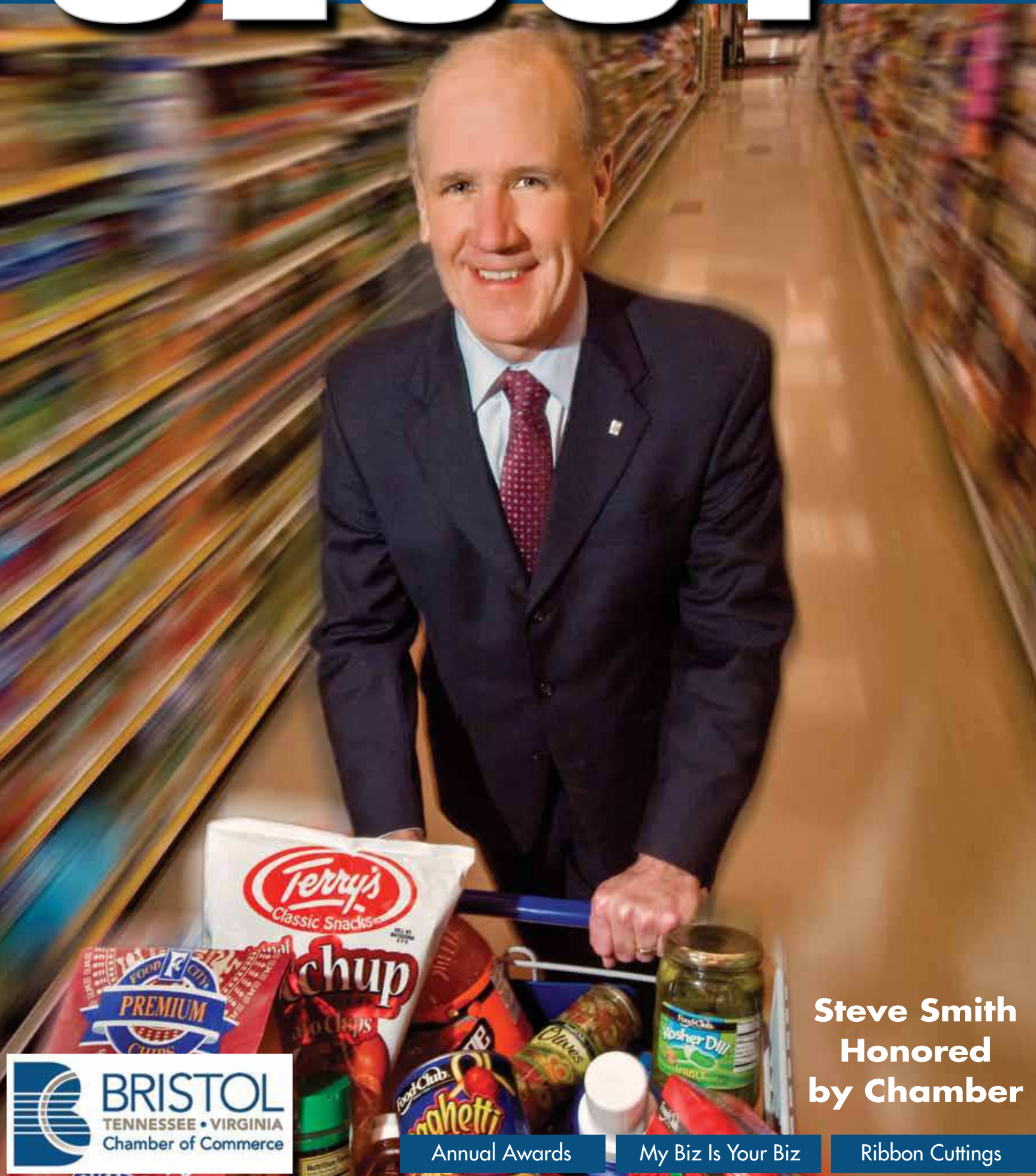


Bristol, TN/VA Chamber of Commerce

CLOUT

March 2015
Inaugural Issue
bristolchamber.org



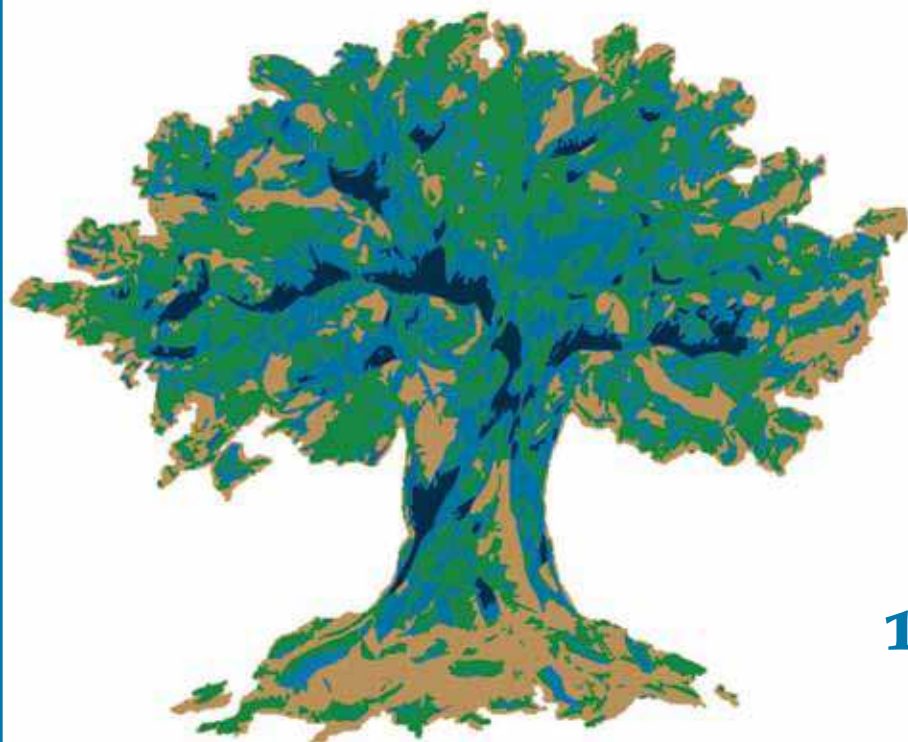
**Steve Smith
Honored
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Annual Awards

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The mission of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce is the unified voice of business advocating for a progressive, innovative and sustainable economic climate.

