

HardisonInk.com

Dixie County Chamber membership growth continues



Bev Pivacek of the Putnam Lodge - Hotel And Spa of Dixie County, And Dixie Paintball holds up a paper image of what two signs will look like on the northern and southern entrance to Dixie County on U.S. Highway 19. The Dixie County Chamber of Commerce has signs at these locations, and the new signs will replace the old ones.

Story and Photos By Jeff M. Hardison © May 13, 2017 at 8:47 p.m.

DIXIE COUNTY -- The Dixie County Chamber of Commerce is showing a big number of members, Chamber Co-Vice President Arthur Bellot said during his time to speak Thursday (May 11) during the monthly meeting of the Chamber.

There are now 101 members, Vice President Bellot said.

As in any organization, though, there are members and then there are active members who volunteer to get things done. Bellot said he would like to see some people volunteer beyond the small core that exists now.

"It's not about numbers," Bellot said. "It's about participation. It's about getting things done."

As he said that, Bellot added that the members present for the luncheon might or might not know but "We've got quite a spark plug right up there in that yellow shirt."

"She (Chamber President Carol West) will build a fire under you," he continued. "If y'all are not aware, this lady works in this just like it's a job."

He said that at any time during the day or night, President West has her Chamber hat on, and she is usually going to, or coming from, some Chamber event.

HardisonInk.com



Dixie County Chamber of Commerce President Carol West

Vice President Bellot then showed the new decals that have been made for members of the Dixie County Chamber of Commerce. The decals say "Dixie County Chamber of Commerce - A great place to Live, Work and Play!" The decals show the company or person is a 2017 member. It also shows the website address for the chamber www.dixiechamber.org.



Here Vice President Arthur Bellot shows the Dixie County Chamber of Commerce decal. Sitting near him is Jackson Waldron who celebrated his 18th birthday at the Chamber meeting. Waldron is among the workers at the

Cross City Airport. He was among the people who enjoyed a chance to ride in one of the aerobatic airplanes during the most recent Chamber Expo and Cross City Airport Fly-In. Click [HERE](#) for the story about the Expo and Fly-in. Click [HERE](#) for the archived story about the acrobatic pilots.

~

HardisonInk.com

There were at least 45 young people who enjoyed airplane flights that day, Chamber Board of Directors Member Jeff Cary said. He said one goal of the day was to give more people chances to fly.

Past Chamber President Debbie DeWeese said she enjoyed a chance to fly in a plane that day. Drew Ballensky was the winner of a flight in one of the aerobatic airplanes.

Ballensky said going upside down and diving toward the ground before pulling up was thrilling. He enjoyed the ride. He said this experience is much more intense than a roller-coaster ride.

The monthly meeting was in the conference room-kitchen-dining area of the Dixie County Public Library in Cross City. Lunch was provided by Taste of Dixie Diner. It was delicious, hot fried chicken, green beans, potatoes and an outstanding peach cobbler.

Members and guests of the May 11 meeting of the Dixie County Chamber of Commerce learned there are a few big projects that show promise in the near future, including potential uses of the abandoned former Georgia-Pacific property.

The program of the day was presented by Sandra Woodard, the public relations manager for the Early Learning Coalition of the Nature Coast. This coalition covers Dixie, Levy, Gilchrist, Citrus and Sumter counties.

While Chamber members are thinking about jobs-jobs-jobs, Woodard reminds them to think about pre-schools and schools-schools-schools. Employees need good schools for their young children while they are at work, she said.

The Early Learning Coalition of the Nature Coast offers many services. For more information about this group, please check out its website at <http://www.elc-naturecoast.org/index.php>.

The next meeting of the Dixie County Chamber of Commerce is scheduled to be at the public library in Cross City at noon on June 8.

Also on June 8, there is a big meeting in the Dixie County Courthouse from 6 to 8 p.m. with the Florida Chamber Foundation 2030.

Florida Project 2030 is a research project where all 67 counties are scheduled to have Chambers provide input at interactive town hall meetings.