

Committee Chairs To Put Plan Into Action

BY BILL DEARMAN, EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT
South Brunswick Islands Chamber Of Commerce

This year is getting off to a fast start. With almost all committee chairs in place, work on this year's program of work has started in earnest. Within the chamber's five divisions there are 17 active committees. These committees will be working to accomplish the goals and objectives set out in the 1993 Program of Work. During the next several weeks we will be reviewing the work of these important committees.

Under the Organizational Development Division there are several committees needing volunteers. These include:

■Membership Development, to be chaired by Kathryn Gossett. This committee has historically carried out the chamber's annual membership drive. However, this year they will also be working with the Business After Hours. They will work to see that new members are welcomed and also help develop a program to spotlight a business each month in the chamber newsletter.

■Secretaries' Day committee will be chaired this year by Paula Stanley. Annually this committee sponsors a luncheon on Secretaries' Day to honor local secretaries. This year's event will take place on Wednesday, April 21. You will be hearing more about this special happening soon.

■Our Accreditation Committee will be beginning the accreditation process. The purpose of the accreditation process is to define standards of excellence in chamber planning and performance; measure achievement; give recognition and encouragement to chamber members; upgrade the organization.

The chamber will benefit from the accreditation process because the program will help develop pride in the organization; help the chamber develop an improved program of work; stimulate volunteer participation; help with membership development; provide better direction for the chamber; results in upgrading chamber bylaws, policy and procedures; brings prestige, respect and recognition to the chamber; and helps in the development of new leadership.

The committees in this division will be very busy during the coming year. They will be working on programs that are very important to the chamber and the community. During the year we will endeavor to keep you apprised of their progress.



DEARMAN



PHOTO BY JOHNNY CRAIG

Beach Merchants Donate

The Greater Holden Beach Merchants Association presented checks totaling \$4,500 last week to Tri-Beach Volunteer Fire Department and Coastline Volunteer Rescue Squad. Pictured (from left) are Tri-Beach firefighter Dan Liebl, merchants association vice president Ben Tonking, Coastline treasurer Virginia Parnell and Coastline president Janice Hewett. The money was raised during the 1992 North Carolina Festival By The Sea, held annually the last weekend in October.

Learn About ADA Compliance

A free seminar Thursday, Feb. 18, at Brunswick Community College is aimed at helping employees comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and avoid unnecessary lawsuits.

The session will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the ALS Building on the college's main campus north of Supply on U.S. 17 Business.

It will help participants gain a thorough understanding of the ADA and the steps needed to take to meet its requirements. Discussion will address the impairments covered and how to determine if an applicant is "otherwise qualified". Medical examinations, drug tests, job applications, interviews and job descriptions will be discussed in terms of what an employer can and cannot do.

There will be no charge; however, participants are asked to pre-register to assure adequate space and materials. Call the Small Business Center at 754-6900, 343-0203 or 457-6329, or facsimile, 754-7805.

MARCH 15TH LAST DAY

Enter A Local Business In Awards Program Now

Do you know a local business that treats its customers really well, offers a novel product or service, or adds to the beauty of Brunswick County? If so, that company could be an award winner in the 1993 Small Business of the Year Competition.

Nominations are due March 15, said Velva Jenkins, director of the Small Business Center at Brunswick Community College. The awards are co-sponsored by the center and the South Brunswick Islands and Southport-Oak Island chambers of commerce and are intended to encourage and recognize excellence.

This year's awards will be presented at an awards banquet during Small Business Week, May 9-15. Awards will be made in eight categories:

■Customer Satisfaction—a business that keeps its customers happy;

- Small Business Person—someone who owns, operates or bears principal responsibility for operating a small business (100 employees or less);
- Family-owned Business—a business owned in its entirety by a single family;
- Innovation—a business that shows uniqueness or creativity in its product or service;
- Promotion—a business that uses creative and unique promotional ideas;
- Employee Relations—a business that stimulates productive and happy employees; and
- Community Service—a business that is involved in projects benefiting Brunswick County.

Anyone, including someone affiliated with the business in question, can submit a nomination, said Jenkins.

To be eligible for an award, a business must be located in Brunswick County and must have been in operation for at least one year as of

December 1992.

Last year's award recipients were as follows: Eleanor Potter Smith, small business person; Lockwood Golf Links, appearance; Brunswick Funeral Service and Southport Marina, community service; Oak Island Jewelers, customer satisfaction; J.M. Parker & Sons Inc., employee relations; Daniel Upholstery, family-owned small business; Kool-A-Brew, innovation.

Nominations are screened and the winners selected by SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) volunteers in New Hanover County. This volunteer group of retired business people provide management counseling to small business owners.

For nomination forms and more information, contact Jenkins at 754-6900, 457-6329 or 343-0203, or contact either local chamber of commerce.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Hassler New Chief Of Staff

Dr. Robert E. Hassler has been elected chief of staff for 1993 at The Brunswick Hospital in Supply, according to Earl Tamar, chief executive officer.

pointed as board vice chairman.

David Batten was reappointed chairman of the board, a position he has held since January 1992.

Nichols Heard

Jenny Nichols, a certified orthoptist working in Brunswick and New Hanover counties, was among presenters at Carolina Eye Associates' eighth annual Ocular Disorders Symposium Jan. 30 in Pinhurst.

