Cory Dotson to Serve as 2015 President of Wise County/City of Norton Chamber of Commerce

The membership of the Wise County/City of Norton Chamber of Commerce recently elected new officers and board members for 2015. The results of this election were announced at the Chamber’s Annual Business Meeting held December 4, 2014, at the Lonesome Pine Country Club. Replacing outgoing President, Kim Clisso, the new President for 2015 is Cory Dotson.

Cory Dotson is a 1999 graduate of Radford University with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting. He currently is employed by Powell Valley National Bank where he serves as the Vice President of Business Development at the Wise branch. Mr. Dotson grew up in Wise and is a graduate of J.J. Kelly High School. He currently resides in Wise with his wife, Ashley, and his two sons, Gavin and Eli. He currently is a member of the Norton Kiwanis Club and serves on the Foundation Board for the University of Virginia’s College at Wise. The other newly-elected executive officers are Henrietta Dotson, Impression, President Elect; Tim Blankenbecler, Treasurer; Dan Minahan of Crutchfield Corp., Vice President of Economic Affairs; Michael McGregor of Miners Exchange Bank, Vice President of Public Affairs; Pam Collie of UVa-Wise, Vice President of Organizational Affairs; and Kim Clisso, Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Vice President of County & Community Affairs.

The new members elected to the 2014 Board of Directors are John Black representing Appalachia; Paxton Wright representing Big Stone Gap; Shelley Richards and Rita Lee representing Coeburn; Greg Dotson representing Pound; Greg Bailey representing St. Paul; Misty Yates representing Wise; and Marcus Adkins representing Norton. These newly-elected directors and officers will join those currently serving a term on the Chamber’s board.

In addition to the elected members, board members are appointed at-large to represent the various business sectors of the county: education, medical, retail, coal industry, and industry/information technology. Appointed to represent education are Dr. Keith Perrigan, Superintendent of Norton City Schools; Dr. Scott Hamilton, President of Mountain Empire Community

(Continued on page 2)
College; Dr. Jeff Perry, Superintendent of Wise County Public Schools; and Mrs. Donna P. Henry Chancellor of The University of Virginia’s College at Wise. Matt Tavenner, Wellmont Health System - Mountain View Regional Medical Center, and Lori Crisp of Norton Community Hospital—MSHA will represent the medical sector. David Reed of Wal-Mart Supercenter and Ed Everett of Vulcan Materials, will represent the retail sector. The coal industry will be represented by Donnie Ratliff, Alpha Natural Resources, and Rachel Burgess, Dominion/Virginia City Hybrid Energy Center. Industry/Information technology will be represented by Donald Purdie, Data Ensure and Clark Phipps, Sykes Enterprises, Inc.

The Wise County/City of Norton Chamber thanks all of our dedicated, volunteer board of directors for taking the time to make our county and chamber a great place.

Chamber’s 61st Annual Dinner & Gala Set for April 11

The Wise County/City of Norton Chamber of Commerce’s 61st Annual Dinner & Gala/Silent Auction will be held Saturday, April 11, 2015. The festivities will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a reception and display of the items for the silent auction. Dinner will follow at 7:00 p.m.

There will be good food, refreshments, music, and beautiful decorations. In addition to dinner and dancing, the event will feature the presentation of the 2014 Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award, Distinguished Service Award, and President's Award.

Make plans now to attend! The cost is $60 per person. Sponsor tables seat eight (8) people and are being sold at a cost of $700. Due to limited seating, you are urged to reserve your tickets or sponsor table as soon as possible.

The Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization whose goals and objectives are financed primarily by the dues of its members. The proceeds from this event will help further the work of the Wise County Chamber of Commerce. For more information, please contact the Chamber office at 276-679-0961.
**Chamber to Prepare 2015 Calendar of Events**

The Chamber is now preparing a 2015 Calendar of Events for Wise County and the City of Norton. Local civic and business organizations are **urged** to submit dates for annual meetings, concerts, festivals, and other community events planned for the upcoming year. In addition to the date, a contact name and phone number, time, and location of the event are needed. If you have any flyers or brochures promoting your event, the Chamber will be glad to assist in distributing these for you. Information and materials should be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Wise County Chamber of Commerce, 765 Park Avenue, P.O. Box 226, Norton, VA 24273 or emailed to ahughes@wisecountychamber.org

The 2015 Calendar of Events can be found on our Web site at wisecountychamber.org. Event planners are urged to check the Calendar of Events or call the Chamber at 276-679-0961 before setting a date for an event. By avoiding conflicts with already scheduled activities, maximum attendance at all local events can be obtained.

