One of the great privileges of serving as your Chamber President is representing the Chamber at special events. It was a tremendous honor for me to attend the St. Marks Lighthouse Change of Command Ceremony on March 28, 2014 as your representative. This event provides us with a unique opportunity to celebrate and reflect on a well documented and storied slice of our Counties rich history. For the past 183 years, with help from its dedicated Keepers, it has provided a Beacon of Light through calm seas and through the most turbulent seas in our history.

While our Chamber has “only” been in existence for about 40 years, it has served as a Beacon of Light for our business community and for the County through good times and tough times. Just like the Lighthouse, we have had a long line of dedicated Keepers. They have dedicated their time, energy and talents to support our mission.

Your Chamber membership provides you with many growth opportunities. It can be rough sailing as a business person going it alone. Your Chamber is there for you as you leverage the opportunity to be part of something larger than you are on your own. From networking with your peers to learning about the latest marketing trends in Social Media. Your membership continues to support your journey by keeping your business on an even keel.

If you have paid your renewal dues for 2014 we thank you! If not, please send them to the Chamber office as soon as possible as we wrap up our 2014 renewal cycle. If you know a fellow business owner or one of your vendors who is not currently a member, please have them contact the Chamber office or refer them to our website at www.wakullacountychamber.com for a membership application.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Low Country Boil Saturday April 5th, 2014. Will be a great time to enjoy some delicious food, wonderful fellowship and maybe even a little dancing. See you there!
Networking Luncheon

We greatly appreciated Ben and Clay Lovel inviting us, and opening Spring Creek Restaurant for our networking luncheon. Considering the distance some travel to join us we were especially happy to receive a crowd of 62 at this monthly gathering.

Spring Creek Restaurant has been a family owned and run seafood restaurant for 37 years now, and was featured in Southern Living Magazine in 2008.

Mary introduced Lisa Wetherton of Thrivent Financial, our new member for March. Thrivent Financial is a faith based financial services organization, whose financial portfolio is designed to fit your ever-changing needs. Whether you’re just starting out, looking to save for a big purchase, or planning the retirement you’ve always dreamed about, Thrivent Financial can help you meet your goals. For more information you can call Lisa at 404.643.8272.

Steve Cushman, owner of Cave Connections, and newcomer to our luncheons moved to Wakulla because he saw our county as the last frontier for cave diving. Besides running his business, Steve also volunteers for the community he lives in, and is currently involved cleaning up a large tract of property in the hopes of turning it into a 400 plus County Park for swimming, diving, horseback riding etc. Steve also serves as president for Keep Wakulla County Beautiful, and teaches oyster farming at Wakulla Environmental Institute. Petra introduced her guests; Janice Eakin – current president of CHAT of Wakulla, and her husband Mike – owner of Ms. Purple Frog, a project management company, and Janis David who owns a software company, and also runs weekend camps for women teaching Drumming, Dance, Pilates, Qi Gong, Yoga and more. Janis is also an accomplished belly dancer, truly a woman of many talents. If you want to find out more about her weekend of transformation call 850.251.2192. Jessica Revell introduced her guest Amber Miller, new employee of Bevis Funeral Home. Warden Jimmy Coker introduced his guest, Mr. Ricky Dixon, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Institutions for the Florida Department of Corrections, and former warden of Wakulla Correctional Institution. Both Warden Coker and Mr. Dixon are Wakulla County residents.

Susan Willis, President of NAMI Wakulla, briefly summed up NAMI programs Basics and Family to Family, designed to help individuals and families deal with crisis, shock, denial, hoping against hope, anger, guilt, resentment, and grief. NAMI is also gearing up for their 4th Annual Triple Crown Derby to be held Saturday, April 26th. Luncheon attendees Terry Hillier and St. Marks City Manager Zoe Mansfield announced that they are two of the celebrity horse owners, committed to raising funds for local mental illness awareness. Virginia Moore handed out fliers, and announced a community fish fry Saturday, April 5, sponsored by Bevis Funeral Home to benefit the Senior Citizens Center Meals on Wheels Program. Tickets are on sale at the funeral home and the senior center for only $7.
Betty Ann Korzenny invited attendees to purchase a Summer Pool Membership to the St. Marks Yacht Club. The membership cost is $200 annually; 30 members are accepted.

Charlean Lanier of Kingdom Harvest Fellowship was proud to announce that the first Health Fair held last weekend was able to help 1574 individuals, distributing roughly 30,000 pounds of food. Megan Picht, United Way of the Big Bend, announced that the organization has raised 73K for local charities, and thanked attending Sheriff's Department and Capital City Bank for their role and involvement to reach their annual goal.

Our spotlight of the month was Tallahassee Orthopedic Sports medicine presented by Cecile Baker, who was glad to be able to visit Wakulla, where she and her family lived from 1977 until 1989. Cecile gave a brief history of TOSPT in Crawfordville: Established in 1955, expanded and doubled the size in 2005. Past therapists were Tyressa Judge, Doreen Aparicio, native Wakullan Sheila Carraway Stevens, and now Lori Cate. Cecile also spoke about the PTplus program; a strengthening and conditioning program for patients who have completed their treatment and want to continue using their equipment and for people who want a strengthening and conditioning program in a medical setting. She also discussed the therapeutic pool in the Tallahassee facility and the benefits of aquatic therapy.

Cecile thanked the people of the county for the tremendous support they have shown for TOSPT over the past 19 years.

We thank the following for their generosity and donations to our drawing: Chris Phillips – Red Hills Broadcasting LLC, KWCB, Janis David, Petra Shuff, Cook Insurance, Revell Electric, Shepard Accounting and Tax Service, The Wakulla News, WTXL TV, TOSPT.
March Workshop

We had a full house for our Quick Books workshop held March 19th. We appreciate being able to offer this workshop through our partnership with Small Business Development Center at FAMU.

Attending were business owners familiar with the program, and some that were considering purchasing Quick Books but wanted more information.

Dennis Scarry, owner of Time Saver Accounting, and Cash Flow 90 called attendants prior to find out which topics they were interested in covering, which made for a wide array of topics to cover, and included tips and tricks, invoicing, check writing, correcting and/or merging vendor names, chart of accounts, drilling down feature, multiple accounts with same name and how to address, partial payments, quotes, 1099's, change in status, reconciliation.

Yes, it was a lot to cover in the two hours allotted but, Mr. Scarry promised that class would not be dismissed until all questions were answered. Our feedback sheets were anonymous, and Mr. Scarry rated very well, and wished that the 4 hour class Mr. Scarry also teaches would be offered in the future.

Mr. Scarry also offered a free half hour of consultation to anyone in attendance, and we have a feeling he may get a few calls as he is a specialist, teaching Quick Books since 1999.

Welcome New Chamber Members

Thrivent Financial - specializing in financial planning
PO Box 694, Panacea, FL 32346 (404) 643-8272
Welcome Lisa Wetherton

Upcoming Chamber Events

April 5 - 6-10pm Low Country Boil Fundraiser
For ticket availability call 926.1848

April 11 - 4-7pm, Grand Opening and ribbon cutting for the One Stop Community Center

April 23, noon Networking luncheon at St. Marks Yacht Club