

Chamber looking for volunteers to serve as new board members

The Lincolnton-Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce is looking for a few good men and women to serve as members of the organization's board of directors for 2012.

The mission of the chamber is to advance commerce, tourism, and civic interest in the Lincolnton-Lincoln County area.

The board of directors is the policy-making body of the chamber, which represents a broad cross-section of the business and professional leadership of the community.

In essence, it is the responsibility of the board of directors to become familiar with the by-laws, policies, and procedures in order to serve as informed representatives of the chamber of commerce.

Board members are likewise required to:

(1) Attend the annual chamber banquet which also serves as the installation dinner, on Tuesday, February 7, at 7 p.m. at The Lincoln Center.

(2) Attend the annual planning meeting/conference to develop goals for the coming year.

(3) Attend each regular or special board meeting, normally on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

(4) Attend chamber-sponsored events.

(5) Attend special events to promote the chamber of commerce or the community.

(6) Assist in chamber events and activities, to include the sale of tickets.

(7) Make a commitment to recruit a minimum of two new chamber members per year.

(8) Serve on at least one commit-

tee of your choice each year or as may be requested by the president.

(9) Perform such duties as may be requested from time to time by the president and/or board of directors.

(10) Prepare for each meeting by doing any homework necessary to be informed and take an active role in meetings.

(11) Possess the ability to distinguish between personal interests as a citizen and interests as a member of the chamber and its board of directors.

Each board of director serves a three-year term.

"We are seeking individuals who are willing to step up to the plate and work hard to make a real difference in our city and county," said Sherry McKellar, executive assistant for the chamber as well as the Lincoln County Development Authority. "Being a board member is a wonderful opportunity for community service. Our hope is that there are local residents willing to take on the challenge."

The qualifications for this position include:

(1) A willingness to make the time,

effort, and financial commitment necessary to give the proper attention to chamber responsibilities.

(2) The business and work experience that will assist in the exercise of sound judgment in considering challenges facing the chamber as they relate to the overall program of community development.

(3) The ability to inspire others to participate in worthwhile initiatives, sponsored by the chamber, and to motivate individuals to get involved and volunteer within the community.

(4) The ability to work constructively and harmoniously with directors, members, volunteers, and staff of the chamber in accordance with the policies established by the board of directors.

(5) A demonstrated ability for leadership in community service.

The application forms for board membership are currently available at the chamber of commerce office in the Blanchard House, located at 112 N. Washington Street.

For more information about serving the community as a chamber director, contact the chamber office at 706-359-7970.

Classes get underway Feb. 1

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strength training method. Typically, each interval strength training program will feature a set of 10-20 reps per exercise, with a one to two-minute burst of cardio in between sets.

Both of these classes are set to begin on Wednesday, February 1.

Those who wish to register for the classes may do so at the gym through Tuesday, January 31, or by visiting the following website: www.thefamily.org.

(3) Zumba: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:15 to 8:15 at Camp Lakeside.

Zumba Fitness is the only Latin-inspired dance-fitness program that blends red-hot international music with contagious steps to form a "fitness party" that is downright addictive.

The Zumba classes are on-going at Camp Lakeside.

The cost for all of the exercise classes is \$30 for an eight-session card.

Participants with children should note that complimentary childcare is offered for children ages eight weeks and up. Space is limited.

For over 150 years, the Y has been changing the landscape of America.

In 1844, industrialized London was a place of great turmoil and despair. For the young men who migrated to the city from rural areas to find jobs, the city was a bleak land-

scape of tenement housing and dangerous influences.

George Williams, then 22, a farmer-turned-department store worker, was troubled by what he saw. He joined 11 friends to organize the first Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), a refuge of Bible study and prayer for young men seeking an escape from the hazards of life on the streets.

Although an association of young men meeting for a common purpose was nothing new, the Y offered something unique for its time. The organization's drive to meet social needs in the community was compelling, and its openness to members crossed the rigid lines separating the social classes in England.