Please submit these dates so we can advertise your event Today!

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**Nominations Sought for 2014 “Outstanding Citizen of the Year”**

The Wise County Chamber of Commerce is now accepting nominations for the 2014 "Outstanding Citizen of the Year" Award which will be presented at the Chamber's Annual Dinner & Gala on Saturday, April 11, 2015.

To qualify for the award, a nominee must be a living person and must have been a resident of Wise County or the City of Norton sometime during 2014. Nominee must have made contributions or accomplishments, either personally or professionally, benefiting the entire county. Contributions of prior years and the immediate past year will be considered.

All citizens, except those who have received the award in previous years, are eligible for consideration. Nominations for groups will not be considered. Past recipients of the "Outstanding Citizen of the Year" Award include such notables as: Rhonda Miller Perkins, Wendell Barnette, Don M. Green, Maude Beaty Richmond, Daisy Portuondo, Catherine Rumschlag, Glenn Teasley, Rita McReynolds, Marilyn Maxwell, Carroll Dale, Harold Ringley, Sarah Jackie Gilliam, Dr. George E. Culbertson, Sim E. Ewing, Ron T. Short, Donald Ratliff, Mike Holbrook, Pat Atkins, and Bonnie Elosser, more listed online.

Nomination forms may be picked up at the Wise County Chamber of Commerce located at 765 Park Avenue in Norton or on our Web site: wisecountychamber.org. For more information or to have a form mailed to you, please call 276-679-0961. Letters of recommendation will also be accepted. Deadline for making nominations is Friday, March 6, 2015.
Apply Now for Forward Wise County 2015!

Applications are now being accepted for the 2015 class of Forward Wise County, a leadership development program sponsored by the Wise County/City of Norton Chamber of Commerce. Forward Wise County’s mission is to identify and develop local leaders from among a diverse group of individuals in business, industry, education, and civic groups who share a commitment to positive change in Wise County.

Orientation will be held March 2, 2015. There will be ten weekly sessions. One all-day Saturday seminar and one Saturday field trip may also be included. A mandatory one-day retreat will be held Saturday, March 7. Classes will begin March 9 and will be held each Monday from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. for ten weeks. Forward Wise County will conclude with a graduation luncheon on May 28.

Session topics will include work style assessment, leadership skills, local government, economic development, legislative issues, community trusteeship, public relations, education, and more!

The cost of the program is $250 which includes the retreat, all materials, meals and refreshments, a plaque, and the graduation luncheon. In many instances, employers are willing to pay the cost of tuition.

The 2015 class of Forward Wise County will be limited to 20 participants. Applicants must be at least 21 years of age. Preference will be given to residents of Wise County and the City of Norton. Applications may be picked up at the Chamber office at 765 Park Avenue in Norton or on our Web site: wisecountychamber.org. Completed applications must be returned to the Chamber by February 1, 2015.

To date, Forward Wise County has graduated approximately 428 potential community leaders. For more information, please call the Chamber at 276-679-0961.

