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**DIRECTOR'S CORNER**

~ Executive Director - Norman Snyder - 627-2383

As I write my article for the newsletter this moment, we are preparing for the changing of the "gavel". Susan Sasse will soon pass the gavel on to our new president Bill Atkin. This last year was a busy one with what I call "shoring up" our operations from the prior year changes. Susan's accomplishments have developed and prepared us for tomorrow's journey. So Susan, thank you for a job well done! We now are ready to take our Chamber to a new level! I don't want to steal the thunder from our current president and president elect, but we have some wonderful things about to be released. It has taken considerable time, research, and negotiation to reach this level today. To the executive committee and directors, thank you for a job well done! Over the course of the next 30 days, our new president Bill will share with you ...a vision. Being president of a Chamber is demanding of energy and time. Of course, every time you make a decision or voice an opinion, you do have your critics. For the most part though, it's a mark of your leadership. Peers within the business community have called on you to lead the Chamber membership. It is an awesome responsibility, and it's a role you should be proud to serve.

I would like to share with you just one little tid bit. This year we placed our Annual Chamber Awards applications on our web site, delivered applications to community businesses, and addressed civic organizations about submitting award applications. As I understand it, for the first time in the history of the Grand Ledge Area Chamber of Commerce we had 48 applications submitted for award considerations. Thank you Chamber membership!!! Our awards selection committee was extremely happy with the response.

If you have not reviewed our web site recently...take a look! We are working to provide our membership and community current information, resources, event times, and a variety of other information. Compared to 18 months ago, our web site has just about doubled in hits per month. Members can also now submit event information to be included on the Festivals and Events web page. Please submit your information online! Lisa Vickers thank you!

Someone said spring is just around the corner. I'm not certain what corner they are referring too, but I believe our weather is about to change.

**Annual Dinner 2005 - 35th Year** - Don't forget our Annual Dinner on April 19th at the Grand Ledge Opera House. Social time will start at 6:00 p.m., and I've been totally assured our program will be over at 9:30 p.m. sharp! We have a wonderful program planned and look forward to seeing you. Chamber members should have received their invitations in late March. You can pay for your tickets by cash, check, Mastercard, or Visa.

**Susan Lavengood** - Thank You Susan! Please join with me in saying "thank you" to Susan for her twelve years of service to the Chamber. Susan's dedication and devotion have played a major part in the Chamber's success over the years. She will be missed! Susan always had a smile for that person walking through the door and had the answer to their questions. We wish Susan much happiness and joy in her retirement! Now she can spoil those twin babies even more. Thank you Susan for your commitment and dedication to our Chamber!

**Volunteers of the Chamber** - Many things just seem to happen and go on for our Chamber. I'm talking about festivals, committee work, administrative support, and just a wide variety of other Chamber activities - all of which help make our Chamber successful and able to meet the challenge of tomorrow. Why do all of the little things come together and just happen...it's because of our Chamber volunteers. I don't have space to name these unrecognized heroes, but they all know who they are. I personally say "thank you" for always being there and supporting our Chamber activities!

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**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

~ Chair - Susan Sasse - 627-1052

Committee members discussed annual dinner, new membership benefit package, and the financial position of the Chamber. We were given the new policy manual for Chamber employees. We reviewed the nominations for new board members.

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**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

~ Chair - Bill Atkin - 627-2531

We would like to extend a BIG welcome to our new Chamber members! Please consider stopping by and personally welcoming them to the Chamber.

- Solutions Health Center - Carole Means
- Reno's Sports Bar - Dixie Henneman

- Computer Troubleshooters of Lansing - Mark Mitchell
- The Barn Tavern - Kevin Chittenden

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**GRAND LEDGE OPERA HOUSE**

~ Co-Chairs - Walt Eschtruth - 627-7554 and Bill Ferrigan - 627-8431

We have hired two new part-time Event Managers. We have a bank safety deposit box to keep important Opera House papers in. We are working with the city to resubmit a "Riverwalk Grant" application by April 1st. We are re-doing the stairway from the Grand Hall to the Terrace Level, so the public can use it. We are installing an outdoor speaker system and an amplifier for better sound system for outside events.

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**AMBASSADORS**

~ Chair - Liz Andrews - 627-8448

Next Meeting: April 27 - 7:30 AM - Blake Room. We will be greeting guests at the Annual Dinner on April 19th at 6:00 PM.

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**VICTORIAN DAY**

~ Chair - Marilyn Smith - 627-5170

Next Meeting: April 12 - 2:00 PM. The 1/3 page flyers are available at the Chamber or Ledge Craft Lane. Thanks to Key Builders for sponsoring the flyers. They are also at Lansing Convention Bureau & Council for the Arts, Michigan Rest Areas, J & K Steamboat for Bus Tour mailing, area Chambers, etc. Businesses--please return your business participation forms soon. If you didn't receive one, call Lynne MacDowell at 622-0471. We would like to know what you have planned and/or if you want to put items in the goody-bags.

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**RELAY FOR LIFE**

~ Executive Director - Norman Snyder - 627-2383

If you would like to join the Chamber's team, please contact Sheri Learning at 627-2112 or [sheri.learning@abnamro.com](mailto:sheri.learning@abnamro.com).

