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**WASHINGTON  
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CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE**  
*Established 1904*

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BEAUFORT COUNTY  
CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE**

*Established 1904*

A monthly newsletter for Businesses of Washington and Beaufort County, North Carolina

April 2003

**BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS...**

**Washington-Beaufort County Chamber Celebrates 100th Annual Banquet**

The 100th Annual Banquet was a big hit with the more than 230 people who attended the event in March. The evening's planned focus was on relaxation and having fun. Several games, raffles, and a "silent auction" were available for members and guests to win a wide range of prizes either donated by or purchased at substantial price reduction from member businesses.

This year's event was a departure from the usual "guest speaker" evening as the Chamber continues to offer its members a variety of changes to meet the growing needs of the business and its members. The evening's festivities were highlighted by four award presentations: Community Service, **Mayor Stewart Rumley**; Business Leader of the Year, **Tom Vann**, of First South Bank; and, Special Recognition, County Manager, **Don Davenport**, and retiring City Manager, **R.L. Willoughby**.

- CHAMBER STAFF**  
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Dara Williams  
Assistant Executive Director
- VISITOR CENTER STAFF**  
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Chamber Chair-elect Bill Bedsole (L) presents Special Recognition Award to County Manager Don Davenport.



Chair Grace Bonner (L) presents Community Service Award to Mayor Stewart Rumley.



Executive Director Lee Hemink (R) reads from the Business Leader of the Year Award for Tom Vann of First South Bank.



Part of large crowd enjoying the 100th Annual Banquet.



Retiring City Manager R.L. Willoughby (L) is presented Special Recognition Award by Bill Bedsole, Chair-elect.



Business After Hours Mr. & Mrs. Cotty Thompson with Sprint's Curt Williford (Left). Cotty's Chili was delicious!!

# Director's Notes

**Dara Williams** and I attended a "Chamber 101" class, recently, put on by Mr. Chuck Ewart of the Spartanburg, SC Chamber of Commerce. This event was attended by 16 people from around eastern North Carolina who were new to the Chamber business or needed to "refresh" themselves. Very informative for the two of us. One of the key items of information for us was that, in the United States, every Chamber (there are more than 4000) must rely heavily on fund raising events to sustain its activities. The average Chamber's budget comes from 50% membership dues and that is about where we are currently. We thank you for supporting our Chamber through its fund-raisers and by paying your dues on time.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter is the Calendar of Events. Please note that we have added many "Business After Hours" events, for which so many of you have asked. Also, note that some of those BAH's need sponsors. Why not join with another member business and share the event?

My trip to Washington, DC with many others to discuss the OLF issue with our Congressional Delegation was a success. The case for not having the OLF sited along Beaufort County's borders was presented objectively and fairly, and was based on the premise that the "parallel runway" concept at Cherry Point would meet the Navy's training needs, as the Navy has even suggested in its draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Navy's final decision is expected to come this summer, but we have made our points to our Representatives and Senators that having the OLF right on our immediate border would very heavily, and negatively, affect our quality of life as well as have a dramatic negative economic impact on Beaufort County. It was a classic example of "Democracy at Work" and I was proud to represent the member businesses of our Chamber.

## Business After Hours

Congratulations to our Door Prize Winners at the February Business After Hours sponsored by Sprint: **Mayor Stewart Rumley**, City of Washington and East Carolina Orthotics and Prosthetics, **Greg Berry**.

# Chamber Website

We have officially entered into the 21st Century thanks to the help of TriCounty Communications, Inc. **Nick Klapp** and **Greg Coltrain** have been very patient with us in getting our new website on line. It features a variety of unique aspects including "Organizational Chart" and "Members Only" buttons and many "links" to other sites with related services or information. The "Members Only" button is strictly for WBC Chamber members to receive pertinent membership information and you can also see the Newsletter posted there. The site is expected to generate thousands of "hits" per month from all over the US. We continue to work with Nick and Greg to refine this powerful tool that we now have to promote the Chamber and Washington-Beaufort County businesses. **Check it out at [www.wbcchamber.com](http://www.wbcchamber.com)**

## Need Meeting Space?

Did you know that as a member, you have access to using the Chamber's Board Room without charge? For meeting groups up to about 21 people, call 946-9168 for details. For groups larger than 20, the North Carolina Estuarium has meeting space available at reasonable rates. Call **Tom Stroud** at 948-0000 for details.

