

## WINTER 2015 NEWSLETTER

### 2015 OFFICERS

**Renee Coufal, President**  
Jones National Bank & Trust

**Kandi Brown, Treasurer**  
H&R Block

### 2015 DIRECTORS

**Mike Brown**  
Mike's Fresh Market

**Joe Caldwell**  
Ridgewood

**Nancy Dolezal**  
The Cattle National Bank & Trust

**Joel Endorf**  
Compass Nebraska

**Sheri Fritz**  
Jones National Bank & Trust

**Roger Glawatz**  
County Commissioner

**Adam Hengeveld**  
Concordia University

**Dennis Kahl**  
UNL Extension Office

**Sue McHugh**  
Seward Youth Center

**Brad Perdue**  
Zabka Funeral Home

**Greg Whisler**  
Whisler Aviation

**Terri Whisler**  
Whisler Aviation

**Jeanne K. Wiemer**  
Red Path Gallery & Tasting Room

### CHAMBER STAFF

**Charles Lieske**, Executive Director

**JoAnn Boshart**  
**Denise Christensen**  
Executive Assistants



### Membership Luncheon Tuesday, January 13 at 12:00 pm Civic Center

**Pickit! Marketing** is looking to expand into Seward.  
Could this program be just what your business needs to  
reach out to the younger generation?

Lunch will be lasagna, salad, roll,  
cookie or brownie, tea and water  
catered by Sam & Louie's.  
Cost is \$10 payable at the door.

Please RSVP to the Chamber Office  
by Friday, January 9th.  
402-643-4189  
[sewcham@sewardne.com](mailto:sewcham@sewardne.com)

*Please note that if you RSVP and cannot make it, the Chamber will be  
charged for the meal so you may be invoiced for it.*



*As of December 31, the Chamber office  
sold \$32,030 in Chamber Bucks  
redeemable at Chamber  
member businesses!*



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# Projects Developed and Completed through the Chamber in 2014

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## **January 2014**

Extravaganza - a look back on 2013  
Board Retreat - began working on Mission, Vision and Values and discussing the future of the Chamber  
Attended State Chamber Legislative Caucus and Annual Meeting  
Attended Nebraska Chamber of Commerce Executives Annual Meeting

## **February 2014**

Participated in Lancaster Home show with SCEDC, Seward County Visitor's Committee, Seward County Housing Authority and Seward County Agricultural Society, unveiling the campaign, "Seward County, Where Families Thrive"  
Presented at Unite 16 CEO leadership group  
Seward holds Nebraska National Guard Museum press conference  
League of Nebraska Municipalities Midwinter conference and Legislative Briefing

## **March 2014**

Local legislative briefing with Speaker of the Legislature, Senator Greg Adams  
Held LB840/TIFF educational workshops for community members in cooperation with SCEDC and the City of Seward  
Annual Ag Banquet in conjunction with the Kiwanis Club of Seward's Ag Committee  
Participated in the inaugural Tri-County Job Fair with York and Fillmore counties; a partnership with SCEDC, the York Area Chamber of Commerce, York County Development Corporation

## **April 2014**

Participated in the Health Fair, with the same booth and partners from the Lancaster Home Show  
Held our 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Show  
Held another successful Spring Clean Up, this time with hard drive shredding on site  
Joint Lunch and Learn with SCEDC  
Disc Golf Tournament to benefit Unite 16  
Attended training on Historic Tax Credits  
Seward Day at Pershing for Haymakers Indoor Football

## **May 2014**

Organized city-wide garage sales  
Cell Tower leasing policy with City Officials  
Attended Brochure Swap in Gothenburg  
Attended NETA Annual Meeting  
Attended Nebraska Chamber of Commerce Executives meeting in Kearney

## **June 2014**

Seward Night at Haymarket Park for the Saltdogs game  
Cattle Bank Grand Opening in Fallbrook  
Participated in Entrepreneurial Tour  
Independence Landing Dedication

## **July 2014**

Hosted the 4th of July Car Show  
Jones Bank Main Branch Grand Reopening  
Partnered for a booth at Concordia's Jump Start event

## **August 2014**

Held the Seward County Duck Race  
Ambassador Back-to-school Breakfasts at Seward Public Schools and Concordia  
Assisted with Mock Interviews at Seward High School

**September 2014**

Attended ChamberMaster training  
Nebraska Chamber of Commerce Executives Conference

