

## Martin Business Association Meeting Notes

**August 11, 09**

**Next meeting: Tuesday, September 8, 09 7:30 am, City Hall**

### **I. Announcements**

Audrey Roberts, Chair, greeted everyone to the Martin Business Association Meeting and thanked David Sudberry, *Frontier Communications* for providing breakfast. As is the practice at MBA meetings, each person stands up and introduces themselves and their company and makes any brief announcement. Then each person greets their neighbor and reminds them "Think Martin First". In the Mayor's absence, Kimberly Craddock provided announcements. Kimberly noted that Audrey Roberts was nominated for Grand Marshall for the Soybean Festival Parade, which will be taking place September 8. The Soybean Festival will be taking place September 5-13. "Freshman Welcome Fair" Day will be held on August 28 at 5:30 pm in the Elam Center in attempt to introduce them to the many services and opportunities found in our Martin community. If you are interested in setting up a booth for the Freshman Welcome Fair, please see Kimberly for a form or check the MBA website at [www.martinbusinessassociation.com](http://www.martinbusinessassociation.com)

### **II. Special Speakers**

Dr. Tom Rakes, ninth UT Martin chancellor, [talked about the wonderful growth of UTM](#). Rakes joined UT Martin in 2002 as vice chancellor for academic affairs and professor of educational studies, he was named provost in 2005, and appointed Chancellor in July 2007. Dr. Rakes stated that UTM will be receiving 16-17 million dollars of stimulus money over the next couple of years. He also mentioned that UTM has the lowest tuition level compared to others within peer groups. After recent completion of more than \$30 million in capital and maintenance projects, including the expansion of Brehm Hall, almost \$40 million in additional capital improvement projects are underway or set to begin at UTM Martin, including projects through 2011. Major projects include a new 94,600 square-foot student recreational center funded by the students; a major renovation and addition to the Fine Arts Building. UTM has experienced 26% growth over 5-6 years. Surveys have pointed out that [parents of students](#) are most interested in the safety of the campus, food and academics. Dr. Rakes stated that enrollment this year has reached 8,000 all enrolled in credit only classes.

Karen Johnson, Outreach Directory for West and Middle TN. for Governor's Books from Birth Foundation, a Partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, about the importance of reading with children. Tennessee ranks 46% in education. Books from Birth provides a new, age-appropriate, hardcover, book every month to registered children from birth to age five—at no cost to the family, regardless of income. In August 2009, nearly 212,000 Tennessee children throughout all 95 counties will receive a free book in the mail. The Governor's Books from Birth Foundation's vision is that all Tennessee preschool children will develop a healthy love of reading, have a proficient vocabulary, and begin school equally prepared to learn through regular interaction with parents/guardians and books in the home, from birth. Currently, 67% of children in Martin, Tennessee are enrolled in Books from Birth which is the highest county in Tennessee. Ms. Karen Johnson noted that First State Bank is a major contributor of Books from Birth. Applause was given to First State Bank for making such a huge investment in the lives of children. \$14.00 pays for a set of books for an entire year for a child. Ms. Karen stated that they needed our continued investment in children so that they will be literate and able to compete globally with strong reading skills. The book, Little Engine That Could was given in honor of Chief of Police, David Moore's to the Martin Weldon Library and another copy presented to him to keep in his office.

In humor, Chief David Moore then handcuffed David Sudberry during the meeting under the pretext that he did not send in all the needed information for the MBA Directory and the only way he could be released is if the MBA collected enough money to allow him to go free. Fortunately, the MBA passed the hat and collected just the right amount and David Sudberry was released and allowed to roam the streets again!

### **III. Committee Reports**

Roger Donaldson, Membership Drive Chair, welcomed newest MBA member, *Martin Medical Rentals* and introduced Danny Cash, assistant manager. He also congratulated *Chief David Moore* for his award of receiving the Tennessee Police Chief of the Year. This is quite an honor! Congrats also go out to *Marvin Alexander* for his induction into the National Auctioneer Hall of Fame. Roger also welcomed *Martin Health & Rehab* as MBA members.

Julie Donaldson, PR Chair & Secretary, thanked those who have submitted articles regarding their business as she has been able to put these in the

Press and on the MBA website, free of charge. She welcomes every business/agency to submit an article so that your business has the opportunity to be recognized by the MBA. You will find a form to help you with your article on the MBA website at [www.martinbusinessassociation.com](http://www.martinbusinessassociation.com) Please email Julie Donaldson at [julie1donaldson@yahoo.com](mailto:julie1donaldson@yahoo.com) so that she may handle getting your article to the Press as well as on the website. If you have any questions regarding this, you may call her at 587-3267.

*Nan Rountree, Directory*, stated that the MBA Directory is going to print soon. Please make sure your information is correct and up to date. **The deadline for this is August 20.** The directory can be a viable avenue to market your business, but only if it's correct and up to date. At the Freshmen Welcome, students will be given a card to direct them to the website. The MBA will have a booth set up at the Soybean Festival and will have approximately 1000 copies of the MBA Directory. This is the first time the directory has been available as a hard copy to the public. You may also talk to Nan about an ad.

*Lynette Wagster, Calendar*, mentioned several upcoming events, which can be found on the MBA website.

August 27: UT Martin Legacy Luncheon

August 28: Freshman Welcome Fair

August 29: Drumline Tuneup

August 31: UTM classes begin

September 5-13: Soybean Festival

September 8: Mayors Soybean Kickoff Luncheon 11:30 am

September 10-12: City Wide Merchant Sidewalk Sale

September 10: Soybean Festival Farmer's Breakfast

September 10: Soybean Festival Golf Tournament 11 am Persimmon Hills

The Martin Business Association will have a booth at the Soybean Festival. Brochures from local businesses are welcome. Remember to Think Martin First!

*Katrina Cobb* stated that there will soon be three openings for advertisements on the MBA website. She directed attention to the MBA Web site and the ads there now for the Soybean Festival. The ad space will begin October 1st. Also, look for the opening page of the website featuring items from the Calendar.

**Date of next MBA meeting:** Tuesday, September 8, 7:30 am at City Hall. Reelfoot Bank will be providing breakfast. Please make plans to join us and bring a friend!! Help us become a better Martin!