

# Ava Area CHAMBER of COMMERCE *Newsletter*

Ava Area Chamber of Commerce



Serving Ava/Douglas County Since 1935

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March 2021

## What's Happening

**3/8 Chamber Board Meeting**  
@ 5pm

**3/9 Chamber Luncheon**  
@ 12:00pm

### 2021 Chamber Officers

**President:** Anita Madche

**V.P.:** Richard Sturgeon

**Secretary:** Gail Huffman

**Treasurer:** Betty Ridenour

### 2021 Board Members

Bart Ellison, Teresa Nash  
Bob Sellers, Amy Porter,  
Danny Letsinger, Glenda Little  
Bob Sorensen, Wes Davis,  
Dick Salgado

### Office Staff

Judy Shields, Director  
Nina Carter, Office Assistant  
Bill Jones, Office Support

### Chamber Board Meetings

are held on the second Monday  
of each month. To be a guest or  
add an item to the agenda,  
contact the Chamber office.

### Chamber Luncheons

are held on the second Tuesday  
of each month at 12:00 and are  
complimentary to members.  
Contact the office for infor-  
mation on hosting a Luncheon.

### Economic Development

Meetings held each month.

### Contact Us

810 Collins Avenue  
PO Box 1103 Ava, MO 65608  
417-683-4594  
director@avachamber.org

## Nominations Now Open!

Two Prestigious Awards - John  
Dickison Award & Will McFarlin Youth  
Award - to be given to Outstanding  
Citizens of Douglas County.

*"At the end of the day, it's not  
about what you have or even what  
you've accomplished. It's about  
what you've done with those  
accomplishments. It's about who you've lifted up, who you've made better.  
It's about what you've given back." -Denzel Washington*



Our wonderful community of Ava has been built and sustained over the years through the dedication of countless volunteers who have selflessly given of themselves through their time, resources, and hard work. They have created and completed community service projects and through their efforts have strengthened and supported community organizations. Most of the time, they do this quietly and behind the scenes, seeking no recognition for themselves.

If you know of an individual who devotes, or has devoted, his or her time to volunteering in our community and fits with one of the award descriptions that follow, write a short paragraph and tell us why that individual deserves to be recognized. Please include a list of his or her involvement in community activities, events, and organizations.

*The John N. Dickison Award*, established in 1989, is awarded each year in recognition of a Douglas County citizen of good reputation, who has longevity in community service and dedication to our community and its citizens.

*The Will McFarlin Youth Award*, established in 1995, is awarded to recognize an outstanding high school youth of good reputation, for his or her community service to our community.

The Ava Chamber of Commerce has, for many years, recognized our community's volunteers by honoring the nominees and announcing and awarding the two winning recipients at its annual Membership & Awards Banquet.

Nominations for both awards may be submitted to the Ava Chamber of Commerce office located at 810 Collins Avenue, by mail at PO Box 1103, Ava MO 65608, or by email at director@avachamber.org. Nominations close March 31, 2021.

## SBA Announces Exclusive PPP Application Period for Businesses with 20 or Fewer Employees

**U.S. Small Business Administration**



Do you have fewer than 20 employees? The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has

announced an exclusive PPP application period for businesses and nonprofits with fewer than 20 employees in an effort to reach low and moderate-income, rural, urban, and other underserved areas.

SBA has established a 14-day, exclusive PPP loan application period for businesses and nonprofits with fewer than 20 employees. In order to reach the smallest businesses, SBA will offer Paycheck Protection Program loans to businesses with 20 or less employees and sole proprietors only from Wednesday, February 24 through Wednesday, March 10, 2021.

The SBA also announced four additional changes to open the PPP to more underserved small businesses than ever before.

Larger PPP-eligible businesses will still have plenty of time to apply for and receive support before the program ends on March 31, 2021.

For more details and an online application, visit <https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources#section-header-3>

### Ava R1 Schools to Host March Chamber Luncheon

The next Chamber Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, March 9th, at 12:00pm. It will be hosted by the Ava R1 Schools in the Ava HS Decker Library. A wonderful presentation will be given and delicious lunch will be served. Lunches are complimentary and provide a great networking opportunity for our members. Masks will be required, as we will be on school grounds.



### Girl Scout Cookie Booths!

\* Every Saturday in March at Walmart from 10-4

\* March 6th at Dollar General from 8-4

\* March 27th at J Brothers from 8-2

To find other local cookie booths, go to [girlscoutsmoheartland.org](http://girlscoutsmoheartland.org) or call 683-8551.

## Chamber Member Spotlight



Girl Scouts  
Missouri Heartland  
Douglas County

From its beginning in 1912, the mission of Girl Scouts has been to build girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place, while making friends and having fun!