**October 2014**

Prepped for the Holidays and 2015

**November 2014**

Christmas Catalog and Holiday Calendar unveiled  
Introduced the new Christmas Ornament  
Parade of Flags Pre-dedication  
Participated in High School Mock Interviews  
Attended Governor's Proclamation Ceremony: Seward is Nebraska's Hometown Christmas City  
Held first home-based business show  
Fourth annual Christmas Festival including Santa and the reindeer, Winter Wonderland, carriage rides and crafts at Olde Glory, and the Lighted Christmas Parade. Also sponsored a coloring contest, Letters to Santa program, and a Gingerbread House contest.  
After years of effort, the First Impressions committee sees the old water tower and shack by the railroad tracks come down

**December 2014**

Rudolph's Red Nose Run  
Customer Appreciation Nights  
Sent out Membership packets  
Sent out Extravaganza Invitations  
Prepared the Annual Report

**Yearlong Activities:**

Referrals  
Relocation Packets  
Created brochures and other publications to promote Seward and area events  
Community tours  
Business consultations—Old Middle School site conversion, Rail Campus inquiries  
Daily questions  
Housing referrals  
Gathering data  
Working to process former middle school property  
Tracking legislation/regulation—The Chamber played a critical role in changing the business utility deposit ordinance. Now business people can use a security bond in lieu of cash.

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## **Projects Explored in 2014**

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**Downtown Improvements**

- ◆ Main Street Seward Program
- ◆ Public Wifi
- ◆ Public Charging Station

**Utilizing technology**

- ◆ Mobile Friendly website conversion
- ◆ Technology based programs to assist customers/visitors and benefit members

**Expanding leadership/entrepreneurship training**

Creation of a Governmental Affairs Committee

Updating our mission, vision and values statements

Updating our bylaws/constitution

Seward County Landlord Association

Southeast Nebraska Leadership Development Seminar

## 2015 Committees

Thanks to everyone who volunteered to work on a committee in 2014. The Chamber staff hopes you know how much we appreciate your volunteer service. Volunteers with a passion and dedication are hard to come by. Giving selflessly of your time speaks volumes. Anyone interested in volunteering on one of the committees may contact the Chamber office.

**4<sup>th</sup> of July Car Show**—responsible for organizing and running the annual Chamber of Commerce 4<sup>th</sup> of July “Show & Shine” Car Show as part of the city celebration. **C. J. Novak, Larry Ray**



**Agriculture**—established the Seward County Hall of Agricultural Achievement, which is located in the Seward County Agricultural Pavilion. The purpose of this award is to recognize the many contributions and achievements Seward County residents have made to agriculture. **Jeff Aegerter, Doug Brand, Dennis Kahl, Duane Miner, Dan Perincek**

**Ambassadors**—serve as public relations representatives for the Chamber. They welcome new businesses and business owners to the Seward community and represent the Chamber at official events such as the “Back to School” welcome to faculty and staff.

**Christmas Committee**—responsible for planning and executing the Christmas festivities that happen the Saturday after Thanksgiving to include; the Indoor Winter Wonderland, the Evening Lighted Christmas Parade, games on the downtown square, the various contests and the Reindeer Run. **Sharon Hambek, Del**

**and Kathleen Peters, Gary Rolf, Melanie Suhr, Greg & Terri Whisler, Hobbin Wolfe**



# GET INVOLVED!

Expand the exposure of your business by participating on one of our committees or by assisting in one of the Chamber's many events.

**Duck Race**—responsible for developing, organizing and executing the Chamber of Commerce Annual Seward County Duck Race as part of the Seward County Fair. They must comply with the Nebraska State Gaming Rules and work closely with Chamber staff. **Kandi Brown, Dr. Jordon Folkers, George Sherry**

**Extravaganza**—responsible for the development and execution of the Annual Chamber Extravaganza. The Extravaganza is the Annual Meeting for Chamber Members where new officers are elected and Chamber Members network in a social evening event. **Susan Hackbart, Jeanie Hecker, Jill Perdue, Monica Sommerfeld, Nate Steinbach, Dixie Zabka**

**First Impressions**—formed for the enhancement and beautification of Seward. The committee has set a goal to recognize and commend businesses and individuals who have made noticeable additions or enhancements to the community. **Mel Aldrich, Lisa Bennett, Mel Bolte, Vikki Gremel, Dan Jester, Dennis Kahl, Lecia Motley, Gary Rolf, Tony Vrana, Clarence Wattier, Jeanne K. Wiemer, Scott Willet**