She presented the latest updates in her field as part of a day of lectures and slide shows relating to the latest advances in treatment of advanced eye disorders.

Carolina Eye Associates has facilities in 11 locations across North Carolina, including Supply.

Recertification Offered

A pesticide applicator recertification class will be offered Tuesday, Feb. 16, at 10 a.m. at the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service Center at the Brunswick County Government Center near Bolivia.

More information is available from the extension office at 253-4425.



HASSLER MULHOLLAND

He succeeds Dr. Michael McCullough, who received a plaque from Tamar in recognition of the strong leadership he provided during the past year.

Filling Hassler's unexpired term on the hospital's board of trustees will be Dr. James Mulholland. He was elected by the board at its Feb. 1 meeting.

In addition, Dr. Lee Langston was reappointed for another three-year term on the board and also was reapp-

CP&L Pushing On Toward March 28 Unit 2 Startup

BY SUSAN USHER

Carolina Power & Light Co. continues to press toward a March 28 start-up date for one of the reactors at its Brunswick Nuclear Plant near Southport.

The plant has been shut down since April to allow for major repairs and upgrading. At a meeting between officials of CP&L and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission last Thursday, concerns were expressed about the feasibility of meeting that self-imposed target date.

"It is a tight schedule," said CP&L spokesman Elizabeth Bean on Monday. "But we are still using the 28th as our target date.

"If nothing unforeseen pops up to cause a delay, it is still achievable," she said.

Repair of a cooling system valve had put the work about a week behind schedule at the time of the meeting, she said, but that time had been made up by Monday afternoon and the valve repaired.

Workers were still determining the best method to use to seal the bottom edge of a carbon steel liner in the concrete-walled containment building. Some corrosion has been found along the bottom edge of the liner, which is for leak protection rather than structural strength. Plant officials want to stop the corrosion to avert the possibility of future gas

and radiation leaks. While there are other repairs still to be made, Bean said testing the readiness of all systems for restarting the Unit 2 reactor is the major task remaining.

As repairs of each sub-system are completed, testing will begin again.

Before start-up can begin, NRC officials will inspect all plant equipment and assess the readiness of both the plant and its operators before the unit resumes generation of electricity. CP&L is sending some of its Brunswick Nuclear Plant operators to visit plants that were restarted after having been shut down for several years to see how they managed the process.

CP&L anticipates bringing the second Brunswick reactor, Unit 1, back into operation in June.

Pioneer's Net Earnings Fall Again As Bank Tries To Shed Real Estate

Pioneer Bancorp Inc. of Rocky Mount reported net income of 10 cents a share (\$167,379 total) for the quarter that ended Dec. 31, 1992, compared to net income of \$1.33 a share (\$2,322,267 total) in the first quarter of fiscal year 1992.

A subsidiary, Pioneer Savings Bank Inc., has an office in Shallotte. Pioneer President Ed Roughton said no unusual or non-recurring gains occurred during the period and the bank, the company's primary subsidiary, continues to be adversely affected by its nonearning assets and

by high-cost, long-term borrowings. The significantly undercapitalized bank continues efforts to reduce its remaining \$42.3 million of net classified assets, including \$29.5 million in real estate holdings.

Pioneer must file a capital restoration plan with the U.S. Office of Thrift Supervision, said Roughton, and isn't sure how long it will take to get its plan reviewed and/or approved.

"Because the bank does not currently meet its regulatory capital requirements, its ability to continue as

a going concern is dependent upon the willingness of federal and state regulators to allow the bank additional time to regain full regulatory capital compliance," he said.

In one effort to improve its balance sheet, Pioneer announced last week

plans to sell offices in Roanoke Rapids, Weldon and Shallotte to First Citizens Bank and offices in Murfreesboro and Windsor to Southern Bank. Pioneer expects to realize \$1 million in gains from these sales of its deposits, loans and real estate.

BAROMETER ON THE ECONOMY

New Vehicle Registrations Up

New vehicle registrations in Brunswick County rose 25.9 percent between last October and November, from 147 in October to 185 in November.

The figures were released last week in the monthly "Barometer On The Local Economy" compiled by the Center for Business and Economic Services at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

The November 1992 level was 21.7 percent above the November 1991 level of 152 vehicles. For the year ending November 1992, registrations totaled 1,862, or 11 percent above the comparable year-earlier level of 1,678.

Sales Sag In September

Retail sales in Brunswick County fell 3.2 percent between August and September 1992 from \$34.2 million to \$33.1 million in seasonally adjusted dollars.

However, the September 1992 level was 10.7 percent above the

September 1991 level of \$29.9 million.

For the year that ended September 1992, county sales totaled \$378.8 million. That was 6.9 percent above the total for the year ending September 1991 (\$354.5 million).

More Seeking Work

The employment picture in Brunswick County was virtually unchanged between October and November 1992, with a few more people looking for work in November than the month before.

In October, statistics indicate, 17,409 people were working and 2,959 people were unemployed, for an unemployment rate of 14.5 percent.

A month later, 17,349 were working and 3,105 were seeking work, and the unemployment rate increased to 15.2 percent.

That November 1992 unemployment was the highest rate since August 1983, the center indicated with no reference to the 1983 statistic.

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