The Girl Scout Experience—a collection of engaging, challenging, and fun activities like earning badges, taking field trips, selling cookies, exploring science, getting outdoors, and doing community service projects—empowers every G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)<sup>TM</sup> to change the world. Know a Girl who would like to join?

The Ava Girl Scouts meet each Thursday from 5-7pm. Call 683-8551.



Dear Friends at the Chamber,  
About 18 months ago, I was handed a "a stage 4 death sentence" at Hulston Cancer Center, and a termination date. If you all really knew me, I am more of a child than an adult. That doesn't mean "carefree" but it does mean "Forever

Young!" My real life started 40 years ago, and ever since I have taken each beautiful day at its best, but 18 months ago, it began to be "even more precious!" I walk by Faith and not by sight, and the "sickness" of chemo or radiation was/is NOT an option! "Life, NOT sickness, IS "MY Option!" My choice is to live each day to the fullest, giving my all in everything I do!

I have chosen to NOT live in fear, but in Faith and Love. That is HOW and WHY

[www.AmericanFreedomPress.News](http://www.AmericanFreedomPress.News) was born. My goal is to live in "personal" Freedom until the day God takes me home. All of us are living day to day unknown moments, and changing more everyday! SO... I wanted to not only bring HOPE; ENCOURAGEMENT; LOVE; HAPPINESS; MIRACLES; FAITH in GOD and KINDNESS in my own life, I wanted to bring it to YOU also!

I am in a Wonderful "BUT-GOD" moment, giving it all to HIM, rather than trusting chemo or radiation! I have not told many about this because I didn't want the down faces... "Oh, I am so sorry" or people thinking I am sick. IF? I tell anyone about it, I say, "I have been *diagnosed* with it" because I won't take ownership of it! I haven't changed anything in my life, except writing and painting more, and doing things I have put off that I enjoy, like this morning feeding horses and grooming Gracie, the blind horse that follows me.

Each day is a gift and I have chosen to live by Faith, NOT by fear. "My God is Greater than my circumstances, and I choose to live each day in child-like faith!

I will take each day as "A Gift From God" and by His Grace and Mercy *I actually do not in any way* feel or appear sick!

I hope YOU Enjoy, and Join with me on "*The Positive Journey*" I am on.

God Bless You All,

Katie "Heart" West

<https://katiwesternart.com/>

<https://americanfreedompress.news/>

# Welcome

## New Members

American Family Insurance  
-Patrick Lile Agency

Insurance Sales Rep, Arianna Goenaga is ready to serve your insurance needs.

(417) 686-1062

Diana Middleton

Individual member, Diana Middleton, also serves on the Ava Citizens Action League (ACAL) and with the Ava Lions Club.



Promote your business!

Advertise sales, services, products, etc!

Gain customers!

Advertise through the Chamber's weekly E-Blast!

Just \$5 a week for Members!

Need help creating your ad?

No problem!  
We've got you covered!

Contact us today at  
[director@avachamber.org](mailto:director@avachamber.org)



## 2021 New & Renewed Memberships in February



Haven't sent yours in yet?  
Don't miss out on the great  
benefits of being a Chamber  
Member. Call us to bring your  
account current today!

Sonic Drive-In  
Ozarks FunGuys  
Touch of Healing Wellness Center  
Douglas County CHART  
Missouri Ozarks Community  
Health  
MOCH Wellness Center  
Katie West Art  
Hwy Church of the Nazarene  
Scotty Upchurch Plumbing  
Safe Surroundings

Pointer Law Office  
Ozarks Family Vision Centre  
Dockley Ranch  
Ava Country Club  
Douglas County Herald  
Missouri Job Center–West Plains  
Set Free Ministries  
Blessed Reflections Photography  
Diana Middleton

## VIRTUAL JOB FAIR

### Looking for qualified job candidates?

Register as an employer for Missouri's FREE Return Strong Virtual  
Job Fairs today: [returnstrongmo.getyourbooth.com](https://returnstrongmo.getyourbooth.com)

Fairs will take place on the following dates from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.:

Jan. 26 (Health Care)

April 6 (Health Care)

Feb. 9

April 20

Feb. 23 (State of Missouri)

May 4

March 9

May 18 (Information Technology)

March 23 (Manufacturing)

June 8 (Remote & Part-time Work)

- Create a virtual booth and showcase your company.
- Host chatrooms and reach hundreds of job seekers.
- Connect with qualified candidates and collect resumes.

If you as an employer have wanted to try a virtual job fair but you just didn't know if it would work for you, now is the time to try it, and it is **FREE!** It's easy to register and create your virtual booth through the link above. Call your local Job Center in West Plains at (417-256-3158) for more information. We're here to help!



