

Martin Business Association Monthly Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 9, 2010 City Courtroom, City Hall

7:30 to 8:30 a.m.

- **Breakfast:** Members helped themselves to breakfast provided by David Sudberry of Frontier Communications and his wife, Linda.
- **7: 30 a.m. Greetings:** Nan Rountree – Thanked members for attending.
- **Special Guest - Robert Nunley** with Martin Housing and Youth Development brought in a special guest: As part of the Martin Housing After School Program, Brianna Hampton, a 4th grade student, was recently involved in a 4-H Speech contest. She successfully previewed her speech for the after school program and was here to present before MBA.
- **Happenings:** Rountree reminded members that the main purpose of MBA is to promote our businesses and invited members to introduce themselves and provide information about happenings in town. Danyelle Williams has joined Rountree Business as Regional Sales Manager; Alan Cary of Cary Insurance Services introduced himself and said will be speaking at MBA in May; David Vowell from Vowell & Sons mentioned the 42nd college rodeo one month from now. Little Miss Rodeo and Junior Miss pageants are set for the upcoming weekend. There are rodeo posters to help promote the rodeo event if you want to display in your business. David Sudberry of Frontier Communications said they have opened up two new websites accessible off of any high speed connection that will provide search engines for the entire internet for tv shows. Sam Lewallen of First State Bank announced that June 7 is the first day of business at the new building, and the grand opening celebration will continue June 8 -11. Leslie Haywood-Moore of Century 21 Overton Real Estate invited members to the Readers' Theater presentation on Thursday, March 11, at 6 p.m. at the library. Lynette Wagster with the Weakley County Press mentioned that the Press has customer surveys available that she asked members to fill out and return. Olivia Wilson from the Opera House talked about the recent award of the Tennessee Downtown grant, the St. Paddy's Day Pub Crawl set for March 17, and the scheduled Gap Events which are set for every second Saturday each month beginning in June ending up with October Fest. Carol Guest of Rountree Business Equipment asked that the membership please email or call in to her any changes for the MBA directory. Don Edwards announced he will be opening Cardon Locksmith Services in the old Do Drop Inn building. Audrey Roberts of the Martin Beautiful Committee said the seminars planned for March 20 will be hosted at the Martin Library with three speakers. Event begins at 9 a.m. free with coffee and doughnuts. There will also be four \$25 gift certificates given away plus five nurseries displaying their wares in the parking lot.
- **Mayor's Report:** Kimberly Craddock speaking for mayor who is out of town.

Dates: March 15 is City Board Meeting; Craddock reminded membership that Soybean Festival Sept. 4 – 12. She spoke about the recent grant award with the Tennessee Downtowns program and recognized the steering committee saying the city appreciates the hard work that everyone did for this grant.

- **Other Business:** Nan Rountree

Web-Site Advertising: One site still available for the MBA Website for this quarter. Contact Katrina Cobb for more information: kcobb@wljt.org; Artwork assistance is available. Rountree mentioned that the website calendar is a very helpful tool for keeping updated on area activities, and she recognized Lynette Wagster for keeping our calendar current. She encouraged members to check it out for the latest events. She announced that Everett Stuart Regional Airport will be hosting a special "Airport Day" during the final days of the Soybean Festival, and they have requested support for this project. Rountree said there are eight people on the "Special Forces Association Parachute Team" who need hotel room expenses or fuel costs paid. Contact Lynette Wagster or Rountree if you are interested in providing assistance.

- **MBA Monthly Program:** (2) Presentations

(1) Rolling Thunder- What It Is and What It is Not- Mike Morel

Morel introduced himself and spent a few moments previewing some of the fundraising activities of the local Rolling Thunder organization. Saying he doesn't pass up an opportunity to offer raffle tickets from Rolling Thunder's efforts to raise money for veterans and their families, Morel announced that the local chapter is giving away a Harley motorcycle. He also mentioned that turkey season is opening soon, and there is a raffle again for a turkey gun. Tickets are the motorcycle and for the gun are 3 for \$10. Morel also introduced Fisher House to the MBA members saying it is an organization providing housing needs to families of veterans who are hospitalized for war injuries. Morel said the local Rolling Thunder chapter has donated \$1000 to the Fisher House.

Morel shared with the group that his involvement with Rolling Thunder began after his son was killed in the war six years ago. He then provided a bit of history on the group and where their name originated: From 1964-1968 there was a Rolling Thunder Campaign which provided much leverage in later peace negotiations. He cited stats on MIA's: There are still some 3300 MIAs from WWI, 78 thousand from WWII; 1700 MIAs from Vietnam and more; 4 in Desert Storm, one now in Iraq. Morel added that Rolling Thunder sponsors trips for recovery at downed helicopter missions and is involved in legislative lobbying efforts. He shared a few facts about the makeup of the Rolling Thunder organization: 40% are not veterans, 40% are women, and 40% do not own a motorcycle. However, he said most of the members of the local chapter do ride motorcycles.