Publisher

Bristol Chamber of Commerce

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Graphic Design

Ginger Mullins, Bristol Herald Courier

Photography provided by

Earl Neikirk, Bristol Herald Courier

Andre Teague, Bristol Herald Courier

Reece Hill Photography Service

Printer & Distribution

Interstate Graphics, Inc.

423.282.1511

Advertising Sales

Dawn Friedman, Bristol Herald Courier

276.669.2181

**COVER STORY****Steve Smith Presented
Lifetime Achievement Award****12****COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT****Annual Awards****6****Keep Bristol Beautiful****15****BYL Projects Help Several Groups****17****LEAD Bristol! Members Work On Projects****18****ECONOMIC STRENGTH****BMS Ready To Go Racing****14****MY BIZ IS YOUR BIZ****My Biz Is Your Biz Events****11****NETWORKING & REFERRALS****New Member Profiles****9****New Chamber Members****10****Ambassadors****16****Gold Club Members****19****Gold Club Feature Member****20****BUSINESS ADVOCACY****Day On The Hill****22**

President's Corner

Do you have CLOUT?

The Bristol Chamber of Commerce has restructured its quarterly publication to the magazine you are currently holding in your hands. CLOUT highlights Bristol Chamber members who are our local leaders and economic drivers as well as features what's happening at the Bristol Chamber of Commerce and Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The readership isn't strictly limited to Chamber members. It has, of course, been distributed to the usual Bristol Chamber mailing list of over 1,200 contacts. In addition, it has been mailed to other businesses and professional offices that we consider potential members, with approximately 1,500 copies going out. As you can see, the magazine is 4-color and the page size is larger than most magazines. I have worked on similar publications in the past and believe the design is attractive to pick up, read, share, place on waiting room tables, and it has a long shelf life. Our studies showed each publication was seen by at least three sets of eyes. I expect it will be the same here.

To successfully transition the Chamber Quarterly that you normally receive from us, we have partnered with the Bristol Herald Courier. They have the expertise to produce CLOUT.

Like the Chamber Quarterly, the cost of publication is made up in advertising revenue. It's a bigger publication and we will need more advertisers to cover the cost. If you are contacted by the Bristol Herald Courier regarding an ad for CLOUT, the Bristol Chamber is aware and has authorized them to do so.

While the Bristol Herald Courier will produce it, the Chamber will control the editorial content of CLOUT. When you open the magazine you will notice that the Bristol Chamber's core competencies are identified at the top of the page:

- Economic Strength
- Community Development
- Networking and Referrals
- Business Advocacy

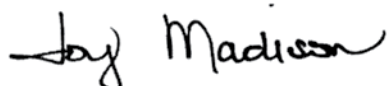
As a member of the Bristol Chamber you have special access to networking events that help improve business relationships to build your business. Friday Business Briefing breakfasts, for example, brings in over 250 business professionals each month. The sponsor always provides an informative, interesting, and relevant program. New members are introduced and you can get your business name mentioned by donating a door prize. You can also get your name and business mentioned by winning a door prize. Exclusively for Chamber members, our Friday Business Briefing breakfast is the envy of many chambers. How do we know? Because they call us and ask how we do it. It's really very simple - it's because of you, the members of the Bristol Chamber. Your invitation is in our weekly e-blast. All we ask is that you RSVP so we have enough eggs for those fabulous omelets served at our breakfasts.

Also, our Volunteer Ambassadors are working on Chamber 101. Held quarterly, this one hour briefing is designed as an orientation about what your Chamber does and where you can find a place of interest. It is open to new and existing members. Your Chamber tackles advocacy, education partnerships, entrepreneur nurturing, business seminars, tourism economic development, networking, leadership training, and a robust "green" program.

Last year the Chamber worked on its digital presence with the addition of our Save Local Now app as part of your membership. We have heard you really like the turn-by-turn instructions to your business, a place to do special deals, the searching capabilities to shop Chamber members, and an easier place to find your business on the web. If you haven't taken advantage of personalizing your member profile on the Save Local Now app, call Sarah Hutchinson or Amy Shuttle at the Chamber. With over 130,000 views in the first six months, the app has surpassed the expectations we set for a convenient, trustworthy reference guide.

In 2015 we will continue to improve communication through traditional and digital means. Your 2015 Chamber Directory was delivered to you in January. If you need extra copies, please let us know. One more note, later in the spring the Chamber will be on local cable television with Chamber Chat so look for us there. As always, the Chamber will continue to leverage the marketing presence of its members with CLOUT.

As we say at the Chamber, "My Biz is Your Biz."



Joy Madison, President and CEO



Chairman's Corner



Jim Maxwell

One of the most important things my parents taught me when I was growing up is to be thankful and appreciative for everything, and every opportunity that comes your way. We have a lot to be thankful for here in Bristol, especially during this extraordinary time.

