Chamber’s 60th Annual Gala & Silent Auction Held Saturday, April 12th

Approximately 200 people attended the Wise County & City of Norton Chamber of Commerce’s 60th Annual Gala & Silent Auction on Saturday, April 12, 2014, at Holiday Inn, Norton. This year’s theme was “A Great Gatsby.”

The festivities began at 5:30 p.m. with a reception and silent auction. Dinner followed at 7:00 p.m. The highlight of the event was the presentations of the 2013 Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award, Distinguished Service Award, and President’s Award. (See related articles on pages 2, 3, and 4 of this newsletter.) This year, the event also featured fun games. Music was provided by disc jockey Freddie Bradley.

Old Dominion Power Company, Pepsi Cola Bottling Company, Mullican Flooring, and Sykes, Inc., served as corporate sponsors. The decoration and reception sponsors were CSE Insurance & Financial Services, First Choice Home Health Care, Dr. Elizabeth Shuler, Friendly Floral, and Holiday Inn.

The table sponsors were Alpha Natural Resources, LLC; Cavalier Pharmacy; County of Wise (2); Crutchfield Corporation; Dominion; First Bank & Trust Company; Food City (KVAT); Miners Exchange Bank; Mountain Empire Community College; New Peoples Bank; Norton Community Hospital; Powell Valley National Bank; Town of Big Stone Gap; Town of St. Paul; Town of Wise; The University of Virginia’s College at Wise; Warren Cleaning and Restoration; and Wellmont Health System - Mountain Region.

The members of the 2014 Annual Gala & Silent Auction Committee were Reisa Sloce and Kim Clisso, Co-Chairs; Melissa Coffey, Rick Colley, Pamela J. Collie, Cory Dotson, Henrietta Dotson, Amanda Hughes, Rita Lee, Shelly Logan, Michael McGregor, Vickie McGregor, Becky Murray, Dan Minahan, Sheila Setias, Dr. Elizabeth Shuler.

The Chamber would like to express its gratitude to all the sponsors and volunteers who made this event such a tremendous success. We especially thank the staff of Holiday Inn for the great food, service, and warm hospitality. We also wish to thank the individual ticket purchasers as well as the many businesses and individuals who contributed items to the silent auction. Finally, the Chamber’s staff and Board of Directors would like to express their heartfelt appreciation to those of you who attended this important event. We appreciate your continued support!

The Annual Gala & Silent Auction is the Chamber’s largest fundraising event. The proceeds earned from this event help further the valuable work of the Wise County/ City of Norton Chamber of Commerce.
Chamber Presents 2013 Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award, Distinguished Service Award & President’s Award

The recipient of the 2013 Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award was Barbara Caruso. Barbara and her husband J.T. live in Norton. They have two sons, Anthony and Mark, and one daughter Mary. They have 5 granddaughters.

Barbara was employed at Old Dominion Electric for 25 years and has served on the Norton Industrial Development Authority for 10 years. She is a member of the Social and Renovation Committee at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church and was a leader in the designing and effort to build the City of Norton Veteran’s Memorial Park.

She also has been a volunteered for many years with the Va/Ky District Fair doing everything from taking up tickets to senior’s day activities to the coordinating VA/KY Virginia District Fair beauty pageant for more than 40 years. Her volunteering with beauty pageant has not only been at the VA/KY Fair but throughout our region and Wise County to include the Miss Norton Pageant held by the Norton Kiwanis Club for past 48 years. With the help of her special friend and co-coordinator, Barbara Leonard or as they are known as “The Barbaras”, they were not only interested in helping showcase our beautiful young ladies, but to also give the ladies the opportunity to win scholarships which would be vital in continuing their education and encouraging the winners of these pageants to participate in state scholarship competitions which have produced several winners from our area.

Barbara has been a member of the Kiwanis Club of Norton for more than 20 years and has served on the Board of Directors and as President in 2013. She has always been very passionate about the mission of Kiwanis which is to serve the youth of our area and could always be seen up front serving pancakes at the Best Friend Festival or spaghetti before a J.I. Burton football game in the fall and signing up bike riders for the Benge’s Revenge early in the morning, raising money for Kiwanis youth projects such as the Youth Clothing and scholarship projects.

