noon, Carver Community Center, West Fourth Street, sponsored by Fifth Third Bank.

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