



2007
Annual Report of the
Greater Lawrence County Area
Chamber of Commerce
and
Lawrence Economic
Development Corporation

A Community Improvement Corporation

Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce
Lawrence Economic Development Corporation
The Point Industrial Park

Lawrence County Convention and Visitors Bureau
Southern Ohio Procurement Outreach Center

216 Collins Avenue
South Point, Ohio 45680
Phone: (740) 377-4550

Fax: (740) 377-2091
www.lawrencecountyohio.org

Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce

Located in the very center of the Tri-State!

216 Collins Avenue
South Point, Ohio 45680
Phone: 740.377.4550
Fax: 740-377-2091



Our agency is home to:
Lawrence Co. Chamber of Commerce
Lawrence Economic Development Corporation
Southern Ohio Procurement Outreach Center
The Point Industrial Park
Lawrence Co. Convention and Visitors Bureau
Small Business Development Center

Or visit us online at: www.lawrencecountyohio.org

Agency Staff

Bill Dingus, PhD., Executive Director (dingus@ohio.edu)
Lawrence Economic Development Corporation (LEDC)
Greater Lawrence County Area Chamber of Commerce

Phillip Ramsey, Chief Financial Officer (pramsey@zoominternet.net)
Lawrence Economic Development Corporation (LEDC)
Greater Lawrence County Area Chamber of Commerce

Lawrence Economic Development Corporation:
Viviane Khounlavong-Vallance, Assistant Director (vkvallance@zoominternet.net)

The Point Industrial Park:
Jeremy Clay, Manager (jeclay@zoominternet.net)

Southern Ohio Procurement Outreach Center:
Viviane Khounlavong-Vallance, Director
Jordan Lucas, Program Manager (jordanlucas@zoominternet.net)
Rodney Young, Business Counselor (youngre@zoominternet.net)
Hayward Chappell, Business Counselor (haywardchappell@zoominternet.net)

Lawrence County Convention and Visitors Bureau:
Viviane Khounlavong-Vallance, Director

Receptionist:
Janie Payne (cofcagency@zoominternet.net)

2007 Traffic Count

COPIES

GLCA Chamber of Commerce	7,536
Convention & Visitors Bureau	4,810
Point Industrial Park	8,462
LEDC	16,061
Procurement Outreach Center	21,635
TOTAL	58,504

CALLS

GLCA Chamber of Commerce	2,094
Convention & Visitors Bureau	830
Point Industrial Park	534
LEDC	1,822
Procurement Outreach Center	1,100
TOTAL	6,380

INCOMING FAX

GLCA Chamber of Commerce	102
Convention & Visitors Bureau	22
Point Industrial Park	60
LEDC	121
Procurement Outreach Center	138
TOTAL	443

VISITORS

GLCA Chamber of Commerce	840
Convention & Visitors Bureau	1306
Point Industrial Park	400
LEDC	727
Procurement Outreach Center	162
TOTAL	3435

OUTGOING FAX

GLCA Chamber of Commerce	67
Convention & Visitors Bureau	4
Point Industrial Park	39
LEDC	76
Procurement Outreach Center	186
TOTAL	372

EMAIL

GLCA Chamber of Commerce	2,533
Convention & Visitors Bureau	4,607
Point Industrial Park	652
LEDC	7,719
Procurement Outreach Center	16,766
TOTAL	32,277

INCOMING MAIL

GLCA Chamber of Commerce	1,252
Convention & Visitors Bureau	190
Point Industrial Park	200
LEDC	767
Procurement Outreach Center	548
TOTAL	2,957

OUTGOING MAIL

GLCA Chamber of Commerce	3,615
Convention & Visitors Bureau	787
Point Industrial Park	435
LEDC	754
Procurement Outreach Center	2,794
TOTAL	8,385

2007 Annual Report of The Greater Lawrence County Area Chamber of Commerce

Mission Statement: The principal purpose of the Chamber shall be to promote the general economic welfare and prosperity of businesses in Lawrence County, Ohio, area, to the end objective that its citizens and businesses shall grow and flourish; and, through concentration of informed judgment in developing and seeking implementation of policy recommendations to guide the process of decision making in effectuating such changes; and through proper means to foster enlightened understanding and effective application of the economic and political principles essential to the continued growth of individual economic freedom in the free enterprise system. In pursuit of these ends, the Chamber stands willing and able to work with all other organized business groups, organized labor, agriculture, education and government.

2006-2007 EXECUTIVE BOARD:

President-
Gordon Waters, Armstrong Cable Services
Internal Vice President-
Mark Compston, A.G. Edwards
External Vice President-
Sandy Blackburn, McSweeney's
Treasurer-
Joe Jenkins, Briggs Lawrence County Public Library
Secretary-
Tyler Walters, Shawnee Mental Health Center

2007-2008 EXECUTIVE BOARD:

President-
Mark Compston, A.G. Edwards
Internal Vice President-
Joe Jenkins, Briggs Lawrence County Public Library
External Vice President-
Tyler Walters, Shawnee Mental Health Center
Treasurer-
Stephanie Burcham, Ohio University-Proctorville
Secretary-
Brenda Findlay, Area Agency on Aging

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Larry Anderson, Great Lakes Minerals
Stephanie Burcham, Ohio University -Proctorville
Doug Cade, E.L. Robinson Engineering
Michael Caldwell, Ironton Tribune
Steve Dodgion, Collins Career Center
Ron Eastham, Eastham and Associates
Ted Edwards, Aaron's Products
Brenda Findley, Area Agency on Aging, District 7
John Galloway, Pickett Concrete
Mark Gordon, Our Lady of Bellefonte Hospital
Michael Manns, Superior Marine Ways, Inc.
Laura Jane Murphy, Ohio State University Extension

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:

Doug Cade, E.L. Robinson Engineering
Jodi Rowe-Collins, Ohio River Bank
Steve Dodgion, Collins Career Center
Dr. Dan Evans, Ohio University Southern
Doug Malone, Lawrence County Commissioner
Dan Mooney, Oak Hill Banks
George Patterson, Lawrence County Commissioner
Jason Stephens, Lawrence County Commissioner

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE:

Larry Anderson, Great Lakes Minerals
Bill Dickens, Ironton Port Authority
Ron Eastham, Eastham and Associates
Ray Howard, Hecla Water
Jason Stephens, Lawrence County Commissioner

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE:

Chair-
Robert Dalton, Robert Dalton Architect
Vice Chair-
Ralph Kline, ILCAO
Doug Cade, E.L. Robinson and Associates

Judge Don Capper
Jodi Rowe-Collins, Ohio River Bank
Rod Depriest, National City Bank
Ron Eastham, Eastham and Associates
John Galloway, Pickett Concrete
Dan Lester, Lester State Farm Insurance
Douglas Malone, Lawrence County Commissioner
George Patterson, Lawrence County Commissioner
Richard Slack, Schneider Griffin Funeral Homes
Jason Stephens, Lawrence County Commissioner
Gordon Waters, Armstrong Cable

SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:

Sandy Blackburn, McSweeney's, Inc.
Dianne Clement, Marathon Petroleum
Jodi Rowe-Collins, Ohio River Bank

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Stephanie Burcham, Ohio University-Proctorville
Dr. Don Baker, Ohio University Southern
Joe Jenkins, Briggs Lawrence County Public Library
Steve Dodgion, Collins Career Center

2007 Chamber News and Events

Bill Dingus, Phd., Executive Director
dingus@ohio.edu

Safety Council

The Lawrence County Safety Council is one of more than 70 safety councils across the state, organized through the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation, chambers of commerce, trade and manufacturing associations, American Red Cross chapters or other local safety-minded organizations. These safety councils provide their local communities with quality programs addressing occupational safety and health, workers' compensation and risk management education and information. They inform participants about new techniques, products and services, and provide a thorough knowledge of these services.

