

## The Definition of Your Chamber

The Vinita Area Chamber of Commerce is a voluntary organization representing the business community. It unites area businesses, working as the central agency to promote prosperity and build a better community.

The Chamber's main ingredient for success is people. People who are willing to join together as members of the chamber and work collectively to do what no one individual can do alone.

## The Mission

To support, promote and enhance in our area, the economic climate, human care services, educational system, awareness and involvement in politics and government, tourism, emphasis on local trade and community pride.

## Working Together to Make Our Community Better!

Everyone in business who wants a progressive city and a better place in which to live and do business can help attain these objectives by becoming a member of the Vinita Area Chamber of Commerce.

Membership support in the Vinita Area Chamber of Commerce is an investment, not a contribution. Membership Investments (Dues) are tax deductible as a business expense.

The Chamber needs and wants the support of every business and professional man and woman in the Vinita Area.

## Our Success is Based on Your Success

The overall objective of the Chamber is to improve the economic vitality of the Vinita Area. The Chamber strives to provide a clear persuasive voice of the business community in Governmental affairs on the federal, state, county, and city level. And yet the Chamber is so much more!

The Chamber aggressively promotes the Vinita Area through numerous annual events. Many of these events have become community traditions, such as the sidewalk sale and Annual Calf Fry. A comprehensive calendar of events is available in the Chamber office, or just call for more information, 256-7133.

## Who Runs the Chamber?

The membership: a Board of Directors, consisting of 15 members elected by the entire membership, determines the policies and direct activities. The by-laws provide for the election of five directors each year to serve three-year terms. All actions concerning Chamber policies, programs and positions on political and other

issues are presented to the Board for discussion and approval at the monthly Chamber meetings.

Suggestions from members on projects, policies and other matters of interest are always welcome and appreciated. All members have a voice, the same privileges and the same opportunity for service.

## People You Should Know

### *Board of Directors*

Chairman: Deetta Montgomery

Helen Walker

Jewell Morgan

Jack Greiner

Robert Jones

Brenda Robison

Gerald Reynolds

Jennifer Davis

Dennis Patrick

Donna Christian

David Haney

Bryce Lair

Tammie O'Neal

Sharon Collins

Becky Collins

Gaila Hampsten

## Chamber Events Enhance Our City

What would our city be like if the Vinita Area Chamber of Commerce didn't exist? Who would work to increase tourism and stimulate the local economy with annual community events? Our calendar of events is designed to make Vinita a better place to live and work.

And it takes more than membership financial investments to run the Chamber- involvement is necessary. We ask our membership to join a committee, respond to chamber surveys and calls for assistance, attend Chamber events, support other Chamber members and promote a positive attitude toward the Chamber's work and the community.

*This is your Chamber*, so get involved. A broad range of committees and activities are waiting for you to join.

## Your Comments are Welcome

Any Chamber member having an issue to discuss may ask to have it heard during an Executive Board meeting. However these meetings are not open to the general membership.

Chamber Board meetings are held monthly at the PSO community room. These meetings are open to all Chamber members.

## The Chamber office is located at:

125 S. Scrapper (inside the AEP/PSO Building)

P.O. Box 882

Vinita, OK 74301

Phone: (918) 256-7133 Fax : (918) 256-8261

E-mail: chamber@vinita.com

### **Office Hours:**

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday – Friday

**Executive Director: Bob Kerby**

**Administrative Assistant: Karen Mason**

## Since 1904

Formerly the Vinita Commercial Club, the Vinita Area Chamber has been active under various names since 1904... one hundred and one years of success in helping the Vinita area grow and prosper.

## Benefits Provided by the Chamber

- Monitors legislation at city, state and national level that affects your business;
- Makes daily Chamber Member business referrals by phone;
- Brings legislators to Vinita and communicates and educates other local, federal, and state elected officials about Vinita's concerns and goals;
- Assists and recruits retail businesses and works with the Vinita Industrial Authority and Vinita Industrial Foundation in job creation, serving on various committees to carry out the expansion and retention;
- Performs "Grand Openings" and "Ribbon Cuttings";
- Aggressively seeks ways to generate publicity on area businesses, and activities;
- Distributes information packets to guests, special meetings held in Vinita, tourists, and prospective residents;
- Promotes special events to bring visitors and tourist with disposable income to Vinita;
- Provides full-time staff to represent the community and your business;
- Strives to involve a cross-section of volunteers business of the Chamber.
- Creates and updates public service announcements via Community Marquee and CableOne public access Channel 5.