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**COLOR CRUISE & ISLAND FESTIVAL**

~ Chair - Marilyn Smith - 627-5170

Next meeting: Thursday, April 28 -12:00 PM. There are 10,000 brochures at the printers. Thanks to Best Western, Holiday Inn, Springhill Suites, A & W, and McDonalds for sponsoring the four -color flyers. We are looking for Day Chairmen for Friday and Saturday. Please call Marilyn Smith at 627-5170. Co-chairs are Karla Chamberlain and Lynne MacDowell. Committee Chairs: Traffic - Jason Barclay and Doug Penfield, Signs - Jim McConnel, Entertainment - Sandy Cornell-Howe, Sound & MC - Steve Graszler, Staffing - Ann Eschtruth, Pumpkin Painting - Holly McAnnaly, Cashier - Helen Holihan, Saturday Chair - Dan & Maryanne Greketis, Fitzgerald Park Liaison- Dan Patton and Jackie Blanc.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS**

~ Chair - Karla Chamberlain - 627-2154

Meetings: Thursday, April 21 - 12:00 PM – Blake Room. The committee has been working on the policy concerning information included on the Chamber's web site. Also working to get monthly newsletter switched to e-mail format.

**DOWNTOWN DISTRICT AUTHORITY**

~ Director - Mark Sullivan - 622-5256

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 13 - 6:00 PM @ City Hall. The DDA has been working on downtown maintenance for this year - cap stones on the top of the brick planter around the clock. These new stones have been sealed, and we will reseal them each year. A contract has been signed with Tree's Inc. to clean our mulch in the parking lots and to spray for weeds throughout the year. The Planning Commission, working in conjunction with the DDA, is looking into the traffic situation on M-100. They are working with a consultant to look at all of the options available and those options to which the Michigan Department of Transportation will agree. JOHO Technologies has submitted the site plan for their new building in the Industrial Park. Once approved, construction will take place this spring. The Bottling Company site is underway, and they are making a lot of progress. There is one fairly large company looking at the Industrial Park for a possible location.

**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**

~ Co-Chairs - Steven Krumm - 627-3241 and Jon Bayless - 627-2149

Meetings: Board Meeting Tuesdays - 7:30 AM - A&W

**GRAND LEDGE AREA RETAILERS**

~ Chair - Marilyn Smith - 627-5170

Meetings: Every Wednesday - 8:30 AM - Opera House. Thanks to Terry Foley for playing Easter Bunny and visiting as many businesses as were open during Night-Owl on March 18 and Saturday morning on the 19th. Next Night-Owl is Friday April 15. Thanks to the Grand Ledge Independent for sponsoring the "Down Town, Around Town, It's All Your Town! Support the Economy" ads. GLAR plans for the year, with deadlines, have been completed. If you would like a copy, contact Ron Nichols at 627-2159. The Farmers Market will be held weekly starting Saturday, May 21 on W. River St. between the exit drive from the parking lot to Harrison St. Please remove little lights from the street trees now so the buds will not be damaged.

**SPOTLIGHT ON THE SPOTLIGHT**

~ Chair - Cheri Locker - 627-8600

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 5 - 8:00 AM - Blake Room. We have sent out 102 chairs to be re-furbished, and we expect them to be re-installed sometime in April. We are looking for the donation of sheets, so that we can protect the seats once they are re-installed. Sheets can be dropped off at Cheri Locker-State Farm Insurance or the Chamber. We have two fundraising events scheduled for this summer. David Songer will perform August 11, and the Doowops will perform September 15.

**CHAMBER'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

~ Lisa Vickers - 627-4743

In an effort to reduce printing and postage expenses, the Chamber's monthly newsletter is now available to view online for members with email addresses (free Adobe Reader software is required to view them, which can easily be downloaded from the Chamber's home page). If you received a hard copy of this April edition, it is because the Chamber does not have a valid email address for you. If you have an email address, please send an email to [adde@mail@grandledgemi.com](mailto:adde@mail@grandledgemi.com) with the name of your business, and we will add it to the Chamber's database. As soon as each monthly newsletter has been added to the Chamber's web site, you will receive an email announcing the current edition. If your email address should change in the future, please notify the Chamber office at 627-2383 or [adde@mail@grandledgemi.com](mailto:adde@mail@grandledgemi.com).

**MAY 2005 CHAMBER NEWSLETTER**

~ Lisa Vickers - 627-4743

Attention Chairs: Please submit all newsletter information to [newsletter@grandledgemi.com](mailto:newsletter@grandledgemi.com) by Wednesday, April 27. An email reminder will be sent out on Monday, April 25.

**UPCOMING FESTIVALS AND EVENTS**~ Please visit the [www.grandledgemi.com](http://www.grandledgemi.com) for more detailed information

- Apr 10 ~ "Time Machine", 20's & 30's Pop Arrangements @ Opera House
- Apr 15 ~ Night Owl Shopping
- Apr 19 ~ Chamber Annual Dinner
- Apr 20 ~ Dinner and Evening with Jody Bernhardt, Mrs. Michigan United States 2005
- Apr 26 ~ Meridian Band Concert @ Opera House
- May 7 ~ Victorian Day
- May 10 ~ GLHS Madrigal Concert @ Opera House
- May 13-14 ~ Relay for Life
- May 14 ~ Kids Day America/International
- May 20 ~ Night Owl Shopping
- May 21-28 ~ Michigan Week
- May 27 ~ GLHS "Concert on the Grand" @ Opera House



**Grand Ledge**  
 Area Chamber of Commerce  
 121 S. Bridge Street  
 Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
[www.grandledgemi.com](http://www.grandledgemi.com)