The year 2015 will go down in history as one of the most dynamic in our city's history. We will see more retail growth over

the next 12 months than at any time in our city's history. We will see the opening of close to one million square feet of retail space this year. There are very few, if any communities, including many much larger than our twin cities that will experience growth anywhere near this scale.

In 2015 we will see the historic change of the Food City 500 spring race at Bristol Motor Speedway with the move from March to its new April date. This move is expected to re-energize attendance for the spring race. Bristol Dragway, in Thunder Valley, celebrates its 50th anniversary. The NHRA Spring Nationals will again take place on Father's Day weekend.

Bristol Rhythm and Roots will celebrate its 15th anniversary, and the Birthplace of Country Music Museum will celebrate one full year in operation.

Bass Pro Shops, which made such a huge splash (kind of like a leaping Large Mouth Bass) a year ago, will celebrate its one year anniversary in August.

The Pinnacle is seeing a lot of activity this spring with Belk, Marshalls, Kirkland's, Pier 1 Imports, Shoe Carnival, Versona and Michaels opening in March and a whole slate of additional retail and restaurant venues opening in April. If you haven't been there yet, I encourage you to check it out.

Cabela's and The Falls development in Bristol, Va. are expected to see openings later this year.

Two new hotels will open their doors for business, the Fairfield Inn & Suites and Hilton Garden Inn – and the Bristol Sessions Hotel will move ahead and is expected to open in the near future.

Quaker Steak & Lube's one year anniversary takes place in June and the opening of Cootie Brown's will open this year on the Parkway, next door to our Chamber office.

Your Bristol Chamber is right in the middle of all the action.

We are in the enviable position of being financially solid,

with a nice reserve fund, and one of only a few 5-star accredited chambers of commerce in the United States. Our incredible staff does an extraordinary job working with more than 700 members and 70 plus Gold Club members.

In 2015 our goal is to continue to grow our chamber membership by providing outstanding programs that provide value and are relevant to our stake holders – our membership. I think you will agree, we live in an extraordinary place and in a time of unprecedented growth. It takes committed members like you, and an extremely talented staff to help continue making the Bristol Chamber of Commerce a great organization. Please get the most out of your membership by getting involved.

Bristol is more than a good place to live, work and raise a family – it is a GREAT place.

I am so very appreciative and blessed to have the opportunity to serve as your Chairman this year. Let's all make history in 2015!

Jim Maxwell

*Bristol Chamber of Commerce
2015 Chairman of the Board*

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Annual Awards



Award Recipients *from left to right: Shelly Shaffer (Ambassador of the Year), Chris Lee (2014 Chairman of the Board), Carolyn Ferrell (Keep Bristol Beautiful Service Award), Steve Smith (Lifetime Achievement Award), John Rainero (Convention & Visitors Bureau Service Award), Te-Kai Shu (Leadership Service Award)*



Steve Smith (K-VA-T)
Keynote Speaker at the event



Shelly Shaffer (Quaker Steak & Lube) Recipient of Ambassador of the Year with Chris Lee (2014 Chairman of the Board)

Annual Awards



**John Rainero (Permatile) Recipient of
Convention & Visitors Bureau Service Award
with Chris Lee (2014 Chairman of the Board)**



**Carolyn Ferrell (Robinette Company)
Recipient of Keep Bristol Beautiful Award
with Chris Lee (2014 Chairman of the Board)**



**Te-Kai Shu (Strongwell)
Recipient of Leadership Service Award
with Chris Lee (2014 Chairman of the Board)**



**Steve Smith (K-VA-T)
Recipient of Lifetime Achievement Award
with Chris Lee (2014 Chairman of the Board)**



**Jim Maxwell
(2015 Chairman of the Board)**



**Jim Maxwell (2015 Chairman of the Board),
Joy Madison (President/CEO),
Chris Lee (2014 Chairman of the Board)**

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New Member Profiles

Air Force Recruiting Service: Staff Sergeant Henry Anderson recently moved to Bristol from Hampton, Va, where he spent the last 7 years, serving as a Weapons Load Crew Team Chief on the F-22 Raptor. He views recruiting as a fantastic opportunity for involvement in the community, and is honored to be so warmly welcomed as a member of the Bristol Chamber. For any and all questions about what the Air Force can do for Bristol, call SSgt. Anderson at 276.669.1422.

American Paper & Twine Co. has been a leading provider of business solutions in the southeastern region for nearly 90 years. Now one of the largest distributors of packaging, janitorial, food service disposables and office supplies in the area, American Paper prides itself on being the one-stop shop for all your business needs. Few suppliers offer the product depth and breadth of American Paper & Twine and none are as committed to reducing costs for its customers. With 40 years in the industry, Sammy Shuttle represents American Paper & Twine with dedicated delivery truck service for all of the Tri-Cities including Abingdon. Order from Sammy today and the truck is on the way! For more information, call 423.737.1544.

The Appalachian Regional Coalition on Homelessness (ARCH) was formed in 2003 to eliminate homelessness in Northeast Tennessee. ARCH recently opened an office in Bristol to serve the cities of Bristol and Southwest Virginia. ARCH serves veterans in homelessness through the Supportive Services for Veteran Families program providing assistance through case management and temporary financial assistance. ARCH has launched a new outreach program called Crusade of HOPE that will provide bags of food to veterans in outlying areas to engage them and provide services to get them out of homelessness. For more information, call 423.218.4190.

Belk at The Pinnacle offers new selections of the latest fashion merchandise featuring expanded assortments of premium brands in every department. The store's shoe department is among the largest in the Tri-Cities area. With the latest in retail design, lighting and décor throughout the store, the two-level 132,000 square foot store features a clean, contemporary design reflecting Belk's brand of Modern. Southern.Style.