Years later, retired Boston sea captain Thomas Valentine Sullivan, working as a marine missionary, noticed a similar need to create a safe "home away from home" for sailors and merchants. Inspired by the stories of the Y in England, he let the formation of the first United States YMCA at the Old South Church in Boston on December 29, 1851.

It should be mentioned that Father's Day, basketball, and volleyball started at the YMCA—all because George Williams saw a need and tried to meet it.

For more information about the Family Y in Lincolnton, call 706-359-2153.



The Lincoln County School System was presented with the 2011 SSTAGE (Student Support Team Association for Georgia Educators) STAR Award for Promising Practices – Best School System. Receiving the state award on behalf of the school system were (l-r) Sherry Allen, Britt McKinney, Dr. Brian Campbell, Marie Echols, Howie Gunby, and Patty Arthur.

School system wins state award for implementation of RTI program

The Student Support Team Association for Georgia Educators (SSTAGE) recently awarded the Lincoln County School System the 2011 SSTAGE Star Award for Promising Practices – Best School System.

System representatives were presented the award at the 2012 SSTAGE Conference held in Athens Wednesday, January 11.

In the fall of 2010, Lincoln County representatives gave a presentation at the SSTAGE conference on the implementation of RTI (Response to Intervention) in local schools and were subsequently selected as SSTAGE Best System Finalists.

Then, in the spring of 2011, three judges from the SSTAGE organization visited LCES, LCMS, and LCHS to get a closer look at the RTI process and interview teachers and administrators.

"The judges were very complimentary of our system and recognized that we were using the RTI process at all three schools to address the academic needs of students in grades K-12," said Dr. Brian Campbell, assistant superintendent for instruction.

After it was announced that Lincoln County was the statewide system winner, the local teachers and administrators were invited to make their presentation to state educators.

Representing Lincoln County at the 2012 state SSTAGE conference were Sherry Allen, assistant principal at LCES; Patty Arthur, assistant principal at LCMS; LCHS Principal Howie Gunby; Britt McKinney, special education teacher at LCHS; Marie Echols, system RTI coordinator; and Dr. Campbell.

Brittany Barden and Christie Mattison, teachers at LCHS, joined the team for the 2011 SSTAGE presentation.

After the Lincoln County educators made their presentation at the 2012 conference, they were guests of honor at a luncheon, where they were introduced to the audience and given a crystal obelisk.

Little Mill Middle School in Forsyth County received the Secondary Level Award, and Liberty Elementary School in Cherokee County, the Elementary Level Award.

In his remarks on the conference, Dr. Campbell said, "As I watched our team present, I was glowing with pride because our team did an incredible job of sharing the RTI process with all of the attendees."

"It was also very gratifying for educators across the state to come up to our team members after the presentation to ask questions and inquire more about our process. RTI is not easy to implement, but our teachers and administrators never gave up because they knew it was best for our students."

In conclusion, he said, "I am thrilled that a small, rural system with limited resources has been recognized above larger urban systems with more resource."

According to Sherry Allen, "I can truly say that the experience of observing other Response to Intervention programs from around the state validated my belief that the Lincoln County School System is progressive and ahead of most schools in its implementation of the intervention process."

Marie Echols agreed: "Our teachers have been consistently monitoring the progress of our students. Due to their efforts, the schools have been able to pinpoint the learning needs of all students."

"Students who need remediation for basic skills, repetition of content material, or enrichment quickly receive extra instruction to meet their needs," she continued.

"Lincoln County Schools have

been innovative in scheduling, and teachers have worked as a team to focus on student learning. These things, along with the flexibility of all involved, have made a real difference to our students. The SSTAGE recognition provides more evidence that we are on the right track."

RTI calls for each student at LCES, LCMS, and LCHS to be screened three times a year to identify any skill deficits. Then, specific, research-based interventions are implemented by the teachers.

A student's progress is monitored during the intervention to determine if it is working. Based on the progress monitoring results, the intervention can continue or more intense educational interventions can be applied.