A member of the St. Mary’s Hospital Auxiliary for many years and has served in many offices, but her passion is the Gift Shop at Mountain View Regional. She has been very instrumental in improving the gift shop to raise money for various organizations throughout our communities. With the hard work of the volunteer group they have made numerous donations to Mountain Empire Older Citizens Fuel Fund and Meals on Wheels Programs, Wise County and City of Norton Food Banks, Social Services Children’s Christmas Fund, Southwest Virginia Cancer Center and many others.

Barbara was recently awarded the Virginia Association of Healthcare Auxiliaries and Volunteers, Southwest District Volunteer of the Year. This area includes from Roanoke to Lee County.

A Quote from her nomination letter:
“Barbara exemplifies kindness, generosity, positive attitude and customer service skills that inspire our patients and visitors to return to our hospital for their medical needs”

There are many things Barbara has done behind the scenes that we could never list them all.

Distinguished Service Award
Presented to Dr. Sue Cantrell

In 1988, the Wise County/City of Norton Chamber of Commerce expanded the awards program to include persons who have made outstanding contributions to the betterment of the county in their own right and also for persons or groups who have portrayed excellence in their vocation. Unlike the Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award, which is given via public nomination, the Distinguished Service Award is given solely at the discretion of the Wise County/City of Norton Chamber of Commerce. This year, award was presented to Dr. Eleanor Sue Cantrell.

Dr. Cantrell or Sue, as she is called by her
friends, is the Director of the LENOWISCO Health District which encompasses the health departments of the Lee, Scott and Wise counties and the city of Norton.

Her professional interests have been focused on chronic disease prevention and treatment, access to dental care and mental health/substance abuse issues and public health. With her commitment to improving the health of the residents of our communities goes way beyond her everyday responsibilities. She has dedicated many hours of her personal time to projects throughout our area. She was instrumental in providing the first telemedicine clinics in our region.

Dr. Cantrell is passionate in her devotion to healthy outcomes related to healthy eating and physical activity. She has partnered with schools to provide resources for education, equipment and training.

A Quote from a nomination letter:

“Dr. Cantrell contributes her wisdom and caring concern to various community, county and regional organizations. Her broad network allows her to use a wide range of resources to help grow our county. With her full schedule, she makes time to serve on many boards and committees.”

Dr. Cantrell lives in Pound, VA. Her children include Stephen, Emily, David and Daniel. She is the proud Grandmother of three grandsons, Will, Jacob and Eli. She is the wife of the late Greg Cantrell.

Kim Clisso Presents President’s Award to Carmen Cantrell

In 1996, the President's Award was added to the Wise County/City of Norton Chamber of Commerce awards program. This award is given solely at the discretion of the current Chamber President. This year’s president’s award goes to Mrs. Carmen Cantrell. Carmen lives in the City of Norton with her husband Byron, and has two beautiful daughters Lindsey and Caitlin.

Kim Clisso, 2014 Chamber President, said, “It gives me great pleasure to give this year’s president’s award to a well deserving lady who I admire so much for her dedication to community service for Wise County and the City of Norton. Carmen unselfishly puts her whole self into whatever project she is working on. She has such compassion and admiration for the citizens of Wise County and the City of Norton.”

Carmen has been active in the Clinch Coalition as a past Board member which has involved trail work, naturalist rally, and advocating for the Jefferson National Forest High Knob area. She has been active in the Norton Friends & Farmers Market from the start and has been the market manager for several years. Last year the Farmers Market raised funds and received grant money that helped bring over 900 children to the market to learn about home grown food and better nutrition. Children were given kid’s bucks each week to buy fresh fruits and vegetables. She has mentioned many times that she and her family gave up summer vacations just so she could organize the Farmer’s Market.
Carmen has been involved in the planning of “Earth Day” for the City of Norton. She is a past executive director of the Charles Harris Library Gallery Exhibit Room. She served on the High Knob Tower committee to rebuild the iconic landmark, which is going to be unveiled very soon.

She was a 2011 Roosevelt-Ashe Society Conservation Awards finalist for outstanding volunteer.