The Cocoa Connection opened in December 2013, and specializes in gourmet coffees, baked goods and confections. Check out their Facebook page for daily specials including homemade soups, salads, sandwiches and entrees. Custom coffee, cappuccino and espresso is always served fresh and custom orders for specialty cakes and desserts are always welcome. Cocoa Connection also offers a full catering menu for your next special event. Call them at 423.391.7007 today.

Frye-Shaffer Insurance is a family owned and operated independent insurance agency with access to over 100 insurance carriers. For almost 32 years, Frye-Shaffer Insurance has offered outstanding insurance products and service to customers in Virginia and Tennessee. Frye-Shaffer specializes in personal and commercial insurance including, auto, home, rental property, business property, liability, workers comp and boat. They are committed to a high standard of excellence in all that they do and to establishing a firm relationship of mutual trust and service with each of their clients. One agency, over 100 companies. TRY FRYE! For more information, call 276.669.8242.

The Haven of Rest Rescue Mission is a Bible based, 501(c)3 charitable non-profit organization providing shelter, food, clothing and residential support for those with life controlling issues. Their goal is to help those willing to help themselves. The Mission depends solely upon the support of the community. 2015 celebrates their 60th year supporting the Mountain Empire. Dr. Baird, the new Executive Director, is a pastor, a retired veteran and former member of Chambers in Texas and Georgia including the Georgia State Chamber. For more information, call 423.968.2011.

Helton and Associates provides on-site drug and alcohol testing and teach various Industrial safety classes including OSHA 10 and OSHA 30 for General Industry, either the entire class or just those parts needed by a particular company, like confined space rescue, blood borne pathogens, personal protective equipment, forklift training, sexual harassment prevention or any other specific general OSHA standard. They also offer hands-on fire extinguisher training. BJ and Jim Helton are both certified collectors, and perform both D.O.T. and non-D.O.T. testing. For more information, call 423.646.3998.

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New Peoples Bank: Since opening in 1998, New Peoples Bank has grown to 19 branches throughout Southwest Virginia, East Tennessee and southern West Virginia. New Peoples Bank is a true community bank dedicated to the growth and well-being of the communities they serve. Traditional banking services and investment services are provided through the bank. In addition, insurance products are provided through its subsidiary, NPB Insurance Services, Inc. Visit Sharon Duckett and Kathi Gentry at their convenient exit 7 location or call 276.466.5358.

Olive Garden opened their Bristol restaurant in May of 2012. They are located at 3102 Lee Highway, Bristol Va. They offer a wide selection of pastas, chicken, beef and seafood dishes. Try their unlimited soup, salad and breadsticks available for lunch every day for \$6.99. Whether dining-in, enjoying the full service bar or utilizing To-Go ordering by phone or online, Olive Garden offers convenience and great service for every guest. Olive Garden honors their military guests that show I.D. by providing complimentary soft drinks, tea and coffee any time. Call 276.466.0518 or visit www.ogtogo.com for to go orders.

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Susan G. Komen Tri-Cities: Susan G. Komen's mission is to end breast cancer forever by empowering people, ensuring quality care for all, and energizing science to find the cures. 75% of the net proceeds raised stay local – which equals \$2.4 million since 2005! These funds provide grants to non-profit organizations for breast cancer education, screening and treatment across their 23-county service area. The remaining 25% (which amounts to \$800,000 since 2005) goes to the Komen Scientific Research Grants Program to find the cures. Susan G. Komen is second only to the government in funding breast cancer research. For more information or to get involved, call 423.765.9313.

Vigilantes Total Mobile Car Wash is a new local detailing service that brings the wash to you! They provide superior interior and exterior detailing along with carpet shampooing, engine cleaning and headlight restoration. They can set-up anywhere and even provide the water and electricity! Eric and Stacey pride themselves on putting the detail in detailing with extreme attention to all areas of your vehicle. Call Eric and Stacey today at 423.797.1366 to make an appointment to come to your place of work and clean one or many cars.

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Bristol Chamber of Commerce

EVENTS

Friday Business Briefings



Coach Carl Torbush, ETSU



David Wharton, Regions Bank



New Members



John Patterson, MD, Mountain States Medical Group Cardiology,
Johnston Memorial Hospital



Giovanni Ferrante, MD, Mountain States Medical Group Vascular
Surgery, Johnston Memorial Hospital



Sean McMurray, CEO, Johnston Memorial Hospital



New Members



K-VA-T'S STEVE SMITH PRESENTED LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

When Steve Smith, president and CEO of K-VA-T Food Stores, agreed to be the keynote speaker at the Bristol Chamber of Commerce's Annual Awards Luncheon in January, he had no idea that there was more in store for him.

Not long after Smith's speech, he was presented with the organization's Lifetime Achievement Award, much to his surprise.

"I wondered why my wife came to see me speak," laughed Smith. "It was a wonderful honor and very humbling."

Though Smith has received numerous awards and much recognition for his ongoing commitment to the community, the Lifetime Achievement Award was particularly significant to him.

"I think it's especially nice that my peer group of business colleagues would honor me, and more importantly, our company, because I really accept the award on behalf of our company."

However, the company certainly would not be what it is today without Smith's efforts. K-VA-T, headquartered in Abingdon, Virginia, is the parent

company of Food City grocery stores. The company was founded by Smith's father, Jack Smith, who opened his first store – a Piggly Wiggly – in 1955 in Grundy, Va. Now known as Food City, the company has continued to grow over the years and now consists of 105 locations throughout Kentucky, Virginia and Tennessee and employs more than 13,000 people.

But one of Food City's most distinguishing characteristics is its dedication to the community; a commitment that has been very important to Smith. Born and raised in Southwest Virginia, Smith has always recognized the importance of giving back to his community.

