

Annual banquet

BY LINDA BAETZ

Pioneer staff writer

The Smith Center Chamber of Commerce annual banquet was held Monday, Feb. 22 in the Vineyard Room at Pooches. There were 48 in attendance.

The evening began with a welcome speech by Chamber President Adam Rentschler.

The speaker for this year's banquet was Demetre Evangelidis. Evangelidis is a member of the Smith County Community Foundation Board. This board is an

affiliate of the Greater Salina Community Foundation. He provided information on the foundation to those in attendance.

What is the Smith County Community Foundation?

"The Smith County Community Foundation is a collection of funds designed to link donors with charitable causes. We are a public charity serving the Smith County area."

Our Mission

"Our mission is to meet charitable community needs through leadership,

grants and donor services. The Foundation achieves its mission by

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building permanent endowments, enabling donors, facilitating prudent management, increasing the capacity of nonprofit organizations, promoting community philanthropy and facilitating grants, awards, and scholarships."

Management

"The Smith County Community Foundation is an affiliate of the Greater Salina Community Foundation. The GSCF staff assists donors in creating funds and making distributions in accordance with the donors' intent. Solid and responsible investment strategies assure donors of the security of their funds.

"When you choose to invest in your community, you want to work with someone who knows the territory. A local board of directors, chosen because of their knowledge contributions to the community, as well as their diverse professional expertise, guides the foundation and is responsible for all grant distributions for the Smith County Community Foundation."

Who can give?

"Anyone! Donors to the Foundation are from a variety of backgrounds with a common commitment to the community's well being. Whether setting up a named fund, contribution to an existing fund, or making an unrestricted gift, every person in the community can make a difference.

"No gift is too small. The minimums listed are only for starting a named fund. Gifts of \$25, \$10 or even \$1 can be made to any existing named fund. This is what makes this truly a community foundation."

How do I create a fund?

"1. Decide when to give. You can create a fund now, establish it in your will, or create it through a trust arrangement that benefits your family as well as charity. Tax deductions are earned at the time of the gift, while grants awarded from your fund will continue into the future.

"2. Decide what to give. Almost any kind of asset can be used to start

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a fund, such as cash, publicly traded securities, closely held stock, real estate, life insurance, tangible personal property and private foundation assets.

"3. Choose a fund name. Most funds are named for the donor or the donor's family or as a memorial to someone special. Every grant from the fund will carry this name. Donors who prefer anonymity may choose a name that reflects the donor's charitable interests.

"4. Choose a type of fund. We offer a variety of funds that are flexible in order to meet our donors' different charitable interests:

"Unrestricted Funds offer the broadest giving option, allowing the Foundation's board of directors to make grants that respond to emerging problems and needs in the community. \$5,000 minimum.

"Designated Funds let donors support specific organizations. The Foundation **makes sure that grants to these groups remain relevant over time and responsive to changing circumstances. \$10,000 minimum.**

"Donor Advised Funds enable donors to recommend specific charitable organizations to receive grants. \$10,000 minimum.

"Organization Funds are established by non-profit organizations as a source of **long-term endowment and annual income.** The Foundation handles administrative and investment responsibilities, so the organization can pursue its charitable mission. \$10,000 minimum.

"Scholarship Funds help students pursue academic goals. Donors may define guidelines for candidacy, the advisory committee, the school and the award itself. \$10,000 minimum.

"Field of Interest Funds create grants that meet needs in a particular field or geographic area that is of interest to the donor. \$25,000 minimum."

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What are the benefits?

"The Smith County Community Foundation simplifies charitable giving. One contribution may benefit multiple organizations in our community. The donor determines the method and the time frame."

Why Choose Us?

"Because we are a public charity, contributions are eligible for the highest tax deductions. In most cases, these tax benefits outweigh using a donor's assets to establish a private foundation."

"Establishing a fund can be done quickly and with no hassles. We take care of all the administrative and grant making activities eliminating the need for donors to set up separate institutions, formulate policies, file innumerable forms and monitor the status of grant recipients. We save donors precious time and money."

"The Foundation has the flexibility to respond to changing conditions in the community. If the original intended use of the gift is no longer in exis-

tence, the donor, or if the donor is no longer living, the Foundation Board can direct the fund to other uses closely related to the donor's interest.

"It is for these reasons that Community Foundations represent the fastest growing area of philanthropy."

BANQUET

As the evening progressed, El Dean Holthus gave the blessing for the meal. The meal was catered by Pooches. The evening entertainment was provided by Grant Lambert as he performed with song and guitar. After Coleen Kirkendall, Chamber Manager, drew for the door prize, the closing remarks were given by Adam Rentschler.

The Smith Center Chamber of Commerce 2010 Board Members are: President, Adam Rentschler; Vice-President, Keith Waldron; Chamber Manager, Coleen Kirkendall; Members, Angela Steele; Dennis Hansen; Lori Kugler; Beth Ohmstede; Garoleen Wilson; Trey Joy; Diane Peterson and Ron Meitler.