Our second year of the Safety Council proved to be an outstanding success! We saw a rise in both our membership and attendance. While providing helpful and relevant training topics, the safety council's calendar consisted of the following topics:

- Electrical Safety
- Heat & Cold Stress
- Office Ergonomics
- 1st Response;
- Disaster Preparedness
- OSHA Training Requirements
- Ohio's Group Rating Program
- Issues Regarding Transportation
- Hazardous Materials
- Drug & Alcohol Prevention
- Upcoming Projects in Lawrence County
- Homeland Security

The Safety Council supplies the resources needed to operate a safer and a more educated workplace and an opportunity to network with other businesses. With the additional 4% savings on worker's compensation benefits, the values produced by this program are obvious. Approximately 42

businesses took part in this year's program and we're hoping for even more next year! The Lawrence County Area Safety Council meets the first Friday of each month and plans to continue to offer this valuable service to the area's businesses. For more information about the Lawrence County Area Safety Council contact:
Jordan Lucas, Safety Council Manager
jordanlucas@zoominternet.net
ph. 740.377.4550

Annual Awards Banquet

This year's awards banquet continued the tradition of recognizing selfless volunteers and innovators within the community. The event took place on the evening of November 15 in the Rotunda of Ohio University Southern in Ironton and honored Ralph Kline of the Lawrence County Community Action Organization as the Person of the Year, Jodi Rowe-Collins as the Volunteer of the Year, Liebert Corporation for Business of the Year, and Gordon Waters was recognized as the Outgoing Chamber President of 2007.

The Lawrence County Person of the Year Award was officially changed to the "George Patterson Award," in honor of one of our greatest community servants, Commissioner George Patterson. Patterson was the most consecutively elected county commissioner serving more terms than any other commissioner in the history of the County. Patterson parted us in summer of 2007 and this award will forever honor his name and legacy.

Ralph Kline Awarded the George Patterson

Lawrence County Person of the Year

Ralph Kline, Assistant Executive Director of Planning and Development of the

Lawrence CAO, was the first to receive this award for his continued excellence in the provision of growth in Lawrence County. Kline joined the CAO in 1981 as the agency planner and later became the director of housing and community development. Kline currently oversees the areas of housing, economic development, downtown and community revitalization, infrastructure improvement, and strategic planning.

Along with this award, Kline has also received the following honors: SBA Small Business Advocate of the Year, Southeast Ohio Regional Council Person of the Year, Ohio Governor's Award for Excellence in Outstanding Program Implementation, and the Ohio Governor's award for Excellence in Exemplary Home Investment Partnership. Ralph Kline has been a successful major player in economic and community development since 1981.

**Jodi Rowe-Collins,
Lawrence County
Volunteer Award Recipient**

Jodi Rowe-Collins of Ohio River Bank was recognized as the Volunteer of the Year for giving of herself to the betterment of this community by helping to build a sense of pride and ownership. Jodi, an Ironton native, has maintained a strong interest in community service for decades. She is one of the key founders of the Friends of Ironton organization which organized the Gus Macker Basketball Tournament, Rally on the River, and Oktoberfest, events that take place each year in downtown Ironton. Along with the volunteer based organization, Jodi also dedicates her time as a board member of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Tri-State, Huntington/Ironton Empowerment Zone, Ironton Port Authority, Leadership Tri-State, Ohio University Southern Coordinating Council, and the WIA/Youth Council. She is also active in the Chamber of Commerce and Ironton In Bloom organization.

**Liebert, Lawrence County
Business of the Year**

Liebert Corporation is truly deserving of being named the Lawrence County Business of the Year. Liebert was honored for its increased economic support to the community through job creation and retention.

Liebert opened its manufacturing plant in the former Cabletron building in July of 2000, in Ironton, Ohio. Ironton offered a solid labor force and a shell-building with good lighting and air-conditioning. Approximately \$4 million was invested to convert and re-equip the space for Liebert.

Since 2000, the company has expanded from its original 120,000 sq.ft. facility to a plant with more than 180,000 sq.ft. of manufacturing space, as well as 20,000 sq.ft. office space.

Liebert contributes significantly to the area by employing more than 300 people. Liebert designs, manufactures, and distributes systems that control temperature and humidity, condition power, and guard against outages in data centers and telecommunication facilities. The Ironton facility specializes in the production of Heating Ventilating Air Conditioning (HVAC) essential to many industries and companies. Liebert is an independent subsidiary of Emerson Network Power.

Induction of the 2007-2008 Chamber Executive Board and Board of Directors

The induction of the 2007-2008 Chamber Executive Board and Board of Directors also took place on the evening of the Awards Banquet. The board for the coming year is as follows:

President- Mark Compston of AG. Edwards, Internal VP-Joe Jenkins of the Briggs Lawrence County Public Library, External VP-Tyler Walters of Our Lady of Bellefonte Hospital, Treasurer-Stephanie Blackburn of Ohio University Proctorville, and Secretary- Brenda Findley of Area Agency on Aging.

Gordon Waters Honored for Tenure as 2006-2007 Chamber President

After the duties of the Chamber President were passed to Mr. Compston, Gordon Waters was acknowledged for his efforts and vision as the Chamber President for 2006-2007.

Before taking the one year term as President, Waters graduated and received his BS degree from East Carolina University in 1981. He then served as a communications officer in the United States Marine Corps in both the United States and Europe, attaining the rank of Major. Waters began his career in cable television 20 years ago in television system engineering and design. Prior to coming to the tri-state to work for Armstrong Utilities, Gordon served as general manager for First Carolina Cable, Cooke Cablevision, TCI, Falcon Communications, Charter Communications, and also worked for Intermedia Partners and Cox Communications in various capacities.