"I think a lot of it comes from a love of the people of the Appalachian region and the country," explained Smith. "A lot of our success is in the knowledge of where we live. We understand our customers and we have a passion for what we do."

"I think it's especially nice that my peer group of business colleagues would honor me."

-Steve Smith-

Smith points out that his company is approximately 13-14 percent employee-owned through a profit sharing plan, which means the company's success benefits its employees.

Food City has always been, and continues to be, very active in the community. The company has a number of programs in place to help the community, such as School Bucks (formerly Apples for Students), Food City Family Race Night, Niswonger Children's Radio, the annual Race Against Hunger campaign, its annual Charity Golf Tournament, and much, much more.

"Steve supports countless organizations, including United Way, the American Cancer Society, Susan G. Komen, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Boys and Girls Clubs... the list goes on and on," said Joy Madison, president and CEO of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce. "Steve and his family have also been involved in Bristol Motor Speedway by supporting the spring and fall NASCAR races since 1992, and in that time, Food City Race Night has donated more than half a million dollars to local groups."

Smith was raised in the grocery business and his father impressed upon him the importance of ties to the community. Though he actually never intended to be a grocer – his first job was digging graves by hand in his hometown – Smith says that working for other people while growing up taught him the value of respect, responsibility, and work ethic. And he has incorporated these values into his business.

Family is also very important to Smith, and what little spare time he has, he spends with his wife Debbie and two daughters, Katie and Chloe.

"I am the most blessed man in the world to have a great family and a healthy family, so I take every one

of those days and count my blessings," Smith said.

He enjoys taking the family out on South Holston Lake, for water slalom skiing or just cruising up and down the lake, enjoying the scenery of the mountains he loves.

But like most extremely successful business leaders, Smith truly enjoys his time in the stores, getting to visit employees and connecting with customers.

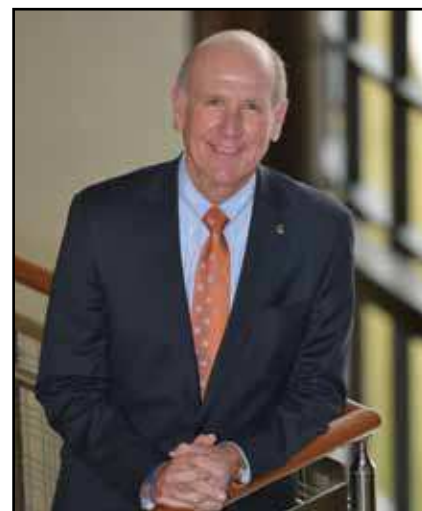
"I like to deal with people," he said. "I love our people in this region – our customers and associates. My old boss once told me that if you find a job you really love, you'll never work a day in your life, and that's what I like to do. I like to deal with people."

***"I like to deal with people,
I love our people in this
region – our customers and
associates."***

-Steve Smith-

For all of his accomplishments, his unswerving dedication to the community and his ongoing charitable donations to community programs, Smith is the perfect recipient for a lifetime achievement award. And his intentions are more of the same – to grow his company and continue being an integral part of the region in which he was raised.

"Steve is more than deserving of the honor of the Bristol Chamber's Lifetime Achievement Award," said Madison. "I honestly have no idea how he is able to be so involved in so many different aspects of our community. But I certainly am glad he is, because he has made a huge and lasting impact on Bristol."



Bristol Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement Award Winners

2007 - Doyle Lawson

2008 - Mary Beth Rainero

2009 - Bill Gatton

2010 - Jeff Byrd

2011 - John Tickle, Sr.

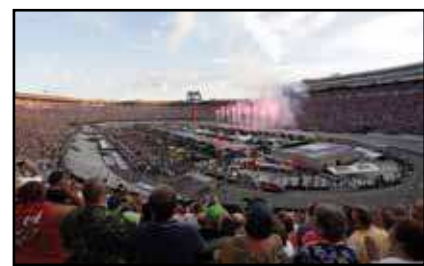
2012 - Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey

2013 - Dr. Mike Browder

2014 - Steve Smith

BMS Ready To Go Racing As Spring Weekend Moves to April 17-19

Thunder Valley Nationals Slated for Father's Day Weekend



Bristol Motor Speedway

Bristol Motor Speedway's spring race weekend is just around the next turn – although it's a bit further away than it has been in the past. And that's a good thing.

This year the Food City 500, one of NASCAR's most popular races, moves from March to the weekend of April 17-19. The later date, more than a month later than a year ago, should mean warmer weather for the thousands of race fans who will visit Bristol for the races.

The spring race weekend kicks off with Ford Fan Friday on April 17 when fans can watch Sprint Cup and Xfinity Series (formerly the Nationwide Series) drivers practice, as well as qualify for the Food City 500 and the Xfinity Series 300.

The Xfinity Series 300 will take place Saturday, April 18, along with the Pitt Lite 125 K&N East Series race, while the Food City 500 takes the green flag on Sunday, April 19, just after 1 p.m.

The Food City 500 will air on FOX Sports while the Xfinity Series 300 will air on the FOX Sports 1 network.

Tickets are available for all three races, as well as Ford Fan Friday, and may be purchased at www.bristoltix.com or by calling 423.989.6900 or toll free at 1.866.415.4158.

And let's not forget the NHRA Ford Thunder Valley Nationals at Bristol Dragway on Father's Day weekend, June 19-21.

Like the NASCAR events, the Thunder Valley Nationals are one of the most popular events on the NHRA circuit. Qualifying sessions take place on June 19 and June 20

with the always popular night qualifying session set for Friday night.