## Here's an Overview of the Many Things the Chamber Does For Vinita Each Year

The Vinita Area Chamber of Commerce is doing the things you may have thought just happened.

Working to Place New Facilities and Employers in Vinita  
Craig County Livestock Show & Premium Sale  
Cooperates with Christmas Decoration Project  
Maintains Community Demographics  
Promotes Vinita Area through active Tourism Campaign  
Markets area events / Maintains Vinita.com website  
Keep Lists of Civic / Social Clubs, Motels, Churches, Real Estate Agents and Manufacturers  
Active Industrial and Business Recruitment Program  
Active Leadership Program  
Provides information packets to out-of-town visitors  
Provides Business Referrals for Chamber Members  
Community Calendar of Events  
Chamber Newsletters

Calf Fry Festival  
Business After Hours/Host Chamber Forums  
Christmas Parade/ Rodeo Parade  
Arrange Tours of Local Businesses & Industries  
Organize Summer Fest Car Show  
Organize Retail Promotions  
Welcomes Dignitaries/ Host Legislative Forums  
And we still do more....

## We Would Like You To Be A Part Of Our Committees

As we have said before, The Chamber belongs to its members. It's your Chamber, so get involved.

### Ambassadors

#### Chairperson: Donna Derosia

Helps support all efforts of the Chamber. Ambassadors attend Ribbon Cuttings, Grand Openings and are a great help at the Annual Banquet and Calf Fry.

### Agriculture

#### Chairperson: Jim Shelton

Supports the Agribusiness sector of our community and work with the agricultural leadership of the area to encourage better support for Agribusiness activities. Livestock shows & Premium sales

### Retail Trades

#### Chairperson: Helen Walker

Expands the visibility of Vinita's commercial and retail businesses. Summer fest and Christmas Parade

### Economic Development

#### Chairperson: Eddy Allensworth

Develops and implements programs that ensure a healthy business climate and promote economic growth in the Vinita area.

### Education

#### Chairperson: Mike Garde

Promotes and assists the area educational institutions, including the public school systems and NE Vo-Tech.

### Legislative Forums

#### Chairperson: Angela Martin

Advise the Board of Directors and Chamber members of important legislative and governmental issues affecting the community.

### Membership Development

#### Chairperson:

Expand and enhance benefits provided to members, while increasing membership. Recruitment and Retention Programs.

### Calf Fry Festival

#### Chairperson: Deetta Montgomery

This committee plans and develops the annual Calf Fry Festival held in September.

(Continued)

# 2005 Calendar of Events

## Golf Tournament

**Chairperson: Dennis Patrick**

Responsible for implementing the Annual Golf Tournament held in June.

## All Settlers Reunion/ Will Rogers Rodeo Parade

**Chairperson: Jack Luginbuel**

This committee works steadily to provide a fun and great community event. This event is held in late August.

## Community Development

**Chairperson: Jack Greiner**

Strives to improve the quality of life in Vinita and the surrounding area through programs and events.

## Manufacturer's Alliance

**Chairperson: Tim Williams**

Serves as a liaison between the community and area industries.

## Tourism Committee

**Chairperson: Marsha Butler**

Plans the annual campaign, trade shows and activities regarding tourism.

## Car Show Committee

**Chairperson: Dennis Patrick**

Plans the annual Route 66 Car Show held the first Saturday in August.

## Want to Join?

These services were designed with you, the Chamber investor, in mind. For more information on any of the programs or services listed above, or if you would like to be a part of the work these committees are doing, simply call the Chamber at 256-7133.

## Suggestion Box

Mail to : Vinita Area Chamber of Commerce  
125 S. Scraper  
PO Box 882  
Vinita, OK 74301  
Or simply bring it by the office!

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We Want to Know How You Feel.

