



Chamber of Commerce Holds 3rd Annual Legislative Luncheon

On August 10, 2016, area residents, local businesses, and area legislators enjoyed a luncheon catered by Lisa Baney, at the Lawson Community Center. Mark Claypole, Chamber President, welcomed those present, and introduced pastor Gary Ponder Williams, who led the prayer before lunch. Mark then introduced the Guest Speakers; State Senator Dan Hegeman, State Senator David Pearce, State Representative Dr. Jim Neely, Mr. Tom Salisbury-U.S. Senator Blunt's Small Business Liaison, Ms. Ashley Burke- US Congressman Grave's Field Representative, Ms. Kelli Montgomery- US Congressman Cleaver's Rural Development Coordinator and Ms. Corey Dillon- Senior Regional Director for US Senator McCaskill. After each speaker gave legislative updates, a question and answer session was held.

Many bills and programs were briefed by the panel, below are some of the highlights:

Dan Hegeman-State senator- Establish guidelines for Foster child caregivers, State auditor to audit community improvement districts.

David Pearce- State Senator- School Accreditation, A + Program

Dr. Jim Neely- State Representative- Sexual Offenders Law, Education Funding

Ashley Burke- Congressman Sam Graves Field Rep- Transportation Issues, Veterans Affairs,

Corey Dillon- Senator McCaskill's Senior Regional Director- Student Debt, Veteran's Facilities, Opioid Epidemic, Agriculture

Tom Salisbury- Senator Blunt's Small Business Liaison- Transportation, Education, Mental Health, EPA

Kelli Montgomery- Congressman Cleaver's Rural Development Coordinator- Housing Reform, Transportation.

All of our representatives work together for us on transportation and DNR projects in the state.

Before moving on to the question and answer session, Chamber President Mark Claypole presented State Senator David Pearce with a certificate thanking him for his service, as he will be leaving this year, due to term limits.

At the conclusion of the question and answer session, Chamber President Mark Claypole made a few announcements and presented the door prizes to those holding the winning tickets, and attendees were free to network with the legislators.