Gordon Waters is a member of a number of organizations in the area including: serving as an officer of the West Virginia Cable and Telecommunications Association, officer and past president of the Kentucky Cable and Telecommunications Association, Board of Directors of the Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors of the Lawrence County Emergency Planning Committee, and a member of the Lawrence County Planning Commission.

During his tenure as Chamber President, Gordon was able to see through to fruition the development of the L.E.A.D. Program for local high school students, the Safety Council initiative for local businesses, the success of another Legislative Day at the State Capital and the Governor's Mansion, and the development of a new restaurant in the Depot in downtown Ironton.

Take the L.E.A.D.

The Chamber's Education Committee is composed of: Larry Anderson of Great

Lakes Minerals, Stephanie Burcham of Ohio University Proctorville, Steve Dodgion of Collins Career Center, Brenda Finlay of Area Agency of Aging District 7, Joe Jenkins of Briggs-Lawrence Public Library, along with out-going Chamber President Gordon Waters of Armstrong Cable and incoming President Mark Compston. Fourteen juniors from five Lawrence County high schools were selected. The schools represented were: Chesapeake, Fairland, South Point, St. Joseph's, and Symmes Valley. The purpose of this program is to:

1. To prepare high school students for leadership in business and government
2. To address economic issues within Lawrence County
3. To create a business, legislative, and peer network for participants
4. To encourage students to return to/ remain in Lawrence County

This year's LEAD class took an exciting approach to creating and implementing their own businesses. Throughout the program the students interacted with and learned from prominent business leaders in the Lawrence County area to develop relationships with local, state, and federal legislators, as well as their peers. Students from different schools were broken into 3 teams based on their personality and leadership characteristics and then told to create a mock business. They were to come up with everything from a marketing strategy, projected costs, profits, losses, to what type of business they were going to create and then incorporate all the information into a business proposal. Once a month the students attended different sessions pertaining to different aspects of the business world. Then applied what they learned to their business proposals. Once each of the teams had completed their final proposal, they presented their presentations to a board of local business leaders/owners who then decided which proposal best met the following

standards:

1. Components for a successful business
2. If it would be beneficial to Lawrence County
3. If it was accurate and feasible

Team "B.O.L.D." ended up winning the \$1000 dollar prize for their Proctorville Health & Fitness Center business proposal/idea. The team members included: Erica Hutchison - CEO, Amanda Ottaviano - Sales & Marketing, Clinton Baise - Research & Development, Danielle Blair - Health Professional. Not only did all the students gain an enormous amount of knowledge about the business world from participating in this program, but they also received 2 college credits to go towards their professional futures!

LEGISLATIVE DAY

Once again the Chamber held it's annual Legislative Day," May 17, 2007. This year approximately 90 people participated in traveling to the Ohio State Capital in Columbus, Ohio to take part in three breakout sessions and to visit the Governor's Mansion. The topics covered this year were: Economic Development, Transportation, and Environmental Protection.

The Economic Development breakout session was held in the Riffe Building with LEDC President Dan Mooney giving a presentation on Lawrence County's Past & Future Developments. The topics discussed included, Industrial, Retail, Housing & Energy concerns for the Lawrence County area. The Ohio Department of Development discussed new administration updates and initiatives as well.

The Transportation session covered transportation issues faced by Lawrence County. Bob Dalton, Chairperson of the Greater Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce gave the introduction and welcome presentation, as well as the closing remarks. Ralph Kline, Vice-Chairperson, discussed local highway transportation requests, the Chesapeake By-Pass project, and the Ironton-

Russell bridge project. James Beasley, Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation gave the statewide transportation progress report. James Brushart, District Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation gave the Ohio Department of Transportation report.

The Environmental Protection session was coordinated by Joe Jenkins - Briggs-Lawrence County Library and Doug Cade - E.L. Robinson Engineering, with assistance from Bill Dickens - Ironton Port Authority, Dan Palmer - Lawrence-Scioto Solid Waste Management District, and Bob Knipmeyer - Ohio EPA. Bill Dickens discussed "Clean Ohio" fund projects in the city of Ironton, Ohio. Dan Palmer discussed solid waste management in Lawrence County. Doug Cade talked about Union Rome Wastewater treatment plant improvements and Bob Knipmeyer gave an update on Ohio EPA programs and the status of Buckeye Ethanol's project.

After all the breakout sessions were completed the group was invited to the Governor's Mansion for a reception and a boxed lunch. Governor and Mrs. Strickland welcomed everyone as they arrived. Governor Strickland gave a powerful speech on the hardships facing Southern Ohio and the changes his administration is making for the benefit of Southern Ohio. After the Governor's speech there was a reception held to discuss a summary and the outcome of each of the breakout sessions. After the reports were made the group got to take a tour of the Governor's residence and gardens and eat a boxed lunch.

Our annual trip to Columbus allows us as a Chamber, as well as individuals, to make a connection with our legislators and to see where they carry out their daily routines on our behalf. It's a unique experience that each year proves to be beneficial to not only Lawrence County, but to every individual involved.

2007 Chamber Membership List

A&A Porta Pottys	Collins Career Center	Governor Ted Strickland
A.G. Edwards	Country Hearth Inn & Suites	Grandview Inn
AAA	ILCAO	Great Lakes Minerals
Aaron's Products	Community Benefits Insurance	Gregory Prater, DDS, Inc.
Advantage Valley	Robert H. Compton	Guaranty Bank and Trust Company
Allied Waste Services #971	Conley Painting	Haley Equipment Co.
Allyn's Jewelers	Connoisseur Media	Hall Funeral Home
Alpha Welding & Fabricating, Inc.	Convention and Visitors Bureau	Hart's Corner Mart
American Electric Power	Curves of Proctorville	Hatcher's Greenhouse
American Electric Power	Curves of South Point	Heartland of Riverview
American Health Centers	Creative Financial Solutions	Hecla Water
American Red Cross, Cabell County	Custom Protection Services	Heiner's Bakery
AT&T	Dalton Architect	Herald Dispatch
Anderson & Anderson	Development Enterprises-Ceredo LLC	Holzer Clinic
Appalachian Family & Children First	Desco Federal Credit Union	Hood Realty
Area Agency on Aging District 7	Donald Capper, Judge	Hospice of Huntington
Armstrong Utilities	Dow Chemical Co.	Huntington/Ironton Empowerment Zone
Arundel Gallery	Dr. Neil Dufore	Hurley Insurance Agency
Ashland Office Supply	Dr. Candace Duty	Idearc
Attitude Aviation Inc.	Dr. Robert Barnett	Industrial Sanitation
Bailey, Raymond	Duke Energy	Ink In A Blink
Belville Resources, Inc.	DVR Inc.	Ironton Associates
Bentley RxPress	Dynamic Design	Ironton Chiropractic
Best Western-River Cities	Eastham & Associates	Ironton Tribune
Best Western-Southern Hills Inn	Edward Jones Investments	J&H Construction
Bob Clyse, Pontiac, Olds, GM	Edwards, Klein, Anderson & Shope	J&J Guns and Supplies
Bob Evans Restaurant-South Point	Elmer's Family Restaurant	J. Stewart Kaiser, Attorney at Law
Briggs Lawrence County Library	E.L. Robinson Engineering	Jenkins Fenstermaker, PLLC
Buckeye Dawg Properties, LLC	Engines, Inc. of Ohio	Jim's Termite and Pest Control
Buckeye Rural Electric	ETA Engineering Consultants	Jim Walter Homes
Business & Family Insurance Solutions	Excel Mining Products	Kevin J. Waldo
Campbell Business Machines	Fifth Third Bank	Kincaid Micro
Cardiovascular Imaging Services	Five Star Supply	King's Daughter's Medical Center
Char-Cal, Inc.	Flower Shop	Kirby Miley Outdoor Advertising
Chick-fil-A	Fluid Component Services	Klein and Hall Co., LPA
Cintas Corporation	Foundation for Tri-State Community	Leach State Farm Insurance
Citi Loan Financial	Freedom Choice Benefits	Lawrence Co. Auditor
City National Bank	Freeman Roofing & Const.	Lawrence Co. Clerk of Courts
Collins Career Center	Fruth Pharmacy	Lawrence County Commissioners
Collins Career Center	General Building Supply	Lawrence County Coroner
	General Helicopters International	Lawrence County Recorder
	Gilpin's Creative Trophies & Awards	Lawrence County Treasurer
	Glenco, Inc.	Lawrence Co. Historical Society
	Goodwin Family Foods	LEDC Treasurer