Sunday, June 21 is the big day when the champions are crowned after a day of elimination races.

Tickets are available for the

entire weekend or daily and a number of VIP experiences also are available. For tickets, visit www.bristoltix.com or call 423.BRISTOL (274.7865).

BMS, Bristol Dragway Have Indirect Impact of \$1.4 Billion On Region

Ever wonder just how important events at Bristol Motor Speedway and Dragway are to our economy?

According to recent research, the direct economic impact of Bristol Motor Speedway and Bristol Dragway totaled more than \$417 million annually for 2012 through 2014. This figure was derived from racing and ancillary activities held on-site, charitable events, contributions and tax revenue. The indirect economic impact of the venue totaled more than \$1.4 billion moving through the regional economy.

Entertainment Technology Sound and Lighting

A Technical Certificate Program

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Bristol Dragway



Great American Cleanup

Saturday, April 25, 9 a.m. - noon

One Event, Two Locations!

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(20 Volunteer Parkway, Bristol, TN)

Tire Recycling & Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Provided by Bristol, VA

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(W. State St. across from Bristol Chamber)

Call 423.989.4872 for more information

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Networking Champions With **CLOUT**

About the Ambassadors:

Bristol Chamber Ambassadors are a group of individual professionals who serve as a welcoming arm of the Chamber as well as an outreach to existing members. Ambassadors gain community-wide recognition and exposure for themselves and their own businesses while enhancing the outreach efforts of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce.



Donna Felty,
Ambassador Co-Chair

"Our goal is to always make new members feel welcome, as well as help them understand just how valuable their Chamber membership is and what an asset it is for them. As a Chamber Ambassador myself, I enjoy not only getting to know our new members but also making King University's faculty, staff and the students aware of all the wonderful businesses and organizations that we're blessed to have right here in Bristol."

- Donna Felty, King University



Keisha Gould
Ambassador Co-Chair

"In every community, people want to do business with individuals they know and they like. Being a member of the Bristol Chamber has given me an opportunity to quickly develop strong, lasting relationships in which partnerships have flourished. The Bristol Chamber offers numerous resources to excel within the community, but the first step begins with you. It's time to get involved!"

- Keisha Gould, Courtyard by Marriott

Chamber Ambassadors:

Donna Felty, Ambassador Co-Chair

Keisha Gould, Ambassador Co-Chair

Vickie Arms, United Southeast Federal Credit Union

Janet Callahan, Bristol Motor Speedway

Bobbi Carraway, Mary Kay Cosmetics

Cherie Chapman, King University

Chris Fields, Verizon Wireless

Lee Fish, Wellmont Health System

Janice Gorley, United Southeast Federal Credit Union

Kim Holden, AtWork Personnel Services

Jodee Jessee, TruPoint Bank

Chris Massie, Stryker Martial Arts Academy

Edna Moore, Highlands Union Bank

Karen Morenings, Universal Printing, Inc.

Dianne Necessary, Licensed Aesthetic Instructor

Kelly Robinson, Community Contractors Connection

Helen Scott, Healing Hands Health Center

Shelly Shaffer, Quaker Steak & Lube

Cami Vance, AtWork Personnel Services



BYL Projects Help Several Groups In The Area

Bristol Youth Leadership (BYL) is a seven-month program in which area high school sophomores and juniors are empowered to become trustees of the Bristol community. Throughout the program, students learn a variety of valuable leadership skills including communication skills, community awareness and business ethics. The program also provides training in the area of personal development, skills training, volunteer opportunities and team building.



BYL Alumni at Habitat for Humanity



"Pass The Trash" BYL Service Project

In addition to the monthly class sessions, BYL students are assigned to a Community Service Project to increase awareness of the community and provide the opportunity to serve. Community Service projects are submitted by various agencies, governmental entities and nonprofit organizations and require participants to complete research, plan various events, participate in community activities and create presentations. The students work diligently to determine a course of action and follow through with success.

Following are the organizations BYL has worked with during the 2014-2015 campaign:



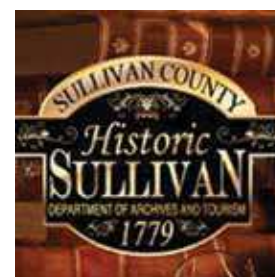
LEAD Bristol! Members Working on Numerous Service Community Projects

L EAD Bristol! is an essential program for companies and organizations dedicated to helping their employees become leaders. Celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, the nine-month adult training program focuses on providing skills essential to leadership development and it is available to all area businesses.

W ithin the framework of this program, leadership skills are utilized to provide the participant with a well-rounded and versatile experience. Networking with the other participants in the class not only provides new business contacts, it also facilitates long-lasting friendships. In partnership with local area colleges and universities, professors and other professional personnel are utilized to provide expertise in areas such as business ethics, communications, diversity, and many other topics crucial in building leadership abilities. SESCO Management Consultants, a nationally recognized human resources agency, lends its services to the program and is a key partner.



Following are the organizations LEAD Bristol! has worked with during the 2014-2015 campaign:



Gold Club Members

Alpha Natural Resources
AtWork Personnel Services
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Ball Corporation
Bank of Tennessee
BELFOR
Bell Helicopter
Ben Igou State Farm Agency
Bill Gatton Automotive Group
Birthplace of Country Music®
Branding Iron
Bristol Compressors International, Inc.
Bristol Herald Courier
Bristol Motor Speedway
Bristol Public Library
Bristol Regional Medical Center
Bristol Tennessee Essential Services
Burke, Powers, & Harty, Inc.