Chamber of Commerce Recruits 28 New Members in 2014

The Wise County Chamber of Commerce’s is proud to announce that 28 new members were recruited last year, bringing the Chamber’s total membership to approximately 350. The new members for 2014 are as follows:

- Tales of the Lonesome Pine - Big Stone Gap
- Warren Associates - Big Stone Gap
- Warren Cleaning and Restoration - Big Stone Gap
- King University - Bristol, VA
- Elite Fitness and Nutrition - Coeburn
- Celebrate Catering - Coeburn
- Lonesome Pine Raceway - Coeburn
- Wes Arney IT Services - Coeburn
- Appalachia Business Communications - Gray, TN
- AirMed Care - Lebanon
- Southwest Virginia Workforce Investment Board - Jonesborough, TN
- CrossFit Stone Mountain - Norton
- Fitness Advantage - Norton
- GNC - Norton
- HairVolution - Norton
- It’s All About You Salon & Boutique - Norton
- Kerry Hay Law Office - Norton
- M&M Fun for All - Norton
- Magnolia Kitchen - Norton
- Pathfinders Outdoor Adventures - Norton
- Super Service Center - Norton
- Mountain View Lodge - St. Paul
- Clinch River Adventures - St. Paul
- Highlands Fellowship Church - Wise
- Joe Bolling Construction/Rentals - Wise
- Culby Supply - Wise
- Labash Boutique - Wise

Membership shows that these businesses and 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 list of all Chamber members, please visit our Web site at wisecountychamber.org.
**WISE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MEMBERSHIP**

**2015 MEETING SCHEDULE**

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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>No Meeting Scheduled</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>2015 Annual Retreat &amp; Monthly Meeting</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>Quarterly Meeting</td>
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<td>April</td>
<td>2015 Annual Dinner &amp; Gala**</td>
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<td>May</td>
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<td>June &amp; July</td>
<td>No Meetings Scheduled</td>
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<td>August</td>
<td>Regular Monthly Meeting</td>
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<td>September</td>
<td>Quarterly Meeting</td>
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<td>October</td>
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<td>November</td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>2015 Annual Business Meeting</td>
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REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS: Held the fourth Thursday of the month, 11:30 a.m., at various locations.*

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Held on the Tuesday prior to each regular monthly meeting at various dates, times, and locations.

ANNUAL DINNER & GALA: April 11, 2015**

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING: December 3, 2015

GOLF TOURNAMENT: October 2, 2015

*Attendance is open and encouraged to all members of the Wise County Chamber of Commerce.

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**Are you receiving our Weekly Updates?**

Many of you have already signed up to receive our weekly updates each Monday. We ask that anyone wanting to receive these please send us your email so that we may add you to our outgoing list. Also, if you wish to add anything to these weekly events that you email us your event by the Friday prior so that we have time to add each and everyone’s information to the email. These have been a great asset to those that are members of the chamber and wish to continue to send these out with your support. Below is an example of the information included in our weekly update.

Blood Donation Opportunities - November 5 – Please be sure to take the time to Vote!!! -November 5 – Free flu shots – 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. – Wise County Health Department, 134 Roberts Ave. SW, Wise. First come first serve basis. November 8 – Cavalier Pharmacy’s Customers Appreciation Day – 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. – Free Glucose readings, Diabetic Education, Cooking Demo’s, Free Retinal Screening and much more. Please Call Cavalier Pharmacy for more details 328-9141-November 9 – MECC Veterans day 5k Run/Walk – Registration begins at 9 a.m. race starts at 10 a.m. – Bullitt Park – Big Stone Gap - $20 fee or Student ID $10 – Parade to follow -November 9 & 15 – MountainRose Vineyards – Gobble, Gobble, Death and Trouble – Murder Mystery Dinner – 6:30 p.m. – Price is 29.99 per person plus tax. Contact 276-328-2013 -November 11 – Holocaust Survivor, Dr. Walter Ziffer to visit MECC – 11 a.m. – Phillips-Taylor Hall

This is another opportunity for us to help you spread the word of your event. Email us at wisecounty-coc@verizon.com or call us at 276-679-0961 to have your event listed in this email. Thank you so much for your continued support of the Wise County/City of Norton Chamber of Commerce.
The Catalyst

At the holiday season, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our progress possible. It was in this spirit that the Chamber held a “Christmas Social” on Wednesday, December 12, 2014, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., at The Inn at Wise. The Chamber’s Christmas Social is a gift to our members. Approximately 175 people, including Chamber members, directors, and other local officials were in attendance. Refreshments and hors d’oeuvres were served. This year’s event was hosted and sponsored by The Inn at Wise, and co-sponsored by Alpha Natural Resources, LLC; Crutchfield Corporation; and Appalachian Community Federal Credit Union. Door prizes were provided by, Crutchfield Corporation, Wise-Food City, The Office Advantage and EMI. We appreciate the continued support of these businesses!