**Holiday**—responsible for organizing and running the “Santa House” as part of the Annual Holiday Celebration on the Seward downtown square. The committee meets as needed prior and during the season. **Mark Suhr, Chuck Wisehart, Greg Zabka**

**Miniatures**—responsible for developing, purchasing and selling the Miniature line of souvenir products offered by the Chamber. The Miniatures are a collection of reproductions of current and/or historic buildings of Seward. **Sharon Glawatz, Becky Vahle**

**Ornaments**—responsible for designing and selling the Annual Christmas Ornament as a part of the souvenir products offered by the Chamber. **Debby Aegerter, Bonnie Elwell, LeAnn Lowther**

**Spring Show**—responsible for the development and operation of the Annual Spring Show Business Showcase and fundraiser for the Chamber. The committee meets as needed prior to the event. **Charity Down, Jim Graves, Eric Johnson, Crystal Kirby, Jean Kolterman, James Lenz, Greg Majerus, Jill Wild**





## Olde Glory Performances and Notable Events

**December 12 – Sally Jost Piano Concert** to benefit Olde Glory featuring beautiful music and desserts.

**December 6 – Wissmann Family Branson Show** to benefit Olde Glory held at Seward High School's new theatre.

**November 15 - Home-based Business Show**

**October 19 - Julie and Mike.** This Norfolk, Nebraska based duo brought Classic Country and Gospel music to their show. Thanks to Julie and Mike Couch for an unforgettable performance.

**October 10-11 - Nebraska Writer's Guild Fall Conference**

**July 12 - Type Rider II Tandem Poetry Tour** New Jersey poets Maya Stein and Amy Tingle stopped in Seward as they rode a tandem bicycle, towing two typewriters on a 1,400 mile trek from Boulder, Colorado, to Beloit, Wisconsin. The trip was an effort to build "Little Free Libraries" and promote poetry, community, a love of reading, and the spirit of collaboration along the way. Charlotte Endorf of the Nebraska Little Library system participated along with Lincoln poets Marge Saiser and Lucy Adkins.

**July 4 - Blue Valley Voices, Hobo Biscuits, and the Children's Choir** were among those gracing the stage.

**June 4-14 - Klondike Kalamity Melodrama.** This successful 10-day run entertained 1,200 people and



marked the return of the Centennial Players. The group enjoyed 20 years of success performing melodramas in nearby Goehner, but disbanded in 2007 when musical director Roger Harpham passed away. Olde Glory is pleased to have partnered with the group for its 21st year, and look forward to many more annual collaborations.

**May 3 - An Afternoon with Edith Wharton, featuring the play, *Xingu*.** A pre-performance tea and post-performance scholarly discussion about Mrs. Wharton's wit with UNL Professor Guy Reynolds made for an enjoyable afternoon. The performance, by actors from Angels Theatre Company in Lincoln, was based on a short story by Edith Wharton. A group of club-women try to entertain a high-hat woman novelist. Everything goes



wrong, and the poor women are in despair trying to make conversation. One member starts everyone talking about "Xingu." No one knows what this is, but no one will admit it!

**February 7 - Sally Jost Concert** A romantic evening of phenomenal piano music. Sally shares the personal experience of music with you, drawing from a classically trained background with her own personal touches. Audience members enjoy listening as much as she enjoys performing. The evening featured dessert, including a chocolate fountain, and wine, provided by Red Path Gallery and Tasting Room, following the concert.

## Upcoming Events

### 2015 SEWARD SPRING SHOWCASE

March 27, 4 - 8 pm  
March 28, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm  
Seward Ag Pavilion

*Come on down and show off your great business!*



### 2015 KIWANIS AG RECOGNITION BANQUET

March 16 @ 5:30 pm  
Ag Pavilion

The Chamber of Commerce and the Seward County Agricultural Society each year partner to recognize farm families for their exceptional contributions to agriculture in Seward County. The Seward Kiwanis Club gives us the opportunity to present these awards at their annual recognition banquet.