## January 17 - Martin Luther King Community Celebration

## February 17- Chamber Annual Meeting & Banquet

We are celebrating our 101<sup>st</sup> Anniversary. Come celebrate with us. Held at Cowboy Junction, this year's theme is "Celebrate Cowboy Culture" and features live entertainment, dinner and a silent auction. This event is hosted by the Vinita Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors. Tickets are available in advance.

## March 5- Spring Livestock Show

Sponsored by the Vinita Area Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Committee, this annual event includes youth from Craig County competing with their show steer, hogs, sheep and goats. This event begins at 9 a.m. at the Craig County Fairgrounds.

## March 8- Bunko Tournament

Hosted by the Vinita Area Chamber of Commerce's Retail Trades Committee, this event is held at the Skylight Bakery. An evening of fun, games and prizes.

## March 12-Home & Garden Show

This annual event is hosted by the 4-H Foundation and held at the Craig County Fairgrounds. Attendees will have the opportunity to register for door prizes. Call 256-7569 for more information.

## April 5- Centennial Anniversary Celebration of Teddy Roosevelt's visit to Vinita

This event is sponsored by the Vinnie Ream Cultural Center and Vinita Area Chamber of Commerce and will feature a re-enactment of the 1905 event including Teddy Roosevelt, the Rough Riders and others in period dress.

## April 22, 23 & 24- Vinita's First Annual Spring Fly-In

Sponsored by the Vinita Area Chamber of Commerce, this event will feature mostly "Trikes" or aircraft with parachutes. The event will be held at the Vinita Airport from sunup to sundown on Saturday and possibly continue on Sunday. Different Flying Clubs will be coming into Vinita to display their aircraft, sell rides and have their flying games and contests. Concessions and restrooms will be provided.

## May 7- Citywide Garage Sale and Clean up

## June 3-The Chamber Classic Golf Tournament

This event is hosted by the Vinita Area Chamber of Commerce. Team applications are available at the Chamber of Commerce office. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

## July- Random Acts of Kindness Month

## August 2 – 6- Craig County Free Fair

This event is held at the Craig County Fairgrounds and is hosted by the Craig County Free Fair Board. The fair includes exhibits, livestock show, children's games and nightly events.

## August 6- Summer Fest Car Show and Annual Sidewalk Sale

The Vinita Area Chamber of Commerce Retail Trades Committee sponsors this annual event. It is held in Downtown Vinita beginning at 7:00 a.m. Activities include a sidewalk sale, pet parade, food concessions, vendors, and a car show. A cruise night is held the evening after the car show.

## August 24- Will Rogers Memorial Rodeo Parade

The parade is held in Downtown Vinita. The parade begins at 11:00 a.m. and is hosted by the American Legion Post.

**August 24- All Settlers' Day**

Immediately following the parade, all the gang will meet out at Cowboy Junction. Lunch can be purchased at the Chuck Wagon Restaurant. The Talent Contest and Drawings will start after 1PM.

**August 23 – 27- 69th Annual Will Rogers Memorial Rodeo**

One of the premier rodeos in the Southwest. The American Legion Post #40 sponsors this event. Tickets are available in advance or at the door.

**September 10- The 26th Annual World's Largest Calf Fry Festival & Cook-off**

This annual event is held at the American Legion Rodeo Grounds and is sponsored by the Vinita Area Chamber of Commerce. Gates open at 9AM. The event includes arts & crafts display, children's games and activities, cowboy games, cook-off competition, celebrity judges, live entertainment, horseshoe competition and plenty of fun.

**October 8- Oktoberfest**

This event is sponsored by the Holy Ghost Catholic Church and held on the Church grounds each fall. Activities include, live entertainment, great food and arts & craft booths.

**November 20- Christmas Open House**

Vinita Merchants welcome visitors with warm apple cider, cookies and great Christmas buys.

**December 1- Christmas Parade**

Sponsored by the Vinita Area Chamber of Commerce Retail Trades Committee the annual parade of lights is a winter favorite. The parade begins at 7:00 p.m. in Downtown Vinita. And don't forget to see Santa after the parade at the Chamber of Commerce.