

OWAN
COMMERCIAL
AND
COMMUNITY
LUB

Cowan Commercial and Community Club 2002

Celebrating 80 years of Community Service

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

L. Jarod Pearson – President & CEO
John Bynum – Vice-President
Laura Pearson Garner – Secretary
Mildred Hatchett – Treasurer
Rhonda Acklen - Director
Susan Nelson - Director
Kathy Syler – Director

Meetings for the year 2002:

All meetings, unless otherwise noted, take place in the Bill Miller Community Center at 6:30PM.
There will be no regular meeting in May or December.

January 28
February 25
March 25
April 22
June 24
July 22
August 26
September 23
October – to be announced
November 25

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Jarod Pearson, President
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Goals for 2002

Cowan Commercial and Community Club

Continue our active support of Cowan Railroad Museum, the Railroad Park Committee and Cowan Branch Library.

Enhance our relationship with the Chamber of Commerce.

Build stronger and more beneficial relationships with the Cowan business community and recruit more members.

Draft a workable budget for the year and raise the necessary funds to maintain a healthy club treasury.

Apply for grants through other organizations such as Sewanee Community Chest and the Sanders Foundation.

Build a community web-site to help promote the town.

Expand the Cowan Clipboard to a more frequent and timely publication. Continue focusing this project to benefit business and community in the best possible way.

Finish our project for the Christmas decorations and move on to a new project - the Bill Miller Community Center remodeling and revitalization.

Make plans to celebrate 80 years together: Cowan Commercial and Community Club, Cowan Branch Library, and the City of Cowan.

Ask local churches and organizations to have signs/logos on both ends of town, including our own organization.

Try to create a "welcome protocol" to use when bus tours come to Cowan, particularly those that come to the Railroad Museum and the Corner House.

Cowan Commercial and Community Club

Q & A For New Members

Q: What is the Cowan Commercial and Community Club?

A: Cowan Commercial and Community Club is a civic organization by and for the people, businesses and industry of Cowan, Tennessee. Founded in the year 1922 it is one of Franklin County's oldest organizations.

Q: What purpose does the Cowan Commercial and Community Club serve?

A: The best overall description of our purpose is stated in Article II, Section 2 of our by-laws: "To contribute in the civic, commercial, educational, health, recreational and any other projects for the general welfare of the citizens of Cowan and the surrounding area." We contribute to such projects by securing the aid and soliciting the involvement of local citizens, businesses and groups within the Cowan Community.

Q: What are some of the past accomplishments of the organization?

A: In the early years, Commercial Club worked to recruit industry for Cowan. Upon doing so the group continued with other projects such as the paving of Tennessee Avenue and the formation of a local Boy Scouts organization. In later years the group helped with the development of the downtown railroad park and helped promote a local Habitat for Humanity project. The group also helped purchase several of the holiday street decorations.

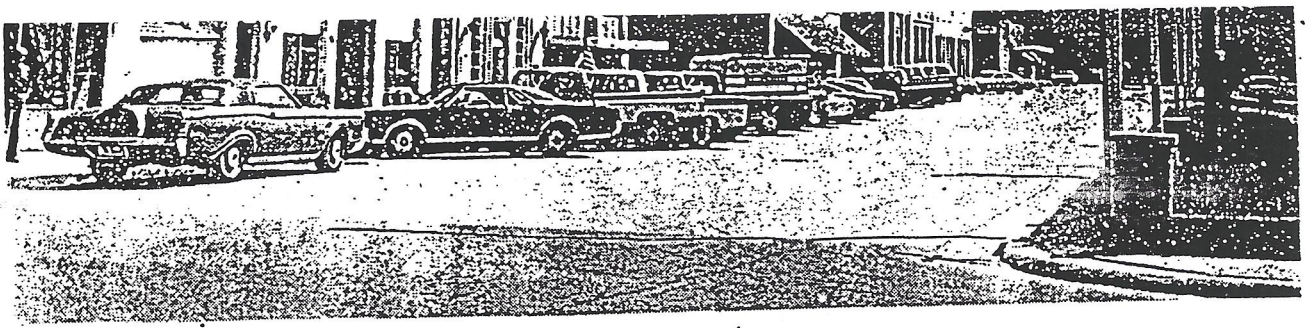
Q: What does the organization envision for Cowan's future?