Leadership Tri-State
Lester State Farm Insurance
Liberty Federal Savings Bank
Liebert
Light Express
Lowe's Home Center
Luther Transfer
M & M Inflatables
M & M Mailing Co., Inc.
M&M Service/ Mid Valley Supply
Manpower Temporary Services
Marathon Petroleum LLC
John Elam, Mayor of Ironton
Bill Gaskin, Mayor of South Point
McDonald's of Chesapeake
McGinnis, Inc.
McGuire Realty Company
McSweeney's, Inc.
Merrill Lynch
Meyers & Neville
Millwright Local #1519
Modular Building Consultants of WV
Muth Lumber Company
National City Bank
Necco
Oak Hill Banks
Oak Ridge Treatment Center
ODJFS
Ohio American Water Company
Ohio Gardens Greenhouse & Land-
scaping
Ohio River Bank
Ohio State University Extension
Ohio University Southern
Ohio University Southern
Ohio University Proctorville
Old Colony Company, Realtors
Our Lady of Bellefonte Hospital
Pauley's Construction
Phillip's Funeral Home
Pick N Save
Pickett Concrete
Plumbers and Pipefitters #577
Point Industrial Park
Ponderosa
Premier Real Estate Holdings
Prester Trucking
Printing Express
Pritchard Electric
Prudential Bunch
Pyro-Chem
Quality Care Nursing Service

Randolph Stables, Inc.
Re/Max Real Team Realty
Rep. Todd Book
Rep. Clyde Evans
Resource Recovery
Rick Eplion Paving
River's Bend Health Care, LLC
Riverview Bed & Breakfast Inn
Riverside Insurance Resources
Robert Payne, CPA
Rumpke
Safeguard Business Painting &
Promotional
Sandler Sales Institute
Sam's Club
SBC Ameritech
Shawan Marquis Agency, Inc.
Scherer Mountain Insurance
Schneider-Griffin Funeral Home
Scott Whitson
Service Glass Company of
Huntington, Inc.
Sen. John Carey, Jr.
Sen. Tom Niehaus
Shawnee Mental Health Center
Sheriff's Office
Sherwin Williams
Smith Barney
Southern Ohio Behavioral Health
South Point Ford
South Point Local School District
South Point Storage & U-Haul
Sparetime Recreation
So. Ohio Procurement Outreach
Center
Spriggs Distributing
Staggs State Farm Insurance
Staley's Pharmacies
Star Community Justice Center
Stephens and Son Insurance
Agency
Superior Marine Ways, Inc.
Sunoco Chemicals
Sunset Nursing Home
TLC Excavating, LLC
The Funny Bone
The Ohio SBDC at Ohio State
University
The Wells Group
Three Gables Surgery Center
Thermal Solutions
Tickstorm, LLC

Total Safety
Tracy Brammer Funeral Home
Tri State Airport Authority
Tri-State Industries, Inc.
Tri-State Nurseries
Tri-State Tire Service
Ultimate Health Care
US Bank
US Sen. Sherrod Brown
US Sen. George Voinovich
US Rep. Charlie Wilson
Village Dental
Village Floor Covering
Wal-Mart #1478
Wayne National Forest
Weber Insurance
WEMM Gospel 107.9
Woolpert Consultants
Workforce Dev. Resource Center
WOUB
WOUB
York's Unlimited Appliances
YDCA



In 2007, the Lawrence Economic Development Corporation hosted a housing seminar that included guests from HUD, ODOD, and the Ohio Housing Authority. Karen Fabiano of ODOD is seen here discussing the State's proposed stance on housing.



The Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce invited the Ohio Ethics Commission to educate and inform local elected officials and public sector employees on the rules and guidelines that must be met as a community employee.



Jason Stephens, Lawrence County Commissioner is seen here at the groundbreaking of the South Point Comfort Suites in November.



Doug Korstanje, Public Relations Representative for St. Mary's Hospital of Huntington announces the partnership with Lawrence County to conduct a hospital study.



2006-2007 Chamber President Gordon Waters and Dan Evans, Dean of Ohio University Southern join the Follett Bookstore owner and manager for a ribbon cutting ceremony marking the opening day of the new store at the Ironton campus.



Ralph Kline of CAO and Bill Dingus of LEDC held a public meeting in the summer to announce the proposed downtown revitalization plan that will renovate and revamp The Depot Square area in Ironton.



Ohio Representative Clyde Evans attended numerous Chamber events in 2007, including the November Annual Awards Banquet.



Chamber Board member Tyler Walters introduces Liebert Corporation as the 2007 Business of the Year. Liebert was acknowledged for its continued growth and support of the local economy by tripling their workforce from 2001-2007.



KYOVA Interstate Planning Commission was one of the many organizations represented at the transportation session of Legislative Day 2007. Many community members took this opportunity to discuss safety and transit issues with the Ohio Dept. of Transportation.



Dan Palmer of CAO lead discussions regarding solid waste management with members of the Ohio EPA during one of the concurrent sessions at Legislative in May.



LEDC President Dan Mooney presented a comprehensive map highlighting the most important developments throughout Lawrence County to various members of the Ohio Department of Development and Governor's Office of Appalachia during the economic development session for Legislative Day.