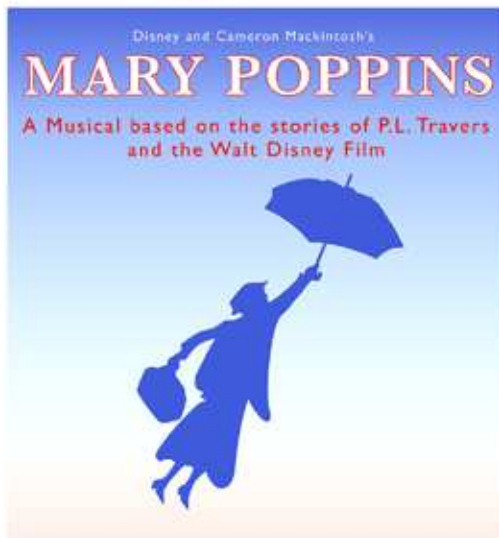
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Earhart Campground
Eastman Credit Union
Electric Sun Tanning of Bristol, VA
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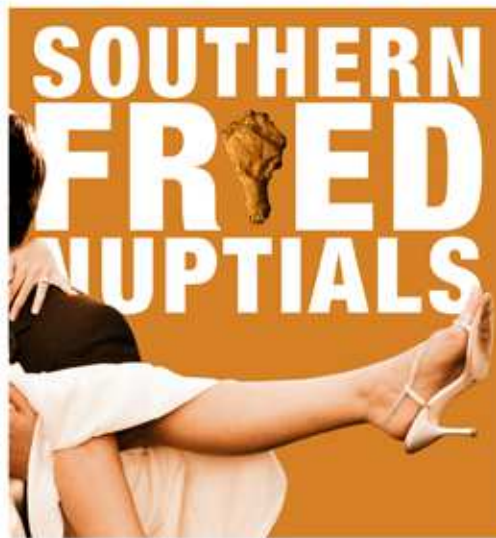
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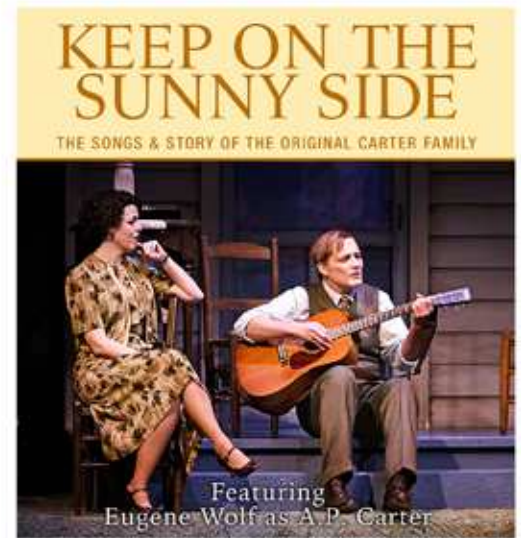
Begins May 23

Known by children of all ages, "Mary Poppins" is the story of a mysterious nanny who magically appears at the Banks household to care for young Jane and Michael Banks. Adventure abounds as she whisks them away to meet dancing chimney sweeps, shopkeepers and an array of colorful characters. Come discover with Mary a world where "Anything Can Happen" if you let it!



Begins June 4

The charmingly funny Frye family is back and this time there's going to be a wedding. The engagement of Attie VanLeer and Harline Frye has been on again, off again more times than a drunken frat boy on a mechanical bull. Now half the town has been invited, the dress has been fitted, the flowers have been ordered and the gifts are piling up. This hysterical hit comedy is from the authors of Southern Fried Funeral.



Begins June 10

The love story that made country music famous – A. P., Maybelle and Sara Carter are brought to life in this telling look at the lives and music of the Carter Family and the historic Bristol Sessions. Centered around the great love of A. P. for Sara, which produced such distinctive, enduring songs as "Will the Circle be Unbroken," "Wildwood Flower," "My Clinch Mountain Home" and the perennial favorite "Keep on the Sunny Side".

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Gold Club Feature Members



Charles Earhart

Earhart Campground is family-owned and operated located in beautiful Bristol, Tennessee. They began parking cars at the very first race held at Bristol International Raceway in 1961 and are now open for most major local events throughout the year. Over the years, they have grown to become a full-service facility offering spectacular camping opportunities, daily parking and tailgating sites, retail vending, corporate marketing and sponsor-hosted hospitality sites. They also produce a full-scale, free concert series entitled Rockin' & Racin' presented by Miller Lite. They have continually strived to improve their facilities to be the most family-friendly operation anywhere. Their goal is to make sure their guests are provided with the best Bristol experience possible -- whether you are camping, parking or just visiting their facility! For more information, call 423.764.4406.



Prakash Patel, Stephanie McReynolds, Melissa Plymal

Hilton Garden Inn, with local ownership partner Prakash Patel and managed by CN Hotels, is excited to announce their new location in Bristol, Virginia off Exit 7. Hilton Garden Inn is a 5-star rated full service hotel featuring 104 rooms and 3,000 square feet of meeting and banquet space. The hotel also features a private board room for hosting small meetings and interviews. The Hilton Garden Inn boasts an indoor pool, business center, complimentary wi-fi, fitness center, restaurant, bar, and banquet and catering services. At Hilton Garden Inn they focus on providing you the amenities and services to ensure your stay is as pleasurable as it is productive. Their experienced catering staff is available to meet your meeting needs from coffee breaks to seated dinners. They have all the resources to make the next special event you plan or that all-day business meeting a big success. Life is better at the Garden! For more information or to make a reservation, call 276.644.4000.