A: We hope to lead Cowan into developing one of its most untapped industries – tourism. People from all over the world visit this area for its fine natural and cultural offerings. We also hope to attract year-round guests of The University of the South in nearby Sewanee. Other accomplishments we envision include the ongoing preservation of historic homes and buildings, thriving small businesses, and a friendly small town atmosphere that speaks of times gone by while embracing the future.

Q: How can I help Commercial Club today?

A: Join us. We meet one the fourth Monday of each month, 10 times per year, at the Bill Miller Community Center. Membership dues are \$20 for a six-month period or \$40 for a full-year. We welcome you!

PO Box 585, Cowan, TN 37318; commercialclub@yahoo.com



DOWNTOWN VIEW—This view of Tennessee Avenue in Cowan shows some of the improvements made by local merchants during the

town's cleanup project last year. Merchants, acting independently, beautified their buildings as part of the town's Bicentennial celebration.

Cowan Commercial Club Began During Town's Infancy in 1922

The first Commercial Club in Cowan was established about the same time the town was incorporated in 1922.

Its main purpose was to work for the incorporation, industry and the present Cowan Public School.

According to Frank Pearson Sr., the only surviving member of the First Board of Mayor and Aldermen, the club was actually a forerunner of a Chamber of Commerce in the county.

Working within committees, club members traveled to various locales in and out of the state seeking industry and other benefits for the town.

Their efforts paid off and the old Spaide Shirt Company located in Cowan, only to go down the drain during the depression years.

The building constructed by the town for the concern was not wasted, however. General Shoe Corp. located in Cowan in 1938 and acquired the building. It has operated since that time and is the town's prime industry.

One of the proudest accomplishments of the early group was the paving of Tennessee Avenue, a street parallel to the railroad tracks and one heavily traveled by trucks leaving the cement plant.

The street was paved through donations from other areas, with the balance being paid by Cowan businessmen without any cost to taxpayers.

The present Commercial Club was organized by Mr. Pearson in 1939. The late Glenn Hodges served as first president.

Other early presidents were George Thorogood Jr., J. H. Dalby, Julius Clark, G. W. Thorogood, B. B. Looney, Felix Gipson, J. L. Henderson, A. B. Rittenberry, Charles P. Gist Jr. and J. R. Lasater.

Charter members were Alfred Austell, R. G. Baker, W. C. Burbage, R. H. Brock, C. E. Bucher, J. W. Clark, G. O. Dotson, Felix Gipson, W. F. Greer, Glenn Hines Jr., Jack Hines, J. Roy Hickerson, Glenn C. Hodges, Ross Hawkins, W. R. Hoback, J. E. Kennedy, B. B. Looney, J. H. Lacy, Paul March, Creighton Miller, Fred Rainey;

John L. Ross, Blevins Rittenberry, Tom Sanders, Charles W. Smith, Charles C. Syler, Allen Shook, John F. Terry, Guy Thompson, G. M. Thorogood, Fred Thomas, Luther Williams, Jimmy Wells, A. P. Yearwood, Dr. J. H. Marable, Ellis Forgy, George Forgy and Frank Pearson Sr.

The organization's first function was promoting a Boy Scout program for the community. Land was given by Mr. Dalby to build a permanent home for the Scouts, which is still in use.

The Commercial Club has been involved in promoting the annual Christmas parade, which has grown steadily since its inception in 1965.

Members worked directly with the Cowan Beautification Commission in the downtown renovation project and the city park. They are currently involved in the erection of new signs listing churches and civic groups on either side of the town.

The club is also assisting with the relocation of the old depot to turn it into a railroad museum.