## Thank You

*Many thanks for helping clean up our Chamber storage room on Saturday, March 22 to **Brenda Davis** of Washington Seafood and Crab, **Richard Hodges** of Stanadyne, **Mitch St. Clair** of St. Clair Trucking, and **Rachel Wolfe** of our Visitors Center.*

## Valentine's Day

Thank you, Gurley's Flower Shop, for the beautiful flowers you sent the Chamber for Valentine's Day. They brightened up our vestibule for many days following V-Day!

## Mission

*The role of the Washington Beaufort County Chamber of Commerce, is to represent and advocate business interest, promote economic growth, provide leadership in community affairs, support cultural, educational, recreational and civic endeavors that enhance the quality of life for the people of Beaufort County and provide services and programs for its members.*

# Membership Renewals

The Chamber is appreciative of the following members for their support and renewal in membership

John Easterling  
Utilities Dept-City of Washington  
Dirks Chiropractic Center  
Trade Oil Company  
Turner Pest Control, Inc.  
Chocowinity Pharmacy  
Care-O-World Enrichment Center  
Beaufort Co. Develop. Center  
East Carolina Farm Credit Services  
Cayton Furniture, Inc.  
Keyser  
Goody's  
Tiles Plus  
Chocowinity Family Care  
Flanders Filters  
A & B Mechanical  
Pamlico Properties  
The Telephone Connection  
Sloan Insurance  
Big Bargain Supply  
Angie Rhodes  
Seaboard Supply Co.  
Big Bargain Supply  
Britthaven of Washington  
Pamlico House  
GDS Inc.  
Carolina House Bed & Breakfast  
Washington Family Medicine Center  
Pools Unlimited  
David C. Mays, D.D.S.  
Judy Jennette  
Sans Souci Plantation, Inc.  
Dudley's Landscaping  
Alan Jordan  
Comfort Inn  
Tideland Electric Memb. Corp.  
Sailing Carolina & Cruises  
Electricities of North Carolina  
Town Of Chocowinity  
Lee Chevrolet, Olds., Pontiac, Buick  
Washington Pediatrics  
Hilton's Men Shop  
Crisp RV Center

## Apologies

Dr. Timothy Klugh should have won a major prize in the drawing for the "egg game" but did not, due to a mix-up at the time of the drawing. The Chamber Staff has apologized to Dr. Klugh and he has received a prize of his choosing of comparable value. We also apologize for the apparent duplication of some raffle tickets due to printing error. This was a big "learning year" for us, and we appreciate your understanding. Thank You!

# JOB FAIR

April 16, 2003 – 3:30 - 6:30 P.M.  
Beaufort County Community College – Building 9

Sponsored by  
BCCC Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society  
BCCC Career Center  
Beaufort County JobLink Center

For more information contact  
Rhunell Boyd, 252-940-6353 – Building 9

## Washington-Beaufort Chamber Welcomes New Members

**Seaboard Supply Co., Inc.**  
A.J. Wallace, Jr.  
1510 W. 5th Street  
Washington, NC 27889  
252-946-0166

**Judy M. Jennette**  
722 W. 2nd Street  
Washington, NC 27889  
252-975-2682

**R & R Lawn Maintenance**  
William Ragland  
112 Pine Lane  
Washington, NC 27889  
252-948-7340

**Nance & Daughter**  
Jim Nance  
PO Box 2247  
Washington, NC 27889  
946-0212

**Chocowinity Family Care**  
Dr. Jonathon Firnhaber  
611 E. 12th Street  
Washington, NC 27889  
252-946-9562

**Angie S. Rhodes, D.D.S., P.A.**  
**Family and Cosmetic Dentistry**  
685A NC Hwy 33 East  
Professional Center 33  
Chocowinity, NC 27817  
252-974-2300

**Town of Chocowinity**  
James Mobley, Mayor  
PO Box 145  
Chocowinity, NC 27817  
252-946-6568

**Jeremy Shadle Golf Shop**  
WYCC  
7155 River Road  
Washington, NC 27889  
252-946-3245

**R. B. Modlin**  
41 Indian Trail  
Washington, NC 27889  
946-0978

## Chamber 2003 Calendar of Events

April	Membership Drive Continues
April 8	Business & Industry Division Meets
April 8	Board Meeting
April 15	Business After Hours - we need a sponsor!
April 17	Mid-year Board Review Goose Creek State Park
April 22	Education Division Meets
May 13	Business & Industry Division Meets
May 13	Board Meeting
May 20	Business After Hours Sponsored by PCS & Aurora Fossil Museum
May 27	Education Division Meets