Ralph Kline of CAO, Bill Dingus of LEDC, Ironton Mayor Rich Blankenship, and Lawrence County Commissioner Jason Stephens announce acceptance of a \$400,000.00 grant from the State of Ohio to the city of Ironton to be used toward the downtown revitalization plan.



Doug Cade helped lead discussions regarding soil and water developments with the Ohio EPA at the annual Legislative Day trip.



Jim Brushart, Reg. 9 Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation, addresses issues regarding Southern Ohio's roadways at the annual Legislative Day event.



First Lady of Ohio -Frances Strickland greeted guests as they arrived for lunch at the Governor's mansion last May.



Ohio Governor Ted Strickland invited the Lawrence County Chamber to have lunch at the Governor's residence during the annual Legislative Day trip where he also keynoted the luncheon.



Ohio Senator John Carey, Jr. was often invited to speak to Chamber members regarding the most pertinent issues the business community may face in Lawrence County. Here, Senator Carey visited the new Ohio University Proctorville center.



Hotel developers Junior and Hammond Patel along with the Lawrence County Commissioners, Mark Compston the 2007-2008 Chamber President, and other Lawrence County officials have the honor of breaking ground for the new hotel development in South Point.



Ralph Kline of the CAO was awarded the George Patterson Person of the Year Award for his continued dedication to the economic growth of Lawrence County at the Chamber Annual Awards Banquet.



Community members including Dan Mooney of LEDC, Art Winer, Councilman Frank Murphy, Commissioner Jason Stephens, Deron Runyon of EZ, Ralph Kline of CAO, Mayor Rich Blankenship, and Bill Dingus join Phi Chen owner of Austyn's, for the open house of his new restaurant in downtown Ironton.



Members of the Gus Macker Basketball tournament organization committee had the opportunity to travel to local elementary schools to host seminars on team building and development. 2007 was the third year for the event.



Ohio Representative Todd Book was invited to address Chamber members at a monthly membership meeting held in February. Rep. Book has been a strong partner with Lawrence County since he took a seat in the Ohio House.



Congressman Charlie Wilson opened up his new local office in Ironton earlier this year. The Congressman is seen here at the open house of the new facility downtown.



Through a partnership with U.S. Senator George Voinovich, LEDC hosted a housing seminar in the spring of 2007 inviting guest speakers from the Ohio Housing Authority, Housing and Urban Development, and Ohio Department of Development.



Joan Terry of CAO guides the LEAD students through the historical John Campbell home in Ironton. John Campbell was one of Ironton's founding members and leaders in the iron industry. The building now houses the Community Action Organization.



WSAZ-TV's Chief Meteorologist Tony Cavalier joined one of the Chamber's Safety Council sessions to discuss what precautions should take place at local businesses should severe weather occur.



Connie Freeman of Oak Hill Banks, Carl Grover of Engines, Inc. of Ohio, and Chamber President Gordon Waters present a donation to one of Lawrence County's local high schools. This fund is given so students may have the opportunity to attend the Close Up Conference in Washington D.C.



A representative from Duke Energy and Dianne Clement of Marathon as they present a donation award to representatives of St. Joe School. Duke and Marathon have consecutively donated funds to the annual Close Up Program.



Mark Compston of A.G. Edwards was inducted as the 2007-2008 Chamber of Commerce President during the November Awards Banquet. Compston has moved through the seats of the executive board and served several years on the board of directors.



Jodi Rowe-Collins of Ohio River Bank was awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award last November for her dedication to Lawrence County through continued community service.



Gordon Waters of Armstrong Utilities served as Chamber President for 2006-2007. Under his tenure, Waters partnered in many great accomplishments and initiatives in education and workforce.



Robert Leith, history professor at Ohio University Southern, spoke to students of the Chamber's LEAD Program about the unique history of the iron industry in Lawrence County.

2007 Annual Report of the Lawrence Economic Development Corporation

Bill Dingus, PhD., Executive Director
dingus@ohio.edu

Viviane Khounlavong Vallance, Assistant Director
vkvallance@zoominternet.net

The Lawrence Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) was established in August of 1983 to address the economic needs of Lawrence County, Ohio. The LEDC was one of the first economic development agencies to recognize the value of consolidation of resources under one agency umbrella. As a result of the coordinated efforts of the community leaders, the Greater Lawrence County Area Chamber of Commerce (The Chamber) was created with the merger of two small volunteer organizations and joined the LEDC in a single, centrally located facility in South Point, Ohio. The two organizations maintained their separate identities as single incorporated agencies with the Chamber serving the needs of existing business and industries and the LEDC providing the services necessary to recruit and retain industry and business. The agencies' services complement one another and during the past 24 years of continuous service, the consolidated agency has proven to have great merit in the Appalachian county. It is from this joint agency that multiple services are provided. The cost effective, professional operation attracted the attention of the Tri-State community and was a contributing factor in the City of Ironton, Ohio and City of Huntington, West Virginia applying for, and receiving, an Urban Empowerment Zone designation.

The Executive Director and the staff of the LEDC served on numerous state and local committees and functions during 2007, including, but not limited to the following:

Chamber of Commerce Executives of Ohio
Community Action Organization Board
Sunoco Citizen Advisory Panel
Empowerment Zone Executive Board
Foundation for Appalachia Ohio
Institute for Local Government Administration and Rural Development
KYOVA Planning Commission
Lawrence County Department of Jobs and Family Services

Lawrence County Planning Commission
Lawrence County Port Authority
Leadership Tri-State
Ohio Development Association
Ohio Rural Development Partnership
Ohio Valley Regional Development Council (OVRDC) Nominating Committee
OVRDC Caucus
Region 7 Advisory Board
Regional First Frontier Marketing Campaign
Workforce Development Resource Board

The LEDC and its staff was actively involved in many local activities including, but not limited to:
Charitable City Missions Fund

Chesapeake Lions Club
Community Dining Guide
Development of Inland Riverport
Development of The Point Industrial Park
Empowerment Zone
Friends of Ironton (Gus Macker,
Oktoberfest, Rally on the River events)
Friends of Ironton Community Service
Organization
Ironton Lions Club
Ironton Rotary Club
Ironton In Bloom
Lawrence County Planning Commission
Legislative Committee
Monthly Chamber Membership Functions
Natural Resources Committee
Ohio Rural Development Partnership
Retention and Expansion Committee
Transportation Committee
Tri-State Airport Board
Tri-State Regional Airport

Workforce Development
Workforce Development Planning and
Strategies Committee

LEDC staff continues to remain active with the Region 7 Advisory Commission and through the continued partnership with the Ohio Department of Development, has played a major role in the attraction of new businesses, as well as the expansion of existing industries. LEDC values the excellent support from Governor Ted Strickland, Congressman Charlie Wilson, U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown, U.S. Senator George Voinovich, Senator John Carey, Senator Tom Niehaus, Rep. Todd Book and Rep. Clyde Evans. The legislators have been outstanding economic development supporters and Lawrence County has benefited greatly by their active participation in this district.