A traditional project of many years standing is sponsorship of the Cowan Goodfellows, a benevolent organization that provides Christmas cheer for the underprivileged.

An earlier dream of building a road up to Lakeview Properties on the Cumberland Plateau has not yet

materialized.

The present membership roster includes about 25 men and women from the business community, who have assumed leadership of the former merchants' association.

Officers are Glenn Clark Hodges, president; Mrs. Kenneth Hatchett, vice president; Mrs. Leslie Vanderbilt, secretary, and Raymond Besheres, treasurer.

Help Woodsy spread the word!



In the woods...
or on the street,
Help keep America
looking neat!



MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

last update: 24 October 2001

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Committees

History:

The committees of Cowan Commercial and Community Club have been a significant part of this organization through most of our 80 year existence! In fact, one of the groups first major tasks (recruiting a new industry!) was brought forth through the work of a dedicated committee!

Commercial Club has had various committees through the years, from a standing committee on officer nominations to a committee formed in 1990 to investigate the possibility of Amtrak service coming to our area.

In the mid-1990's the membership decided it was time to revamp the organization in order to keep up with changing times. Several changes were made, one of which was the immediate and indefinite dissolution of all committees. The move was necessary because our membership was dwindling at that time and we were having to concentrate our energy on reforming and repositioning the organization. Our goal was to one day have a strong enough organization that we could reactivate the committees and begin moving forward again.

Today:

The year 2002 represents an important milestone for Commercial Club. Our membership is strong and we are accomplishing many great things. The time is right to set aside some new committees to help us revamp our operations for the coming year.

For 2002, all committees and committee chairs will be appointed by the president of the organization and presented to the membership for approval. The president will also suggest an appropriate number of members to serve on each committee so that the membership can make nominations accordingly.

Each committee should operate according to these basic guidelines:

Work around a basic purpose and simple agenda;

Under the leadership of the chair, the members should communicate with each other as often as necessary to keep things in motion.

Hold at least one called meeting per year and subsequently submit a written report to the membership at the next general meeting.

In compliance with our by-laws, Article VII, Section 1, the President (Chief Executive Officer) of the organization should serve as a non-voting, ex-officio member of each committee.

The Committees:

Autumn Banquet/Nominations Committee:

In compliance with our by-laws, Article VIII, Section 1, this committee will serve as the nominating committee for the election of officers at the end of the year. This committee will also coordinate the speaker, menu, and awards for the Autumn Banquet.

John Bynum – Chair

- 1) Rhonda Acklen
- 2) April Austin

Business Relations Committee:

Help recruit the membership and support of local businesses, help us contribute to healthier business/community relations, encourage more input from business owners, and help coordinate special projects and activities for local businesses.

Kathi Syler – Chair

- 1) Trish Wright
- 2) Bobbye Cox

Education Committee:

Committee members work with our local library, local schools and churches to promote positive activities for our youth and represent Commercial Club's longstanding commitment to quality education.

Snooks Windels – Chair

- 1) Susan Nelson
- 2) Rose Pearson

Executive Committee:

The elected officers of the organization serve as the executive committee. This group will develop and implement financial goals as well coordinate fundraisers, monitor the general operation of the organization, and submit a formal report to the membership as other committees will do.

Liaisons:

For 2002 we would also like to appoint liaisons to officially represent Commercial Club in other organizations. The liaisons are encouraged to determine his or her own level of involvement and keep the membership informed of things happening within the organizations. Make one formal presentation per year to the membership per year about the organization while giving an overview of its relationship with Commercial Club.

Chamber of Commerce Liaison – Rhonda Acklen

Represent Commercial Club at select events sponsored by the Chamber and foster communication between the two organizations.

Cowan Railroad Museum Liaison – Jarod Pearson

Serve as a museum volunteer, represent Commercial Club's interest in the museum while also recruiting our participation in special events and activities at the museum.

Railroad Park Committee Liaison – Mildred Hatchett

Serve on the Railroad Park Committee and recruit the support and participation of CCCC in projects and activities in the park.