SSTAGE advocates for best practices by recognizing schools and sys-

tems that are leading the way in implementing Response to Intervention.

Through collaboration with the Georgia Department of Education, the winners of the SSTAGE Star Award for Promising Practices – Best School System will be featured on "Illuminate Live," an online platform that allows schools to view the presentations and interact with the presenters.

The Lincoln County team is scheduled to make its online presentation in the spring. The system will be joined by SSTAGE finalists Ware County High School and the Clayton County School System.

Also, Principal Gunby and Dr. Campbell have been asked to be on a panel that will discuss RTI at the Georgia Association of Educational Leaders Conference in February.

Poland to speak at banquet

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of the Year," which recognizes notable entrepreneurial and business accomplishments in the Lincoln County area.

Other groups and individuals who will be honored during the course of the evening are Faye Butler, grand marshal of the 2011 Lincolnton Christmas Parade; the 2011 Miss Freshwater Coast; the 2011 Junior Miss Freshwater Coast; "Chamber Director of the Year;" and the 2011 Chamber Board of Directors. The 2012 Chamber Board of Directors will likewise be introduced to the audience.

"We hope all members of the community will attend the banquet to get an overview of what the chamber accomplished in 2011 and familiarize themselves with our plans for this year," said Sherry McKellar, executive assistant for the chamber and the Lincoln County Development Authority.

"The chamber is here to serve all county residents," she continued. "We welcome your suggestions and input."

Tickets for the banquet are \$20 each and may be purchased at the chamber office, located in the Blanchard House at 112 N. Washington Street, or from any chamber director.

Furthermore, tables for six to eight persons may be reserved by calling the chamber office at 706-359-7970.

The deadline is Friday, February

3, at 5 p.m.

The public is cordially invited to attend.

BOA supports review

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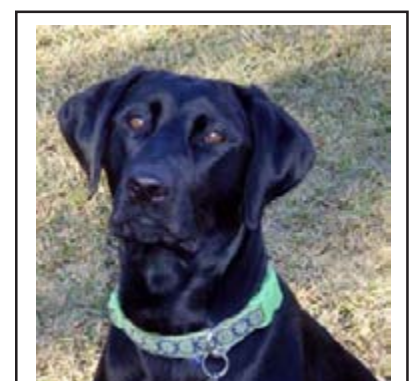
sors." In conclusion, Heard discussed the action taken by the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners to invite the Georgia Department of Revenue to send in a performance review board to ensure that the practices of the local tax assessor's office meet state standards.

"Wade Johnson (commission chairman) told me the county had requested a review of the board of assessors to see if we were focused enough and doing what we were supposed to. I said, 'What a coincidence. Kenny and I have already had this conversation. This is what we've been trying to get done.'"

Heard went on to say, "Both Kenny and the board of assessors wholeheartedly support this. There have been some changes in the law, and if we're not doing our job correctly or if we're not looking at the information properly, then we need to change things."

"We need to get things to the point where our work holds up under scrutiny by the department of revenue and if it comes to that, by the courts."

For more information, contact the tax assessor's office at 706-359-5502.



Missing

Dawn and Mark Meline of Florence, S.C. are looking for their lost black lab, Grace. She was last seen Sunday, Jan. 22 at Sandhill Kennel on Hwy. 220 West. She is wearing a collar and is chipped. If you have seen her please call 706-833-5929; 706-833-1131; 843-229-4545 or 843-229-6275. The owners are anxious to get her back. She is in heat so may be with other dogs.

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Relay kickoff a success

The kick-off celebration for the 2012 Lincoln County American Cancer Society Relay for Life was held Thursday, January 19, in the Family Life Center at First Assembly of God. About 30 people attended the event, during which cancer survivors and other relay participants enjoyed food, music, games, and the fellowship of a community fighting back against cancer. Discussing a few fundraising strategies are Lisa Aycock (l), relay chairman; Beth Firebaugh (c), community manager for the ACS; and cancer survivor Martha Brangenburg.

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