Southeast Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Calendar of Events

January 2014:

7  Johnson Law Firm Business After Hours - Johnson Law Main St. Pikeville, 5 PM - 7 PM
9  Leadership SEK - Pike County, 8 AM-5 PM
14 Chamber Membership: 101 - Chamber, 8:30 AM-9:30 AM
21 Executive Board Meeting - Chamber, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
21 Change Up Fitness Business After Hours - Belfry Location, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
28 Board of Directors Meeting - UPIKE, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
30 Health Care Reform Luncheon - Chamber, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Leadership Southeast Kentucky Discusses Education in the Region

Eastern Kentucky’s education has been a large topic of discussion, past and present.

Leadership Southeast Kentucky’s December session was held at the Jenny Wiley State Resort Park. This session gave the class the opportunity to talk and listen to local educators and their stand on educational topics.

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Teach for America

Founded in 1990, Teach For America recruits and develops a diverse corps of outstanding individuals of all academic disciplines to commit two years to teach in high-need schools and become lifelong leaders in the movement to end educational inequity. This fall, 11,000 corps members will teach in 48 urban and rural regions across the country, while 32,000 alumni will work across sectors to ensure that all children have access to an excellent education.

In partnerships with schools, districts, and communities, Teach For America—Appalachia, has brought more than 50 new teachers to the eastern Kentucky region over the last 3 years. Many of Teach For America’s corps members teach in the critical shortage areas of math, science, and foreign language, and at the secondary level.

In the past year, Teach For America—Appalachia has also put an increased emphasis on identifying eastern Kentuckians who have an interest in working in their home region, and partnering with local universities to be an additional pipeline of local teaching talent back to the region. The organization has also worked diligently to retain teachers beyond their two-year commitment, with over 80% of the 2013 corps members remaining in their original placement schools for their third year teaching.

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For more information, please call (877) 738-4400.

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Teach for America - Appalachia joins Southeast Kentucky Chamber

Alex Chandler, a Teach For America corps member from Utah, is in his first year teaching Spanish at Bellamy High School in Pike County. Despite never having been to Kentucky before teaching, he has quickly learned what sets this region apart. “I came to Eastern Kentucky with a very limited knowledge of this area,” Chandler said. “But people here have opened their arms to me and made me feel at home.”

Chandler’s focus this school year is twofold. First, he wants his students to have a positive and enjoyable experience with Spanish. “Many of my students initially expressed a slight aversion to the idea of having to learn another language,” Chandler admitted. “If I can break through that then I believe I can set my students on a path to learning and appreciating other languages and cultures.”

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The Chamber’s Ambassador Club is back in action! They have started back with the “Surprise Patrol.” The “Surprise Patrol” is when the Ambassadors come to your business/workplace and “surprise” you with gifts, just to say thanks for being a member of the SEK Chamber. In December, the Ambassadors surprised Zebulon Primary Care and Premiere Pond and Spa, both of Pikeville.

“I’m excited the Southeast Kentucky Chamber Ambassadors Club is up and running again!” It’s an excellent way to stay connected with the community and its businesses. We currently have eleven Ambassadors and looking for more to join us. We try to keep it fun. We attend as many ribbon cuttings and after hour events as we can. During the “surprise” patrols, a group of us visit chamber members with balloons and cupcakes in hand. It puts a smile on their faces as well as ours,” said Eva Stewart, Chairperson, SEK Ambassador Club. “Many thanks to Frank, Howard, Deann, Jennifer, Zach, Jared and Jacob for attending the “surprise patrol”! It was a pleasure to meet the staff at Zebulon Primary Care and Premiere Pond and Spa.”

As the Ambassador Club becomes more active, the more “Surprise Patrols” there will be. Keep an eye out for them, you could be next!

For more information about the Ambassador Club, please contact Jacob Colley at jacob.colley@sekchamber.com.
Mullins Transitions to Accounting Manager

Jared Arnett, SEKY President/CEO

Jared Arnett, SEKY President/CEO and Events and Programs Manager, will continue to assist the incoming Accounting Manager position.

For twelve years, Mullins has been a dedicated member of the Chamber’s Accounting Department, working closely with the finance team to ensure the Chamber’s financial health. Her role has included managing the accounting operations, preparing financial reports, and overseeing the budget process.

