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**DIRECTOR'S CORNER**

~ Executive Director - Norman Snyder - 627-2383

Sharing In The Vision . . . On April 17<sup>th</sup> I witnessed my third president taking the gavel of leadership. Watching Bill Atkin accept the gavel from Susan Sasse was an exciting and moving moment in our Chamber history. As each new president steps to the podium and takes the historical step forward to receive the gavel, they are making a commitment of their leadership, skill, time, and energy. We all sit and enjoy the ceremony and leave when the festivities are over. For our new president, the clock has begun.

Bill makes it well known what his vision will be during his tenure as president. **A New Year, A New Vision and A New Chamber!** Through these three components of vision you get a straight message and that is Membership Value. The last 18 months we have worked on examining, reviewing, researching, and developing a menu of Membership Benefits, which provide real Membership Value to our organization. The process had many challenges and much criticism during research and review of possible benefit packages. Today we are just about ready to introduce that menu for our membership. I cannot begin to tell you the number of telephone calls, faxes, emails, and meetings it has taken, but members, we are finally there!

I won't take up your time today in talking about Bill's vision components. I would ask you take a few moments and go to our web site and click on The New President Bill Atkin's Vision. Just take a few moments to review Bill's vision statement. There is going to be change, new programs, a different focus, and a new level for our Chamber. As executive director, I find this exciting and look forward to meet the challenge for it will take us to a new place as a Michigan Chamber. As we wind up, moving forward, I hope each member will make the commitment and determination to help us reach our vision for 2005 and 2006.

To Susan Sasse, thank you for your commitment and determination this last year as president. The task looks easy from the audience, but the gavel is heavier than it looks. I think each Chamber president can attest to that statement.

To the membership, let us not loose the focus of Chamber Growth and Membership Value. You can have a real part of **sharing the vision!**

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**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

~ Chair - Bill Atkin - 627-2531

Norm and I will be contacting all of our members about participating in the Member to Member value program. Please be thinking about what discounts or incentives your business or service can provide to your fellow participating members. As the number of participating members grows, so will the value of Chamber membership. This feature along with new available insurance options are more reasons to be a GLACC member!

I am also looking into creating a new status of Chamber board membership for those who have been involved with the Chamber for 25 years or more. This "senior active board member" will be in the position to contribute their wisdom and experience involving Chamber policies and decisions without the meeting attendance requirements that come with standard board membership.

I am excited about the President's Circle Promotional Membership Packages we will be unveiling soon. A number of package options that will help meet the advertising and promotional needs of our members will be available.

Please contact me any time with any ideas that might help the GLACC be more effective helping its membership and our community.

P.S. Many thanks again to all that made our Annual Chamber Dinner such a wonderful success!

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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 stop by and personally welcoming them to the Chamber.

➤ Drywall Plus – Travis Cole

➤ Silver Service Catering – Liz Shimunec

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**GRAND LEDGE OPERA HOUSE**

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

The inside stairway has been redesigned, remodeled, and carpeted to accommodate public use between the Grand Hall and Terrace Level. The Opera House has worked with the City of Grand Ledge to resubmit a River Walk grant with supporting funds of \$77,500 (Opera House), \$5,000 (Rotary Club), and \$17,500 (City). The outside grounds have been spruced up with new annuals to be planted by a Master Gardener group.

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**AMBASSADORS**

~ Chair - Sheila Laing - 627-3882

There are no ribbon cuttings scheduled at this time. There will not be an Ambassador's meeting in May. In place of the meeting, the Ambassador's Committee members will be attending the Michigan Week Mayor's Exchange Breakfast on Wednesday morning, May 25. Bill Atkin will host an "After Business Hours" at Holihan-Atkin Funeral Home on Wednesday, May 25 from 5:30-7:30 PM. Please join us!

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**VICTORIAN DAY ~ MAY 7**

~ Chair - Marilyn Smith - 627-5170

10AM non-motorized parade: carriages, pony carts, riders, unicycles, bicycles, and canines. Displays: quilt show, period craft demonstrators, hand reading, Civil War reenactors. Events: 11AM Teddy Bear Tea (register 627-9843), 1:30 PM Victorian Funeral Reenactment, 2:45 PM Mid-19th Century Fashion Show, 4PM High Tea, 11AM-12PM Picture with Queen Victoria, 12-2PM Picture with Pony, 11AM-2PM Make a Tussie Mussie, 12:30-2:30PM May Basket, 1-3PM Fly a Kite, and all day Carriage Rides. Complete schedules available at Ambassador welcome cart and participating businesses the day of the festival and at [www.victoriandays.org](http://www.victoriandays.org). For further information, 627-5170 or 627-9843.