She is also a past president of the Green Thumb Garden Club of Norton. Within her two year as president she organized the design and planting of a healing garden at the Southwest Cancer Center in Norton. A beautiful garden with a meditation circle built with memorial bricks which were sold to the general public and engraved to honor those who have died of cancer and those who have survived cancer. Over $20,000 was raised under her presidency for this healing garden. She also solicited donations on behalf of the Green Thumb Garden Club for the purchase of a Blue Star Memorial for our veterans which were placed in Veterans Park in Norton this past fall.

Carmen serves on the Best Friend Festival Committee where she shows her talent as an artist in helping with the displays. She has painted several murals for the Norton Christian Church to include one above their baptistery and one of Noah’s Ark for the Norton Christian Churches Educare Preschool. Carmen has an art degree from Virginia Commonwealth University.

### Aerospace Days a success

Pictured above is the first Rocket launched at Aerospace days that took place at Lonesome Pine Airport, April 26 & 27. This event was hosted by Sky Tech Rockerty of Wise County. This event featured rockets, remote control powered jets, helicopters, and a firework show. A big Thanks to Jack Kennedy, Bob Spera, the Airport Commission, and many more who made this great event possible! We hope everyone had a great time and enjoyed this wonderful event. Pictured below is Lewis Patton, owner of the red jet, being interview by Donnie Cox, WCYB.

### Board Meeting & Forward Wise County Graduation Set for May 22

The regular monthly meeting of the Wise County & City of Norton Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors will be held Thursday, May 22, 2013, 11:30 am, at Lonesome Pine Country Club, Big Stone Gap.

This meeting will be held in conjunction with the commencement exercise for the 2014 class of the FWC Leadership Development Program. The keynote speaker will be Marcus Adkins, 2013 FWC graduate. All members of the Chamber are welcome to attend.

**Reservations must be made since this is a formal meeting.** Cost of lunch is $15. For more information or to register, please call the Chamber at 276-679-0961 by Monday, May 19.
2014 BFF Scheduled for June 10-14

The 28th Annual Best Friend Festival will take place on June 10-14 in downtown Norton, VA. This year’s theme is: “Jump into Summer.” This year’s festival will be jam-packed with activities appealing to all age groups including: Tuesday Night Concert by the Craig Street Ramblers, Paint-a-Trash-Can, First Bank & Trust Picnic in the Park, Senior Citizen’s Day, Karaoke Contests, Kid’s Night, Kiddie Train, Crankin’ with Crutchfield, Friday Night Block Party with the band Leggz, A Kid’s Place, Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast, Citywide Yard Sale, Flea Market Vendors, the Regional Rehab 5K Run, and more.

In addition to this year’s activities a kid’s fishing day will take place, June 14, 2014 at Norton Reservoir, Sponsored by Norton Parks and Recreation.

For a detailed schedule, visit the chamber’s Web site: wisecountychamber.org.

Chamber’s Business Appreciation Awards Set for May 28

This year’s Business Appreciation event will be held on May 28, 2014, 11:30 a.m., at the University of Virginia’s College at Wise, in Cantrell Hall. The highlight of this event will be the presentation of awards to businesses that have made a significant economic impact on Wise County and the City of Norton. Our Special guest speaker, John Provo, Director, Department of Economic Development at Virginia Tech. The Business Appreciation Awards will be sponsored by Norton Industrial Development Authority, Wise County Chamber of Commerce, and Wise County Industrial Development Authority. It will be hosted by the University of Virginia’s College at Wise.

This event is for chamber members by invitation only! Pre-registration is required as seating is limited. To pre-register, please call the Wise County Chamber of Commerce at 276-679-0961 by 5:00 p.m. on May 26.
Chamber Welcomes New Members for March & April

**HairVolution**

HairVolution of Norton is located on 611 Park Ave, SW and is owned and operated by Marcus Adkins and David Robinson. Offering a full range of salon services. Cutting, Coloring, Highlighting, Foiling, Permanent and Semi Permanent Chemical Processes, Natural Nail Care, Manicures and Pedicures, Keratin Bonded Hair Extensions, and of course Tanning. Call them for an appointment or stop by and let one of their 7 talented stylists bring your vision into a reality!!!