As Mullins transitions to her new role as the President/CEO, she will bring her financial expertise and leadership skills to the Chamber, working closely with the finance team to ensure the Chamber’s financial stability and growth.

With the departure of Jondra Branham, Pam Mullins will be moving from her current role as Events and Programs Manager to fill the vacated Accounting Manager position.

In her new role, Mullins will be assisting the President/CEO, Jared Arnett, with financial, billing, and sponsorship activities. “Pam is very excited to begin her new role,” said Jared Arnett, SEKY President/CEO.

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SEK Chamber Employment Opportunities

Membership Development Manager

The Southeast Kentucky Chamber of Commerce is seeking an experienced outside sales person. Primary responsibilities will include: membership recruitment/sales, relationship building, achieving monthly sales goals, new partner prospecting, contract coordination, database management, and implementing membership retention programs.

In addition, this person would act as general support for organizational events and programs.

Qualified candidates will have at least 2 years of proven sales experience. Cold calling experience a plus. Minimum of bachelor's degree strongly preferred. Other skills to include: proficiency in Microsoft Word, Outlook, Excel, and PowerPoint, a solution-oriented approach, excellent attention to detail, strong organizational skills; and the ability to work in a fast-paced, multitasked environment.

Competitive salary includes base plus commission. Benefits include: Health, Life, and Dental Insurance; Simple IRA Retirement Plan, and Paid Vacation/Sick Days.

Events and Programs Manager

This position is responsible for planning and implementing all chamber events and programs. The Southeast Kentucky Chamber of Commerce executes a high volume of quality events and programs throughout the year. This is an excellent opportunity for a dedicated professional with a reputation for superior customer service and attention to detail.

Qualified candidates have a minimum of bachelor's degree or combination of post-secondary education and related experience. Experience in event or meeting planning strongly preferred. Professional office experience required. Other skills to include: highly proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook; experience with member database helpful; excellent oral and written communication skills; ability to set priorities; meet deadlines; multi-task; design and marketing experience a plus; customer service centered; social media messaging. Special requirements include climbing stairs and lift and/or carry up to 50 pounds; able to work overtime occasionally as needed, especially early morning events/meetings.

Normal working hours and days: Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; 30 minute lunch break.

Please email resume and cover letter to hr@sekchamber.com or mail to SEKY Chamber Attn: Events and Programs Manager OR Membership Development Manager 178 College St., Pikeville, KY 41501.

KY Chamber President/CEO Presents “Priorities for Kentucky in 2014”

Kentucky Chamber President & CEO Dave Adkisson recently launched a 10-city tour around the state to present the Chamber’s “Priorities for Kentucky in 2014.” The tour, which began in Owensboro on Thurs., Dec. 5, outlines what’s to come in the 2014 session of the Kentucky General Assembly and what issues will be crucial for the Commonwealth’s business community.

Adkisson visited Pikeville on Dec. 17 and spoke to Southeast Kentucky Chamber of Commerce members about the Kentucky Chamber's 2014 priorities:

“As we head into a budget year for the General Assembly, there are a number of issues that could have a significant impact in the health of the business community,” said Adkisson. “Our goal with this tour is to ensure our members are not only educated on those issues, but stay looped in with the Chamber as those issues continue to evolve over the course of the session.”

The agenda also includes support for early childhood education and for protecting school funding.

Health & Wellness

The Chamber will continue to support the creation of incentives for workplace-based wellness programs and enactment of a statewide smoke-free law.

Improving the medical liability climate also is a priority item.

Energy

Supporting the infrastructure of Kentucky's signature coal industry has long been a priority for the Chamber and that will continue in the 2014 session.

The Chamber will work to maintain Kentucky's low cost utility rates by opposing proposals that would change the make-up of Kentucky's non-partisan Public Service Commission.

Business Competitiveness

Talk about tax reform continues around the Capitol, although most observers are skeptical about whether anything meaningful can be accomplished in a year when all House seats and half of those in the Senate will be on the ballot.

Adkisson noted, “Clearly, our agenda is a full one, and we know that additional issues will emerge as the session progresses. As always, we look forward to the opportunity to represent the interests of Kentucky’s employers as we work together to build a stronger future for our Commonwealth.”

Adkisson and other Chamber leaders toured the state through Dec. 18. For a list of stops on the tour, visit ky chamber.com/2014briefings.