2007 LEDC News and Events

2007 marked another great year in the growth of our community. Lawrence County flourished in the diverse number of projects ranging from industrial to restaurant to housing developments.

On the east end of the county, Proctorville saw some major developments in the farther planning of the Riverwalk project. This project is a proposed community and retail development including housing, an assisted living center, convention center, retail plaza, and boat docking area for recreation. Also, planning of a new nursing home is in process as Rivers Bend Health Care of Burlington expanded to a site near the Lawrence County Fairgrounds.

Along County Road 1 in Chesapeake, a new health and fitness center opened its doors in the earlier part of the year. American Health Centers welcomes the community to utilize the facility's chiropractic services as well as the fitness center. Several programs are available including help in physical wellness and diet.

On Charley Creek Road in South Point, Ohio, Junior and Hammond Patel broke ground on the new Comfort Suites in November. This hotel will offer various amenities and suites for the business and/or leisure traveler. The Pattells have promised at least 10 new jobs with the finish of this project in spring of 2008. Also Thad Blatt of Navy Trucking completed a 60,000

sq.ft. warehouse at Burlington and Paul Hard expanded the West View Plaza.

Also in the South Point area, the Point Industrial Park has seen tremendous growth in business expansion. Engines, Incorporated of Ohio has expanded to over 100 jobs! Engines now occupies two speculative buildings, and one previously built structure. New roads have been developed to accommodate their growing facility. Engines, Inc. is a railcar repair company owned and operated by Carl Grover. Existing Point Industrial Park companies M&M Mailing, Superior Marine Ways, Inc., Calgon Carbon, Mi-Valley Supply, and Applied Technologies continue to grow.

Also, the industrial park is in the beginning phase of the erection of Spec building #3. This 32,800 square foot building is designed for smaller manufacturing business and will be divided with expandable and moveable walls for up to four tenants. The Ohio Department of Development has been a major player in this development through the State of Ohio's industrial development grants program.

McGinnis, Inc. is constructing at Sheridan an expansion of their barge area along the Ohio River. This facility will allow the remanufacturing of barges to better serve the industries utilizing the river.

The City of Ironton is in a state of positive momentum with the success of the Ironton Industrial Park. The Ironton Port Authority, Community Action Organization, and LEDC have successfully marketed and recruited new businesses into several available sites along 3rd street. A new business promising new jobs has begun renovations in the old Wolohan Building. A concrete products manufacturing business is opening in west Ironton, and St. Mary's Hospital has committed to assist with meeting the healthcare needs of the Ironton area.

This partnership of organizations has also worked to develop a new downtown

revitalization plan. The community has been working with the Poggemeyer Design Group on a new strategy to revamp downtown Ironton to include a new public transit service, allow for adequate work on historical buildings, and purchase recreational items such as iron benches and trash receptacles. The downtown revitalization plan will also include renovations of The Depot Square area to allow more adequate accommodations to local fairs, festivals, and other events.

The Ironton in Bloom project is gaining some recognition in the community with several community members coming together to promote the downtown area by forming an organization to plant and maintain hanging baskets and planter pots along the sidewalks of downtown. This group also plans to compete in the National America In Bloom competition on the Summer of 2008. Also 2008 will see Ironton developing a new Main Street Program to help stimulate downtown revitalization.

The restaurant industry is continuing to grow with the opening of Austyn's at The Depot in Ironton. This upscale restaurant opened in early winter of 2007 and has joined Toro Loco and Melini Cucinas in generating a tri-state based clientele.

The new Haverhill Corridor is also underway to great success. Duke Energy and Dow Chemical, along County Road 1, still maintain a strong foothold in the community. Through the efforts of the Lawrence County Port Authority, Rumpke opened its doors in 2006, expanded its facility in 2007 with the hopes of continuing growth in 2008. Additionally, this corridor awaits a major expansion of Suncoke and may soon offer home to a new steel mill that will offer great opportunities to the entire region.

2007 LEDC Board of Directors and Trustees

Directors:

President-
Dan Mooney, Oak Hill Banks
Vice President-
Dr. Dan Evans, Dean Ohio University Southern
2nd Vice President-
Carl Darling, Dow Chemical
Secretary-
Dianne Clement, Marathon
Asst. Secretary-
Gordon Waters, Armstrong Cable
Treasurer-
Don Edwards
Asst. Treasurer-
George Moore, US Bank

Trustees:

Dan Lester, Lester State Farm
Paul Hart, Hart's Corner Back Door
Steve Dodgion, Superintendent Collins Career Center
Jordan Morgan, Sunoco Chemicals
James Buchanon, Mayor, Village of Proctorville
John Elam, Mayor City of Ironton
Keith Molihan, Lawrence Co. Port Authority
Bill Gaskin, Mayor Village of South Point
James Justice, Mayor Village of Chesapeake
Richard Slac, Schneider Griffin Funeral Home
Larry McDaniel, Mayor Village of Coal Grove
Chris Davidson, Mayor Village of Hanging Rock
Paul Lesnor, Duke Energy
Jerry Rowe, Liebert
Lawrence County Commissioners
D.R. Gossett, CAO
Bob Blankenship, Hamilton Township Trustee

2007 Annual Report of The Point Industrial Park

Jeremy Clay, Park Manager
jeclay@zoominternet.net

Since LEDC's acquisition of the park in 2001, a major transformation continues to take place. With over 500 acres of developable land, available utilities, and over 3,400 ft of riverfront location on the bank of the Ohio River The Point is the county's premier industrial area solving all logistical issues with the available use of river, rail, and roadways. Currently the park has five businesses including Engines Inc of Ohio, Mid Valley Supply Company, Calgon



During the summer of 2007, Spec Building #3 in its early phases of construction.

Carbon, Applied Technologies, and M&M Mailing.

With the completion and sale of Spec Building 2 to Engines, Inc. of Ohio at the end of 2006 CAO, Lawrence County Commissioners, and LEDC partnered to assist Engines in acquiring a CDBG grant to develop rail lines to Spec Building #2. The project consisted of adding over 2,500 track feet of rail including a parallel track for storage. With the completion of this project, the Point totals over 8 track miles of rail in the Park.

The Point continues its efforts to bring new businesses to our community by building

speculative shell buildings. The Point began erection of Spec Building #3 in mid summer of 2007. This building is designed to be 33,000 Sq. ft and proportioned for three tenants with a loading ramps and a masonry front. The building units will range from 7,350 Sq. Ft to 16,539 Sq. Ft or one single tenant if so needed. The building will also consist of a sprinkler system designed to serve each tenants' demands. The general construction of this building is slated for completion in January 2008.