Richard Blessing

Southern States Bristol Cooperative has been a Chamber member for many years and has recently upgraded their membership to Gold Club. Southern States Bristol Cooperative was formed in 1939 by a group of area farmers. They are a cooperative serving area farmers with crop and livestock production goods and services. They have been located in their current location on Euclid Ave. since 1958. Not only does Southern States sell agriculture products, but they also have a full line of horse, pet, and bird feed. Additionally, they offer lawn and garden products such as seed, fertilizer, weed chemicals and insecticides. A garden center offering plants and vegetables can be found in the spring. With a convenient fill station for propane tanks onsite, watch for their monthly specials on propane fills. Check out Southern States Bristol Cooperative on Facebook and the web or call 276.669.8101.

Awards & Achievements

Bell Helicopter

Bell Helicopter was recently featured prominently in the March issue of Aircraft Maintenance Technology magazine, arguably the most read magazine in the aviation industry.

Written by award-winning columnist Ralph Hood, the article highlights Bell Helicopter and the Northeast Tennessee Aviation Initiative.

In part, Hood writes about his respect for Bell Helicopter and its relationship with the community and its involvement in the Tennessee Aviation Initiative, which encourages STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) skills in schools.

Following is an excerpt from the article:

"... I have developed a tremendous respect for the east Tennessee facility of Bell Helicopter. ... Bell Helicopter makes a great contribution to the economy of east Tennessee and the USA. The facility employs about 500 people, and over the past couple years has delivered some 250 finished helicopters of which roughly 80 percent go to customers outside of this country. They are definitely a primary industry, bringing money back into east Tennessee. ... I also respect the facility's employee training. ... I respect the relationship between management and other employees..."

King University

The King University women's wrestling team recently won its second consecutive WCWA National Championships. The top-ranked wrestling team in the country sent seven wrestlers to the finals, and had 13 All-Americans as they rolled to their



second straight national title, racking up 269 points to top second place Campbellsville University who had 196 points. The Tornado had three wrestlers win their second straight national titles, Haley Augello, Sarah Hildebrandt and Julia Salata while Amanda Hendey claimed her first title. Marina Doi and Jessi Kee brought home runner-up finishes while Lorrie Ramos finished third. Breonnah Neal, Forrest Molinari and Jacqueline Williams all grabbed fourth-place finishes.

Tornado head coach Jason Moorman was also named WCWA Coach of the Year for the second consecutive season. King also won the team scholastic award for the fourth straight year. Ramos was also named a WCWA Academic All-American.

Bristol Entrepreneurial Center Upcoming Training Classes

Bristol Chamber of Commerce Board Room

Cost per Class: Members Complimentary/Non-Members \$35

THE MANAGER-EMPLOYEE RELATIONSHIP: THE BOTTOM LINE FOR ENGAGEMENT
Dale Carnegie Training

April 7, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. • RSVP by March 31

Get the tools necessary to create a value-driven culture that will raise confidence levels and make employees feel inspired, enthusiastic, and empowered to achieve higher levels of performance. Participants will learn the critical actions they must consistently demonstrate to drive engagement with their employees.

ANNUAL HARASSMENT PREVENTION/DIVERSITY TRAINING

Corporate Sponsor & Training by Elliott Lawson & Minor

April 21, 8:30 a.m. - noon • RSVP by April 17

The law firm of Elliott Lawson & Minor will conduct the 2015 Harassment Prevention and Diversity Training Session. This session, for HR Managers, Business Owners, Managers & Supervisors, will cover recent changes to the laws affecting harassment and diversity in the workplace, accommodations, documentation and liability issues.

**Corporate
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For more information or to register,
contact Karen Witcher
kwitcher@bristolchamber.org or 423.989.4850

Bristol Chamber Members Travel To Nashville, Richmond For Day On The Hill Activities

The Bristol Chamber of Commerce traveled to both Nashville and Richmond earlier this year for the Bristol Chamber Day on the Hill in both cities.

The Day on the Hill in Richmond took place Jan. 26-27. Senator Bill Carrico, Delegate Israel O'Quinn, Delegate Todd Pillion, as well as their legislative aides, joined Chamber members and staff members for dinner on Jan. 26.

The following day featured office visits with Senator Carrico, Delegate O'Quinn and Delegate Terry Kilgore before the group attended the House of Delegates session. On January 28 the group attended the Virginia Chamber of Commerce Chamber Day at the Capitol, as well as the Legislative Reception where Governor Terry McAuliffe spoke. Other speakers were Lt. Governor Ralph Northam, Attorney General Mark Herring, House Speaker Bill Howell, Senate Majority Leader Tommy Normant, Senator George Barker and Virginia Chamber President and CEO Barry DuVal. The U.S. Chamber Foundation also gave a presentation during lunch that day.

Nashville's Day on the Hill took place Feb. 23-24. On Monday, Feb. 23 Chamber members and staff attended the Senate session and a joint session before having dinner with Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey, Representative Jon Lundberg, Representative Bud Hulsey, Deputy Comptroller Jason Mumpower, and Tennessee Chamber of Commerce staff.

On Tuesday, Feb. 24, Chamber members and staffers had office visits with Lt. Governor Ramsey, Representative Lundberg, Representative Hill and Representative Hulsey. That evening they attended the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce Executives Winter Conference and Legislative Reception.



Virginia Legislative Dinner

Speakers included Governor Bill Haslam, Commissioner Randy Boyd, Tennessee Dept. of Economic & Community Development, Commissioner Burns Phillips, Tennessee Dept. of Labor & Workforce Development, Commissioner Candice McQueen, Tennessee Dept. of Education and Catherine Glover, President of the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



Tennessee Representatives Hill and Hulsey



Tennessee Lt. Governor Ramsey

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- No. 1 in the Tri-Cities for patient safety in spinal fusion and spinal surgery



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