## Chamber Member News

**KKOZ Radio's Bids-For-Bargains** is underway and will continue each Friday and Saturday through May! Tune into 91.2 FM, 1430 AM, or kkoz.com at 9:30am each week, right after Trading Post, to bid on great deals from local businesses, Branson tickets, and more! You won't want to miss it! If your business would like to participate in trading goods/services for advertising, contact Tyler Watterson at 417-543-5209.

**Lions Club of Ava**—Monthly meetings are the 1st & 3rd Mondays at 12pm. Everyone is welcome! Do you have a heart for our community? Come and see what the Ava Lions are all about. Call Richard at 417-543-8939 for more information or to rent the Lions Club building.

**St. Leo's Catholic Church** is hosting their annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner on Wednesday, March 17th from 4-8PM. The menu will be Irish Stew, Potato Soup, Scones, and lots of desserts and beverages! More details, as they are being worked out, will be announced on KKOZ Radio during Trading Post and in the paper. St. Leo's is located on old Hwy 5, just past the Ava Cemetery.



**Russell Cellular Ava** invites you to slide into the director's chair and create share-ready videos on the spot with multi-cam recording and automatic pro-style effects with the new Samsung S21. Stop in at your local Russell Cellular store to find out how to get up to \$750 off when you trade in your phone and pre-order the S21 (*Restrictions apply, see store for details*).

Russell Cellular also has great deals for businesses! For a limited time, \$400 port in Bill Incentive Credit, or Free iPhone SE on a New Line! Office phone service only \$25/mo!

We also offer a Tech Team for your IT support needs! Call us today at 683-6464 for more details and information.

**Drury University Ava Campus** is currently enrolling for B Block classes which begin March 22nd. Come and see us at the Ava Drury Offices located upstairs in the MOCH Wellness Center at 603 W Broadway Ava, MO. You may also call us at 417-873-6630.

We can help you with your application to be admitted, Financial Aid, and to help you with the entire admissions process.

Drury also offers a Workforce Essentials Certificate which can be completed 100% online. Advance your job prospects without a college degree.

You'll develop practical skills in:

Communication, Finance, Math, Leadership, and Business.

This is a stand-alone certificate that will appear on a Drury transcript. Students may choose to build upon the certificate by earning an associate's or bachelor's degree at Drury. The certificate is eligible for Financial Aid. Start the certificate in Fall, Spring, or Summer.

**Massage and Body Works** is now open by appointment only. Self-care is so important these days. Schedule your relaxing or therapeutic massage with Anita or Linda today! Gift certificates available for that special gift that says you care. Call 683-1860 or visit us on Facebook.

# March Chamber *Luncheon*

## March 9th @ 12PM

Hosted by:

**Ava R1 Schools**

(HS Campus Decker Library—  
Masks Required Please)

*Upcoming Luncheons*

*April - Christos House*

*May - Chamber Business Appreciation Lunch*

## Ava Area Chamber of Commerce

810 Collins Avenue

P.O. Box 1103

Ava, MO 65608

### News from the Ava/Cassville/Willow Springs Ranger District Mark Twain National Forest



*Recreation Hercules Glade* - Wilderness on the Ava unit is the Forest's only Class 1 Airshed and is a site of the Forest's only Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments (IMPROVE) monitoring sites. Local operators change the stations' particle-laden filter cassettes weekly and ship them back to the Air Quality Research Station at University of California at Davis. Rick Wyman, a landowner near Hercules Glades Wilderness, is the local operator who performs this task and has done so for many years. Rick takes great pride in his work and it shows. Rick also volunteers with the ACW District and is a dedicated steward of the land by cleaning up trash dumps. He has formed a group known as Mark Twain Forest Friends. Check them out on Facebook.

*Missouri Department of Conservation partner* - Officials with the Missouri Department of Conservation are working with willing local landowners and the USFS in both core areas to cull deer and test them for CWD. So far, a total of 33 deer have been harvested by local landowners and MDC shooting teams in these two core areas that cover nearly 50 square-miles. Test results are now back on 26 of the deer harvested and none of them have tested positive for the disease. Test are still pending on the remaining seven deer and should be back within a few days. Once a deer is cleared by the test, meat from that deer either goes back to the landowner or to MDC's Share the Harvest program which gives the meat to local food pantries in Stone and Taney counties as well as Crosslines in Greene county. All processing cost is being paid for by a grant from the Conservation Federation of Missouri so there is no charge to landowners or to the USFS. All deer harvested on USFS property are being donated to Share the Harvest.

*Administration*- Access into our buildings is limited at this time, and a mask must be worn. Please feel free to call the Ava District Office at 417-683-4428.