The Point has also acquired another building package which will become the fourth Spec Building. Spec Building #4 will be 13,778 sq. ft with a minimum height clearance of 17 ft. This building will be located next to M & M Mailing on the eastern end of the park and be similar in design to the Spec #3 with a brick and metal front. Spec # 4 will have a complete poured grade beam and a 6" floor. The building is designed for light manufacture use and is to be completed late summer of 2008.



Rail construction also took place in The Point in 2007 adding to the already existing 7+ miles of rail.

2007 Annual Report of the Greater Lawrence County Procurement Outreach Center dba. Southern Ohio Procurement Outreach Center

Jordan Lucas, Program Manager
jordanlucas@zoominternet.net
Hayward Chappell, Small Business Counselor
haywardchappell@zoominternet.net
Rodney Young, Small Business Counselor
youngre@zoominternet.net

The Southern Ohio Procurement Outreach Center s (SOPOC) purpose is to identify business firms that are qualified to sell their goods and services to the Department of Defense (DoD), other federal agencies, and state government programs.

This process can result in a stimulation of the economy which leads to economic growth and creation of jobs. Currently, the SOPOC serves an area referred to as the Region 7 South Central Ohio Small Business Development Center Consortium Counties: Adams, Brown, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto, and Vinton.

There was a significant change in SO POC's Co-Op Agreement with the Defense Logistics Agency for fiscal year 06/07 with the doubling of the operating budget. The new budget allowed for many important changes and allowed the team to focus on assisting many more businesses that would have otherwise not been able to be helped. Another important change for the Procurement Outreach Center this year was the changing of its name to the Southern Ohio Procurement Outreach Center (SO POC). The change reflects the Center's focus to reach out to all of the ten counties it serves: Adams, Brown, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto and Vinton. The counselors met with economic development directors and key chamber personnel throughout the region to educate them on the services available from the SO POC and to solicit their support in engaging potential clients. Furthermore, a presentation for area rotaries and

chambers was developed and has been taken on tour throughout the 10 county area. Counselors have contacted and met with new and existing clients to help with registrations and assist with the various components of the bid/award process.

The Procurement Outreach Center provides free help for small businesses who are seeking to expand their market by selling goods and/or services to the Federal Government as well as state and local government agencies. At the same time, counselors assist clients to identify subcontracting opportunities with prime contractors who already sell to Government agencies. The ultimate goal is the stimulation of economic growth and the creation of jobs in southeastern Ohio.

Services offered by SO POC include assistance in a variety of areas - for example:

1. Completing required registrations; e.g. Central Contractor Registration, Online

Representations and Certifications, Ohio Vendor Registration

2. Identification of small business designations and help with certifications; e.g. HUBZone and EDGE certifications, Veteran-owned business, Woman-owned business, Minority-owned business

3. Bid-Match service which searches major websites for agency solicitations and awards

4. Development of a "Capability Statement" that highlights company assets and strengths along with special designations and certifications

5. Marketing assistance to target agencies and prime contractors that purchase goods and services from client's small business

6. Cultivating relationships with local buying agents to assist referrals and networking opportunities for small business clients

7. Presenting workshops on selling to government agencies and hosting workshops in which local contracting agents communicate the "how to" of selling to their agency

8. Hosting match-making conferences where small businesses can meet directly with a variety of buying agents

9. Assisting clients in developing an effective marketing strategy with strong emphasis on helping in the creation of a strong web presence

The program year ended on September 30, 2007 for the SO POC agency with all set goals reached. SO POC serviced 265 small business clients this year with over 1,325 counseling sessions (108 initial counseling sessions and 1,842 follow-up counseling sessions.) The total number of contracts awarded for the program year was 67 (13 - Department of Defense & other federal agencies, 32 - state/county/municipal government agencies, and 24 subcontract awards received by small businesses.)

Clients were awarded contracts to build

utility lines, make tent poles for the DoD, construct public schools, roads, and buildings, assemble sandbags, perform janitorial services, manufacture parts for military components for the DoD, repair and build roofs for public housing projects, sell electrical supplies to military and state agencies, and to perform maintenance, health, and landscaping services. The SO POC department is reporting \$42,841,807.84 in contract award revenue for this program year and approximately 857 jobs created!

Conferences and Seminars

The Southern Ohio POC has varied the types and locations of workshops and seminars that are sponsored by the agency in order to target the many different kinds of businesses that operate within the coverage area. A variety of economic development agencies are asked to also co-sponsor these workshops in order to keep the flow of information about procurement issues current. These agencies always assist in the promotion and success of each event and the end result is that the SO POC is able to reach a broader client market. It is the client's needs and requests that drive the timely topics addressed at these conferences. Below is a brief synopsis of each workshop that was conducted this year by the Center.

"Federal Dollars & Sense for Service Disabled and Veteran-Owned Small Businesses." - January 30, 2007

The purpose of the workshop was to familiarize service disabled veterans and veteran owned small business with various topics relating to government contracting and to assist them in overcoming obstacles in doing business specifically with the federal government. Thirty-eight small business owners, federal contracting officers, and economic development agency representatives attended the event. The workshop was conducted at the Shoemaker Center, Ohio University-Chillicothe, Chillicothe, Ohio.

"Deal or No Deal" - Contracting Basics - February 8, 2007

The goal of the seminar was to discuss contracting basics in doing business with the federal government. Topics that were covered included understanding the difference between bids, proposals, & quotations, understanding various contract types, how to prepare a proposal, past performance, performance and responsibility, source selection, understanding what to do after the award process, debriefings, sections of a contract, risk management, and federal regulations, including FAR, DFAR and AFFARS. The featured speaker was Ms. Dixie Wightman, Small Business Specialist, 544th Electronics Systems Group, Wright Patterson AFB, OH and was held at Ohio University Southern, Ironton, Ohio. We conducted the same workshop at the OSU South Centers, Endeavor Center, Piketon, Ohio on March 1, 2007 and at Ohio University-South Point on September 20, 2007.

8a/DBE - March 13, 2007

The SBA administers two particular business assistance programs for small disadvantaged businesses (SDBs). These programs are the 8(a) Business Development Program and the Small Disadvantaged Business Certification Program. While the 8(a) Program offers a broad scope of assistance to socially and economically disadvantaged firms, SDB certification strictly pertains to benefits in Federal procurement. Companies which are 8(a) firms automatically qualify for SDB certification. The DBE program is a federal program operating under the guidance of the United States Department of Transportation. The overall goal of the DBE program is to ensure that firms owned and controlled by minorities, women, and other socially and economically disadvantaged persons have the opportunity to grow and become self-sufficient in order to create a level playing field on which they can compete fairly for contracts and subcontracts in the transportation

industry. This workshop was held at Oak Hill Banks, Jackson, Ohio and we conducted the same workshop on March 27, 2007 at Southern States Community College in Winchester, Ohio.