# Ambassador Calls and Ribbon Cuttings in 2014

## October and November Ambassador Calls



**Heartspun Flowers & Events—Vicky Hanseling  
Ribbon Cutting**



**La Ruche B&B  
Bonnie Johnson  
Ribbon Cutting**



**Lindner & Johnson  
Ribbon Cutting—New location**



**Rue 6—Mike Janssen  
Ribbon Cutting**



**Jones Insurance Agency  
Ribbon Cutting—New location**

## Other Ambassador Calls in 2014

**5th Street Grooming**  
**Boutique 2 Go**  
**CCS Auto Detailing**  
**Code 504**  
**Cross Makers of Seward**  
**Greene Place**  
**H&R Block**  
**Hackbart Chiropractic Massage**  
**JC Repair**  
**Jones National Bank & Trust**  
**Junto Wine**  
**Koranda Motorsports**  
**Mike's Fresh Market**  
**Nates on the Nine**  
**Second Closet**  
**SnowMotion**



Gary Ayres  
Cindy Bader  
Phil Bangert  
Carlene Bauer  
Jane Berner  
Dave Besse  
Brad Bowen  
Doug Brand  
Monica Braun  
Ryan Burger  
Joe Carey  
Doug Carroll  
Renee Coufal  
Nancy Cradick  
Cathy Dickey  
Leroy Dinslage

Nancy Dolezal  
Regan Else  
Jim Everts  
Mike Flyr  
Sheri Fritz  
Angie Fuller  
Cheryl Gerdes  
Roger Glawatz  
Sharon Glawatz  
Rick Gray  
Mike Hecker  
Jeanie Hecker  
Adam Hengeveld  
Brenda Henning  
Steve Hoger  
Jonathan Jank

Stephanie Jones  
Mitch Klintworth  
Jean Kolterman  
Sarah Kulhanek  
Greg Majerus  
Duane Miner  
Niki Nelson  
Kelby Nitz  
John Owens  
Michelle Pallat  
Brad Perdue  
Colby Perry  
Jane Rehmer  
Gary Rolf  
Allan Roth  
Karen Ruether

Joe Ruzicka  
Terry Schoen  
Ryne Seaman  
Joyce Sheehan  
Janet Snyder  
Lori Soflin  
Michelle Spahr  
Carla Thompson  
Susan Tonniges  
Ann Underwood  
Becky Vahle  
Van Vahle  
Jeff Volzke  
Jill Wild  
Sandy Wright  
Greg Zabka  
Kevin Zadina



## ***SEWARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY TO HOST MAKE IT AND TAKE IT EVENINGS***

Pre-registration is required. Please call the library at 402-643-3318 to sign up or visit the library website at [www.sewardlibrary.org](http://www.sewardlibrary.org).

### **Arm and Finger Knitting - January 13 at 6:30 -7:30 p.m.**

Joanne Neeley from Weedy Creek Yarn will help teach adults and children in 3rd grade and up how to finger and arm knit. Yarn will be provided, although participants may bring their own if they prefer a certain color or brand.

### **T-Shirt Re-purposing - January 20 at 6:30-7:30 p.m.**

Transform an old t-shirt into a bag, scarf or pillow. No sewing required! Adults and children in 3rd grade and up are invited to attend. Please bring a t-shirt that can be cut up.

### **Valentine Paper Crafts - January 27 at 6:30-7:30 p.m.**

Use the library's Accu-Cut and Scan-N-Cut machines to make a pretty gift bag and sweet Valentine card. Materials will be provided. This program is open to adults and children in Kindergarten and up with an adult.



## ***PHOTOS FROM THE PAST***



### ***Ambassadors welcome investment center***

The Seward Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors were on hand Thursday, July 16, when Tom Rosenquist, with scissors, cut the ribbon at the PRIMEVEST Investment Center at Cattle National Bank's motor branch. The investment center offers a full range of investment products, according to Rosenquist, who is the center's investment representative. Ambassadors welcoming the new investment representative to Seward with Cattle National Bank and PRIMEVEST employees were, from left: Jerry Owens, Jean Kolterman, Marge Nagel, Mike Hecker, Lolita Hand, John Blomenberg, John Cattle, Rosenquist, Ryne Seaman, Jay Cattle, Russ Endicott, Rhonda Kovac, Larry Wentink, Mary Jo Yates, Rhoda Bredow, Les Pieper, Pat Dickinson, Dave Jones, Greg Zabka and Don Bauer.



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**Seward Area Chamber of Commerce**

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***Established 1899***

The Seward Area Chamber of Commerce is a not-for-profit organization of business and professional people working together to develop a full-service community to promote and support new and existing business, to assist in economic development, and to cultivate communication and cooperation within the community and surrounding areas.