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**RELAY FOR LIFE ~ MAY 13-14**

~ 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 ~ OCT 7-9**

~ Chair - Marilyn Smith - 627-5170

Plans are progressing. Most display forms are in. Businesses interested should contact Marilyn Smith at 627-5170 (home) or 627-9843 (Ledge Craft Lane). Four color brochures have been distributed around the state and Lansing area. Local businesses may pick them up at the Chamber of Commerce or call 627-2383 and leave a message.

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

~ Chair - Karla Chamberlain - 627-2154

Meetings: Thursday, May 19 - 12:00 PM – Blake Room. The committee continues to work on sending the newsletter by e-mail to those who have it and to duplicate and mail a paper copy to those who don't. We have had discussion on developing some type of promotional format - video, CD, brochure - to include all community/school/business events and festivals for an entire year at a time.

## **DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

~ Director - Mark Sullivan - 622-5256

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 11 - 6:00 PM @ City Hall. The DDA is planning to replace several dead trees in the downtown area, and the existing trees will be pruned. New lights will be placed in the new parking lot near First Place Sports, and the lot will be getting a top coat of asphalt, stripping, and have doors placed on the dumpster enclosure. A request for bids will be issued soon for the painting of the decorative street lights and the clock in front of the Opera House.

JOHO Technologies, a new business for the Industrial Park, will be returning to the Planning Commission on May 5 to complete the site plan review process. If approved, construction should begin by the end of May.

## **GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**

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

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 17 - 7:30 AM - A&W

## **GRAND LEDGE AREA RETAILERS**

~ Chair - Marilyn Smith - 627-5170

Meetings: Every Wednesday - 8:30 AM - Opera House. All are welcome. Richard Leaver (new owner of Perk-Up), Carole Means (Solutions Health Center), Laura Miller (Delta Flowers), and Becca Mischler (Best Western) have joined us. Welcome packets are going out to Barrington Woods. Night Owl, May 20--Teacher Appreciation--Bill Atkin will perform at the "Sinatra Cafe Under the Sky" by Ledge Craft Lane. Special drawing for Teachers only, compliments of Best Western and Image Projections.

## **SPOTLIGHT ON THE SPOTLIGHT**

~ Chair - Cheri Locker - 627-8600

We meet the first Tuesday of each month at either 8 AM or 4 PM at the Opera House. Our 102 new seats have been re-installed in the theatre and look wonderful! We also put a deposit on 210 yards of the same fabric in order to complete the rest of the seats in the future. In addition to the Spotlight Actors' scheduled performances, we have two fundraising performances scheduled for this summer. David Songer will perform on August 11th, and the Doowops are scheduled for September 15th.

## **CHAMBER'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

~ Susan Sasse - 627-1052 and Lisa Vickers - 627-4743

If you received a hard copy of this May 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 [addemail@grandledgemi.com](mailto:addemail@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 [addemail@grandledgemi.com](mailto:addemail@grandledgemi.com).

## **JUNE 2005 CHAMBER NEWSLETTER**

~ Susan Sasse - 627-1052 and Lisa Vickers - 627-4743

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

## **UPCOMING FESTIVALS AND EVENTS**

~ Please visit the [www.grandledgemi.com](http://www.grandledgemi.com) for more detailed information

- 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 25 ~ After Business Hours @ Holihan-Atkin Funeral Home
- May 27 ~ GLHS "Concert on the Grand" @ Opera House
- Jun 17 ~ Night Owl Shopping
- Jun 23-26 ~ 25th Annual Yankee Doodle Days
- Jun 24-25 ~ 25th Annual Mudge's Follies Musical Revue
- Jun 25 ~ 25th Annual Yankee Doodle Days



# **Grand Ledge**

*Area Chamber of Commerce*

**121 S. Bridge Street  
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[www.grandledgemi.com](http://www.grandledgemi.com)**