

Arkansas City Area Chamber of Commerce Events and Programs of Work

- 1. Events Committee**
 - a. **Annual Banquet** – First Saturday in February
- 2. Golf Tournament Committee**
 - a. **Golf Tournament** – First Saturday in June.
- 3. Christmas in the City –**
 - a. Santa Run – this brought at least 40 runners from around Cowley County.
 - b. Carriage Rides – Merry Monday & Santa Saturday
 - c. Merry Monday/Thankful Tuesday – Entertainment, Carriage Rides, Santa Visit, Downtown Tree & Buildings Lighting, Food Venders
 - d. Window Decorating Contest – proceeds go to a non-profit in Ark City
 - e. Different annual promotions to encourage foot traffic in our local businesses.
- 4. Cash Mob and Lunch Mob events** – Organized events to help promote local businesses.
- 5. Administrative Professionals Luncheon – 3rd Wednesday in April every year.** This event remains to be a huge success with several sponsors and door prizes from local businesses. 78 were in attendance and four businesses highlighted their services. We anticipate this event being even larger next year.
- 6. Chamber Network Luncheons**
 - a. We annually collaborate with the Winfield Chamber for three Luncheons: State of Cowley College, State of Strother Field and State of Cowley County
 - b. Annually have a State of the City, State of Public Education, and State of Public Safety luncheon.
- 7. Chamber Coffees** – meeting in various businesses in our community. Provides a networking opportunity.
- 8. Awards and Business Promotions**
 - a. STAR Award – Superior Trade Award Recognition
 - b. Open Arms Award – Non-profit Award Recognition
 - c. Heavy social media promotion of local businesses and events
 - d. Maintain a website – membership directory, event dates, etc.
 - e. We periodically do several giveaways for the sole purpose of supporting local businesses and therefore stimulation the local economy
- 9. Referral of:**
 - a. Referral for Rentals
 - b. Tourism brochures and talking up Stone Bridges, Barn Quilt paintings, Downtown Walking Tour, Chaplin Nature Center, Etzanoa and Cherokee Strip Museum as well as giving people a list of places to eat and shop
 - c. Referral to non-profits and churches to help people with needs for food, clothing & jobs
- 10. Legislative Committee, Legislative Forums, Legislative Candidate Forums**
- 11. Local Partnerships with VISIT Ark City, The Burford Theatre, USD 470, Cowley College, Project Revive**
 - a. Partner with local entities to promote and volunteer at events, help with fundraising, etc.

- b. Partner with local education entities to see how we can help connect the business community with the workforce.

12. Main Street

- a. We are working on building the frame work so Ark City can apply to be designated as a “Main Street” community, which will make our community eligible for grants, workshops, etc. to assist in the rehabilitation of our downtown.
- b. Once selected, Designated Communities receive:
 - i. Comprehensive technical assistance in all areas of the Main Street Approach designed to further economic development downtown.
 - ii. Training in strategic planning, program capacity building, and organizational management for the Main Street organization.
 - iii. Individualized training for Main Street managers, boards, and other Main Street participants.
 - iv. Attendance to statewide, Main Street-specific, quarterly trainings and professional development opportunities for participant communities.
 - v. Access to design services on an as-needed basis to help downtown property owners undertake effective rehabilitation, restoration, adaptive re-use, and infill projects, as well as the reimagining of public spaces within the district.
 - vi. Access to state and national grant funds (when available).
 - vii. Membership to the Main Street America network.
 - viii. At least one paid registration to participate in the annual Main Street America national conference.