The telephone number is 276-679-8389 or email hairvolution.norton@gmail.com

Find them on Facebook!

**Elite Fitness and Nutrition** located on 407 Front Street in Coeburn. Locally owned and operated by Shelly and Brett Richards. EFN is your 24/7 gym, equipped with circuit training weights, various cardio equipment, weight room, Rogue Fitness Equipment, and a Sauna. Offering Tanning and various classes such as: Pilates and Zumba. Elite Fitness and Nutrition is a family friendly environment and encourages members to work out with their children. EFN is the only retailer of Quest nutrition products in Wise County. Please stop by and check out their location in Coeburn. Contact 276-395-6776 and/or email at elitefitnessandnutrition@yahoo.com for more information!

**Southwest Virginia Workforce Investment Board**

The Southwest Virginia Workforce Investment Board is committed to helping improve the lives of people in this area, by assisting individuals in obtaining employment and furthering their career skills.

The WIB provides Adult & Dislocated Worker Services including job search, job referral, and placement assistance. We also offer career counseling, Individual employment plan developmental and assessment of skills and needs. The WIB can assist with occupational skills training, skills upgrading and retraining, job readiness training, and adult education and literacy. The WIB also provides services to veterans.

The WIB provides activities to qualified youth participants including tutoring, study skills training, and instruction, as well as alternative education. We offer summer employment that is linked to academic and occupational learning and paid and unpaid work experience. The will can assist youth with occupational skills training, leadership development, supportive services, and adult mentoring and follow-up services. Youth in the program receive comprehensive guidance and counseling.

Employer services are also available through the WIB including job registration and pre-employment screening, target recruitment events, internship and work experience. The WIB also offers employers on-the-job training, incumbent worker training, and customized training. The WIB also works with the state’s Rapid Response Unit to provide assistance to employers and employees in the event of a plant closing or layoff.

Contact Info: Rachel Patton – 276-883-4036
Website: Appalachian1stop.org
New Members Continued...

Wes Arney IT Services
Wes Arney IT Services is locally owned and operated by Wes Arney of Coeburn. Providing firms/businesses and individuals IT services that do not have the need or use for onsite full time IT staff. He is able to provide the work as needed/called and also has monthly and quarterly maintenance plans. Services include, but are not limited to, systems administration duties such computer installation, repair, data backup/recovery, and maintenance. As well as providing network administration support such as wired and wireless networking, email.

With over 17 years experience beginning as a work study in the computer services department at the then Clinch Valley College. Wes is looking forward to working with more of our community, chamber members and the Wise County/City of Norton Chamber and looks to help many of our local businesses expand and grow.

Contact him for more information contact him at Arney.w@gmail.com or 276-275-1096

MountainView Lodge
Mountain view Lodge is located in the heart of the ATV area in St. Paul, VA. Located .2 of a mile from the Spearhead Mountain View Trail and offering weekly, and nightly accommodations. Please call them today to book your weekend get away and more!

15167 Sandy Ridge Road, St. Paul.
276-356-8983
walter@mountainviewatvlodging.com
Also find them on Facebook

King University is a Presbyterian, doctoral-level comprehensive university. Founded in 1867 as King College, the University offers more than 80 majors, minors, pre-professional degrees and concentrations in fields such as business, nursing, law, medical and health sciences, pharmacy, education, and humanities. Graduate programs are offered in business administration, education, and nursing. A number of research, off-campus learning opportunities, and travel destinations are also available. King University is a NCAA Division II and a Conference Carolinas member with 25 varsity sports. Five academic schools of learning. Located in Bristol, the campus is 135 wooded acres and Georgian-style architecture buildings provide a quiet, beautiful learning environment that's just two minutes away from bustling downtown Bristol. Please visit their website at www.king.edu to find out more information.
Membership shows that these businesses & individuals care about the future of Wise County and the City of Norton. We appreciate their support and encourage you to use, whenever possible, the products and services of Wise County Chamber of Commerce members. For a complete listing of Chamber members, please visit our Business Directory on our Web site: wise-countychamber.org