

SOUTHEAST  BUSINESS
ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

December 2013

President's Message

Christmas is right around the corner and all of us are very busy. That being said the New Year will be here before we can clean up the Christmas paper. Many of us will be making new goals and commitments for the New Year. Be committed to being involved with your Southeast Business Association. The more committed you are the better your business association will be. We need

more people to serve and help on committees. We are only as strong as our weakest link - be more involved.

Our Christmas Party will be on December 5th at Bonnie Kay's. She has another great meal planned for us and lots of fun.

We are asking members to bring a dessert.

The Business Association will pay

for a member and their guest. You may bring additional guests for \$16 each. We are still collecting food for the Food Bank in Pleasant Garden.

Merry Christmas to all and I look forward to another year with you.

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Connie Thompson

New Date for January Meeting

Due to the holiday our January meeting will take place Thursday, January 9, 2014. It will still take place at Bonnie Kay Seafood Restaurant at 6 pm, just one week later. Our presentation by Carla Strickland will be on the *Pleasant Garden Recreation Master*

Plan and the application for PARTF grant funding.



Upcoming Speakers

Jan. 9, 2014 Carla Strickland, Mayor of Pleasant Garden, will present the *Pleasant Garden Recreation Master Plan* and discuss the application for PARTF grant funding

Feb. 6, 2014 George Humphries from the U.S Postal Service will give us instruction on how to use their program Every Door Direct Mail Program.

Quote

When President Kennedy was asked in an interview what his favorite song was, he sat with a pensive look and then a slight smile and replied,

"Hail to the chief has a nice ring to it."

Thought for the Day

Success is a ladder you cannot climb with your hands in your pockets.

November Guest Speaker - Susie's Hope

♪♪ If you knew Susie like I know Susie
Oh, oh, oh what a dog! ♪♪

Our members were graced with the presence of Susie Lawrence (right), the rescued dog of **Susie's Hope** fame. Donna Lawrence and her husband Roy introduced the crowd to this sweet, intelligent dog and Donna unfolded her personal tragedy along with Susie's personal tragedy and how coming together they helped each other heal and got a law passed (Susie's Law) for the protection of cruelty to animals.

The members were mesmerized with their stories and it was one of the most fascinating and touching meetings we've had. After the meeting was over people usually scatter and go home. This time so many stayed, mixed, conversed and got up close and personal with Susie and her sister Baby Girl. [Jan's Smilebox](#) captured some of the moments. Once it plays you can click icon on lower left to view fullscreen.

Parade Float

We will decorate our float Saturday morning Dec. 7 at 10 am. Please come out for an hour or so and help us get it ready. It will be located at Marion Tile and Flooring, 4719 Pleasant Garden Road, Pleasant Garden. Tim Marion has offered to drive the float but we still need people to ride in the parade and throw out candy. Contact Tim Marion for more details at tmarion@mariontile.com or call him at 674-8839. The Pleasant Garden Parade will take place Sunday, Dec. 8 at 3 pm.



In the Spirit of Christmas

In the spirit of the Christmas season a story of mine of giving in a different way ...

I was just remarried to my wonderful wife Jan, living in our first owned home together with our shared 3 children. This was over 30 years ago in Stoughton, Massachusetts and boy were we happy. I received a phone call from my youngest brother Douglas. Sadly his short marriage was coming to an end. His wife was no longer interested in the marriage and he was moving out. I immediately offered him to come stay with us as we were family and he needed a place to land.

Shortly thereafter Doug showed up with all he had to his name. There was his suitcase, some clothes, his guitar, music and some other miscellany. Not much did he have. Doug was devastated.

As the days progressed Doug took me aside and said he wanted to pay us rent and contribute to food for his stay. I told him I didn't want rent from him, but what I would have him do is to open up a savings account. With what money he would have paid us I told him to deposit it into that account. That way, when he was ready to move into his own place he would have seed money to get his new start. But, he balked and told me he wanted to contribute to the

wanted to contribute to the family costs. My answer was that the family was able to accommodate one more and when he was on his feet again, he could pay it forward. The unsaid was, for his and our benefit, his stay had to have a move out time. It would not be good if he stayed too long. We had a settlement and he was a good one to have live with us and the kids.

Doug had no credit of his own making things difficult in this day in age. "Wherever you go," I told him, "pick up a credit application and submit it. You will get rejections, but don't get discouraged because one day you will be accepted." Doug was getting discouraged as the rejections came in the mail. He had no credit history and companies were not very excepting until one day ... he opened mail from Sears and inside was a credit card. Doug was so excited and I told him to go right out and charge something he needed and pay it off when the bill came. "Now you can use that reference to get more credit and it happened." In 5 months he had credit plus over \$1000.00 in his savings account and was ready to move out on his own.

Our payoff was being there for him in his time of need and then later when he told me he had helped a good friend of his who was in need by paying it forward. We were so gratified.

Doug went on to marry a wonderful woman, bought his own house, raised 3 fine children and life was once again good for him.

Merry Christmas to all y'all!

By Jim O'Malley



SEBA Board Members



Southeast Association

PO Box 117
Pleasant Garden, NC 27313

Support, Encouragement & Endorsement

The mission of the Southeast Business Association is to provide a platform that encourages the growth and financial support of our local businesses. From the smallest to the largest, we will strive to endorse the businesses of the Southeast community and surrounding areas through support and interaction by working hand-in-hand with local civic groups and the community as a whole.

We're on the Web!
www.SECBA.org

President: Connie Thompson
ccthompson@bbandt.com
336-549-2679

Vice President/Newsletter Editor: Amy Schwartz
amy@lancastertravelinc.com
336-697-7253

Secretary: Kathy Clark
clarkins@triad.rr.com
336-674-6404

Treasurer: Kim Payne
kim@kimpayne.com
336-676-1980

Past President: Steve Blake
blakeelectricco@bellsouth.net
336-273-0800

Board: Jim O'Malley
doggiedungsquad@gmail.com
336-697-1233

Board: Eddy Patterson
eddy patt@bellsouth.net
336-508-4202

Board: Allan Younts
Allan_y@bellsouth.net
336-580-0045

This year pledge to SHOP SMALL, SPEND LOCAL, EAT LOCAL, ENJOY LOCAL and support the local businesses that support us and our community.

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Adopt A Highway Winter Clean-Up

Southeast Business Association has adopted Tabernacle Church Road as part of the Adopt a Highway program. It is recommended we do clean up once a quarter. Our next cleanup will be Saturday, December 7 at 9am. The meeting point will be Spring Forest Court Road. Please park on the shoulder. Gloves, vests and trash bags will be provided. If you are able to help please contact Connie Thompson at ccthompson@bbandt.com