Chamber’s Annual Retreat Set for February 27

The Wise County/City of Norton Chamber of Commerce’s 2015 Annual Retreat will be an all-day event held on, February 27, 2015, at UVA-Wise. Please save this date so you can attend. The retreat will feature professional development workshops. Chamber retreats provide a unique networking opportunity for Chamber members, new and current board members, and Chamber staff.

All Chamber members are encouraged to attend this year’s retreat.

For further information or to register, please contact the Wise County Virginia Chamber of Commerce at 276-679-0961.

Chamber Welcomes New Members for November and December

M&M Fun for All

M&M Fun for all is located on 904 Park Avenue in Norton, they are an indoor facility to bring your kids to play daily for one low price. They also have rooms available for rent for birthday parties and special occasions and offer delivery to local locations. M&M Fun for All is open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 12 p.m. until 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday from 12 p.m. until 9 p.m. Contact Jenny or Jacob Marshall at 276-455-9007 or visit their Facebook page for more information.

Associate Members

Angie Ryan of Norton

Ashleigh Collins of Wise

Christmas Social Well Attended

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Chamber Welcomes New Members for November and December

Labash Boutique is a family owned online Women's Clothing Boutique. Boutique Style Clothing has always been their passion, but mostly to bring affordable and stylish looks to their hometown. With this in mind, came the store motto, "Extraordinary Style for the Ordinary Girl". To working women, moms, and students, they hope to have a look just for you. With God at the center of all they do, they wanted the name to reflect that as well. Labash, the Hebrew word meaning "to be clothed" stands for all the things they want women to reflect: strength, beauty, dignity, and righteousness. Owners, Rebekah Spurlock-Riner and Kara Spurlock, two sisters-in-law from the beautiful mountains of Southwest Virginia, operating this wonderful new business out of their homes. You can contact them at info@labashboutique.com for more information. Make sure you follow them on Facebook and Instagram!

Lonesome Pine Raceway

Lonesome Pine Raceway (LPR) is a 0.375-mile banked oval located in Coeburn, VA. LPR opened in the summer of 1972 and has been provided race fans from throughout the region with exciting short track auto racing ever since.

LPR is currently part of NASCAR's grassroots racing series - the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series. The NASCAR Whelen All-American Series (NWAAS) is comprised of 58 short tracks from across North America. More than 10,000 drivers compete yearly in the NWAAS.

LPR operates alongside sister track Kingsport (Tenn.) Speedway. The two speedways combined in 2014 to create the opportunity for race teams to compete easily at the two facilities.

TRACK FACTS:
Track Length - 0.375-mile (3/8)
Banking - 18 degrees in turns
Sanctioning - NASCAR Whelen All-American Series
Racing Divisions - Late Model Stock Car, Modified Street, Pure-4, Rookie Pure-4, Mod-4 and Pure Street

For more information on Lonesome Pine Raceway, contact us at (276) 395-5155 or visit www.thepineraceway.com. Also follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Celebrate Catering

Celebrate is a family owned full service caterer located on 521 Front street in Coeburn. Celebrate offers catering needs for every occasion and they are open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. with buffets available on Sunday.

Offering event planning and catering from weddings, baby showers, birthdays and much more. Celebrate is able to put that special personal touch on every event they plan.

Contact them today at 276-395-5586

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
Help the Wise County/City of Norton Chamber GO GREEN!

The Wise County/City of Norton Chamber would like your help in our continued effort to go green. We ask that anyone willing or able to get new editions of “The Catalyst” electronically to please let us know. Each new edition is available on the Chamber website or we can also email you a copy as they become available. This will not only help our environment but will help cut Chamber costs as well. We feel this is a great opportunity for each of our members.

Please email us with the address you would like to receive electronic editions of the newsletters to; wisecounty-coc@verizon.net.