"Contracting 101 for Small Business Owners" - April 25, 2007

The purpose of the workshop was to provide companies with sufficient information on the overall government purchasing process to enable them to successfully compete for federal, state, and local government contracts. Topics that were discussed included: "How to Do Business With the Government"; "How the Government Purchases What It Needs;" "Conducting Your Market Research;" "What You Need to Get Started"; Electronic Bid-Matching Program"; "certification programs;" and "How to Become a PTAC client". Ten people participated in the event and it was conducted at the Bossard Memorial Library, Gallipolis, OH. The POC also conducted this same workshop on August 16, 2007 and September 13, 2007 at Ohio University- South Point, OH.

"Basics of Bonding Workshop" - May 30, 2007

The purpose of the workshop was to discuss the basics of bonding and what contractors need to know in securing bonding for public works projects. The event was conducted at the Shoemaker Center, Ohio University-Chillicothe and 21 people participated in the event. Topics that were highlighted at the workshop include:
What are the different bonding programs?
What does bonding do for my company?
How do you use bonding to benefit your business?
What are bonding companies?
How can SBA help with bonding issues?
Why is bonding important to my company?
What are my liability and legal responsibilities on the job?
How do I get a jump start?
Bonding & Sub-contracting.

Lawrence County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) 2007 Annual Report

Viviane Khounlavong-Vallance, Director
vkvallance@zoominternet.net

The Lawrence County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB), established by the Lawrence Economic Development Corporation in 1983, is in charge of promoting travel and tourism in Lawrence County, Ohio. The CVB still averages over 350 inquiries per month and serves as the county's tourist information center along U.S. Route 52. Although the only source of funding utilized by the CVB is through the Lawrence County Hotel/Motel Tax, the bureau functions productively with a department director and several volunteers throughout the community organizing and marketing events and attractions.

The primary function of the CVB is to market the entire county to potential visitors statewide and nationwide. In keeping up with yearly publications, an annual calendar of events is published each year to market Lawrence County's major events. After the publication is designed and printed, the events are also logged and updated into our state's travel and tourism websites: discoverohio.com, travelohio.com, and appalachianohio.com. Events placed on these sites in 2007 included the following as well as many other smaller events in which the CVB helped in either planning and/or marketing of:

The Wheelin' Sportsmen Fishing Event at Lake Vesuvius -sponsored by the Wild Turkey Federation Lawrence County Chapter and the Wayne National Forest to encourage outdoor activities for the physically and mentally disabled,

Lawrence County Trade Days and Flea Market-a seasonal event held in the spring, summer and fall that attracts buyers and sellers from all over the eastern end of the United

States,

Gus Macker Basketball Tournament-an annual event that takes place in downtown Ironton organized by the Friends of Ironton. This event continues to grow and in 2007 attracted over 12,000 visitors to Lawrence County for one weekend in May,

Memorial Day Parade -the longest continuous running parade in the history of the United States,

Vesuvius Furnace Festival -cultural festival at the Wayne National Forest in Pedro with historical re-enactments, storytelling by nationally acclaimed performers, music, and a parade of antiques and historic characters,

Annual Appalachian Uprising -a music festival that attracts fans from all over the country. 2007 hosted musical legend Sam Bush and other popular groups from the bluegrass scene,

Lawrence County Fair

Rally on the River-fourth annual motorcycle rally that took place in downtown Ironton.

During this weekend in August, over 25,000 motorcycle enthusiasts of all ages roared through the streets of Hanging Rock and Ironton to get a glimpse of river life and festivities, **Festival of the Hills**-arts and crafts expo with local bluegrass and county musicians playing throughout the day,

Historic Cemetery Walk at Woodland Cemetery -local members of the Lawrence County Historical Society await visitors during the dark evening hours to tell the tales of our founding fathers,

"Oktoberfest" -annual event for the City of Ironton which hosted several German bands, and authentic German food, games and activities, **The Lion's Club Haunted Tunnel** -ghouls

and goblins line the walls and creep around the corners in Ohio's only such event that takes place in the historic tunnel on U.S. Route 93, **Candlelight Church Walk**-a walk through different churches throughout the area where a short musical or rhetorical program is given in each and ending at the Lawrence County Historical Museum.

The CVB also acts as a hub for information to our region. Since our office is the first stop off of Interstate 64, many visitors come in for directions and pamphlets before heading on to their destination of choice. Lawrence County doesn't have a state funded visitor's center, but the CVB takes on the responsibilities of display-

ing marketing materials and travel information as well as reciprocating partnerships with surrounding states and counties in order to assist in the promotion of the entire region as a whole. With this duty, the CVB also has a lead role in the update and re-design of the Lawrence County webpage. This site was updated in the spring of 2007 to encompass the entire county as well as the agency departments of the Chamber of Commerce, LEDC, POC, and CVB. The site now has information regarding lifestyle, utilities, government, development, attractions and education and can be used as a drawing factor for visitors, developers and people who are looking to relocate.

CVB News and Events

New Hotel Breaks Ground In South Point, Ohio

The Lawrence County CVB is very proud to announce that Southern Ohio is getting a new hotel. Junior and Hammond Pattell, hotel developers from Ashland, KY, began construction of the new Comfort Suites in November of 2007. This development along Charlie Creek Road in Eastern Lawrence County will offer a broad range of rooms and amenities to visitors and travelers. This site is slated for completion in mid-Summer of 2008 and will create more than 10 new jobs.

Community Volunteers Work to Beautify Downtown Ironton

The CVB has teamed up with local volunteers and the Community Action Organization to plant pride in downtown Ironton. The Ironton In Bloom Organization has been developed as a campaign effort to plant and maintain floral arrangements on the sidewalks of the city. The Ironton America in Bloom project is built upon the idea of planting community pride, improving the quality of life, and unifying the community; and is a program to recognize community participation in projects involving beautification, heritage, and environmental awareness. The real strength in this program

lies in the social and health impact participation has in building a sense of pride through community involvement. This project has the commitment from the City of Ironton, Community Action Organization, Lawrence Economic Development Corporation, MRDD, Friends of Ironton, Convention and Visitors Bureau, local small business owners, home owners, and several community volunteers to turn around the views of Ironton toward revitalizing and re-beautifying both the business community and the residential community throughout all four seasons in the year. Awards will be given monthly for most improved residential appearance and overall curb appeal for homes and businesses. Each June, the community will also participate in the national America In Bloom competition which judges it's communities in late spring. Our local efforts will be judged upon 8 different aspects: floral displays, environmental aspects, landscaping, tidiness, urban forestry, heritage preservation, turf, and community involvement. This competition alone has generated a large interest among the citizens of Ironton.

Lawrence Economic
Development Corporation
and
The Point Industrial Park
Moving in the right direction.
Our economic status is higher than ever!



Serving all of Lawrence County!

Lawrence Economic Development Corporation

216 Collins Avenue

South Point, Ohio 45680

(740) 377-4550

dingus@ohio.edu

www.lawrencecountyohio.org