Morel said on a local level, the chapter's main mission is helping the veterans of the Humboldt Veterans Hospital. They recently helped to provide Wii's and games to the hospital to help veterans who do not have many opportunities for recreation and creative activities. Morel said the Martin chapter is beginning to be known through the Rolling Thunder circles for their support. Morel said the local chapter provides funeral escort for soldiers who have passed away and provides send-off escorts for those soldiers who are leaving on tour. The local chapter also supports an Easter egg hunt in Dresden for children of parents who are over on a mission, and they have continued their efforts to send Girl Scout cookies each year to servicemen.

Morel ended his presentation by introducing Led Symmes, another member of the group. Symmes shared that Rolling Thunder works to help bring closure to families. He mentioned that if a body is not recovered, this individual is missing until any proof is provided. Morel also mentioned that Section 60

at Arlington National Cemetery is the section reserved for recovered fragments of soldiers killed in the war effort. For more information on the local Rolling Thunder chapter and fundraising activities, contact Mike Morel at mmorel1047@frontiernet.net.

(2) Introduction of Senior AIDES program and facility – Melinda P. Goode, Director, Senior Community Service Employment Program

Goode introduced her program and shared that the Senior AIDES program intercedes for and helps provide training to people who are: 55+, displaced, may lack relevant job skills and are unemployed. She shared an example of a person sent to Lowes for a part-time job for watering plants. He called back to ask for assistance to fill out the on-line job application because Lowes didn't have paper applications, and he did not know how to work on a computer. Goode said these types of situations sparked her decision to work toward creating a computer lab to provide basic computer skills to this group of citizens, so she applied for a USDA Rural Development grant funded by ARRA, the American Reinvestment & Recovery Act.

According to Goode, there were only two grants awarded in the state, and \$30,000 was awarded to their program. She mentioned once the grant was in place, she found a facility to house the computer lab program. A Dresden elementary school classroom was available but had to be renovated for use. Goode said all local work was utilized to update the classroom. Additionally, Office Products helped with computer desks, chairs. Goode said that a part of the renovation involved decorating the walls, so due to the regional nature of Nwthra, photos of all the surrounding county courthouses were taken and displayed, and Office Products supplied the framing of the prints.

Goode said there are 65 people currently enrolled in basic computer classes. She also mentioned that Beginning Excel classes seem to be very popular now. Plus, through another grant called Generations On-Line, funds were provided to hire Kelly Stewart, a recent graduate from UTM from Greenfield. Stewart volunteered hours to help set up renovation of the classroom while working toward her interior design degree. Upon graduation, she then applied for the computer learning position and is teaching these classes now. The computer class is now mandatory program for all participants of the Senior AIDES program. Goode said that the training and computer lab with ten computers is available for use for anyone, and she offered the services to MBA members. Goode encouraged members to call and arrange a time if you need the services. For more information about the Senior AIDES program, contact Goode at Melinda.goode@nwthra.org.

- **Special Announcements: Nan Rountree**

A front display table will be made available for everyone to bring business advertisements and business cards for our morning meetings. Audrey Roberts will coordinate table and take care of items that can be carried over each month.

Rountree asked members to please provide input on what else MBA can be provided to membership.

MBA will be updating directory in April with a supplement. We will not reprint. We have directories available so please take them and distribute at your businesses. Rountree also thanked Rita Mitchell who could not be here but is contacting members who do not have email about upcoming meetings and Mix and Mingle functions.

- **Committee Reports:**

Membership: Roger Donaldson: Business Of the Month: Cardon Locksmith. Owner is Don Edwards and the business is located at 305 Broadway. Phone number is 587-LOCK. They provide auto lockout, rekeying, grand master rekeying services. Their goal is to do what they can do to make your family and your property safer. Edwards said the business will also be providing services for safe entry, etc.

Other new businesses joining MBA are: Evan's Properties, Stanley Evans, owner, and Thompson's Grocery on Jackson St.

Donaldson also wanted to say thank you to Volunteer Genera Hospital for his recent surgery sharing with members what a wonderful facility we have in Martin that we should utilize.

Activities: Mix and Mingle – Kimberly Craddock will coordinate these events. Brandy's Restaurant and the Reed Center will be the next two venues and dates and times to be announced. Craddock encouraged members to attend because Mix and Mingle's which are a tremendous asset for our members.

Civic and Church Activities: Dee Pritchett updated members on several activities and resources including upcoming First Baptist kids' events; Martin Kiwanis thanks everyone for Pancake Day attendance; Martin Beautiful Seminars are planned for March 20, and the Pilot Club pageants are set for March 19 and 20

MBA Directory: Carol Guest announced that the MBA directory has 273 members online. We have added 15 new members since the directory was printed. She passed out business cards, so please alert her if you know of any changes needing to be made to the directory. Also we have MBA window decals to replace old ones that may be curling. Use these at each entrance of your business. Rountree added that there are also flyers and cards available to post in our businesses to promote MBA.

- **Closing – Nan Rountree**

Rountree closed the meeting with a thank you to David Sudberry of Frontier Communications and his wife, Linda, for the breakfast. She asked members to please sign in our MBA attendance roll and to please sign up for the breakfast each month. Our next MBA meeting is set for April 13, 2010. Rountree adjourned the meeting at 8:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, March 15, 2010 by Leslie Haywood-Moore, Secretary