

Join us for another great year!

Cowan Commercial and Community Club, 2003!

Dear Cowan Business Owner,

It is my pleasure to extend to you this invitation to become a member of Cowan Commercial and Community Club in the year 2003.

Where do I begin? By looking at the progress the Cowan community has made in past year. Six historic buildings in Cowan have been undergoing restoration, and definite plans are in order to restore at least two more this year. At least four empty store fronts have been filled with new businesses and bustling activity, and definite plans are being made to bring two more businesses into town this year. The railroad park is looking better than ever. Our successful Fall Festival now becomes an annual tradition. And how 'bout those spectacular Christmas lights all over town?

The town of Cowan is very unique in that our economic and social turnaround has been orchestrated by a partnership of private citizens, private organizations, local businesses, and the town government. We honestly have the rest of the county baffled and amazed by this. Cowan is leading the way, and Cowan Commercial and Community Club has been an important driving force through all of this.

I firmly believe that you would enjoy being part of this organization. We not only work tirelessly to promote the town, but we also enjoy each other's friendship and we enjoy seeing the end results of our hard work.

In the year 2003, we are fully committed to seeing the progress continue. We have already raised money to make more improvements in the railroad park. We are working toward an even better Fall Festival. We are looking into even better Christmas decorations. Most important of all, we are fully committed to marketing the town to visitors and tourists in dynamic new ways. Cowan is carving a niche as an attractive, friendly, old-fashioned little town that is industrious and forward thinking. Our plan is to keep moving in that direction.

I hope that you will consider becoming a member of this fine organization this year. We hold a one-hour evening meeting every month except for May, October, and December. In October, we hold our annual Autumn Banquet, a most enjoyable Commercial Club tradition. We also have committees working on various projects at different times during the year. We fully understand everyone's rushed, busy schedules, so we do our very best to be productive and efficient with our time.

Attached will be our membership information and other important documents. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,



**L. Jarod Pearson, President
Cowan Commercial and
Community Club**

**CCCC, PO Box 585, Cowan, TN 37318-0585 commercialclub@yahoo.com
Contact Jarod Pearson at 598-1187 or 967-6038**

Membership Information

Cowan Commercial and Community Club, 2003

Please choose from the following:

General Membership

\$20 thru June or \$40 for entire year _____

(Includes meeting notices, Cowan Clipboard subscription, and invitation to the Autumn Banquet.)

Cowan Clipboard Advertisement

Donation of \$35 or more _____

(Includes a customized ad in each of our six issues going to over 70 households in Cowan and the surrounding area.)

or

Sponsoring Member

Donation of \$100 or more _____

(Includes general membership, Cowan Clipboard advertising, and advertising in our programs at the Fall Festival.)

Name/Business Name: _____/_____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Mail completed form to Cowan Commercial and Community Club, PO Box 585, Cowan, TN 37318-0585

Highlights of the Year 2002

In January, Commercial Club received a grant of \$500 from the City of Cowan to refurbish several more of the City's Christmas decorations. Three were refurbished last year, and five more were done this year with plans to do several more.

Commercial Club's very own community newsletter, the *Cowan Clipboard*, entered its second full publication year in 2002 and immediately expanded from a quarterly publication to a bi-monthly publication. The number of Clipboard business sponsors also increased from seven at the beginning of the year to twelve at the end of the year.

Saturday, March 16, marked the third year in a row that Commercial Club and the Railroad Park Committee helped organize the annual Work Day in the railroad park. A team of 8 volunteers and 6 public service workers combined forces to make some dramatic improvements to our community showplace in the middle of town. These efforts were repeated again in the summer and fall as more improvements were made in preparation for the Fall in Love with Cowan celebration.

In June, Commercial Club helped organize a ribbon-cutting and grand opening for the Cowan Branch Library's new location beside Monterey Mills. Later that month, Commercial Club helped promote the Children's Summer Reading Program.

Professional Health Service donated six colorful banners to promote the Fall in Love with Cowan festival theme.

September 28th was a day we will always remember. The Fall in Love with Cowan festival was a huge success. The craft fair, music, ceremonies, beauty pageant, contests, quilt bazaar, book signing, concessions and, of course, the downtown decorations, all harmonized to create a wonderful event.

October 15th was our third annual Autumn Banquet at the Corner House. Our very pleasant evening involved a nice dinner, great company, and a fun-filled presentation by Mr. Lou Dozier, a Sewanee historian.

In November, Commercial Club members joined with the City of Cowan and the Railroad Museum to turn the Railroad Park into a Christmas wonderland. The result was one of the most beautiful holiday scenes in all of Middle Tennessee that captured the attention of hundreds of people. Local merchants joined in the effort, and some 15 storefront windows were beautifully decorated and lit for the holidays (some of them in empty buildings!). This year, the Spirit of Christmas was alive and well in Cowan!

In December, the spirit of Christmas was still growing in us. One group of Commercial Club members entered a beautiful float in the Cowan Christmas Parade while another group decorated and helped prepare the viewing stand beside City Hall on the parade route.

At the end of it all, Cowan Commercial and Community Club members can look back on one of the most spectacular years in our organization's history. Not only did our organization grow to accomplish great things, we saw our beloved hometown do a complete about-face. Six downtown buildings have been undergoing restoration this year, while three new small businesses came into town. At least two more small businesses are scheduled to open in 2003 and at least one more building will undergo restoration. Our momentum is strong, and we expect to see all the progress in Cowan continue well into this year and beyond!

Operations for 2003

Cowan Commercial and Community Club

Executive Committee and Board of Directors

L. Jarod Pearson, President & CEO
John Bynum, Vice President
Susan Nelson, Secretary
Mildred Hatchett, Treasurer
Pam Hicks, Board Member
Kathy Syler, Board Member
Kim Young, Board Member

Meetings for the Year 2003

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 27
February 24
March 24
April 28
June 23
July 28
August 25
September 22
October - Autumn Banquet, date to be announced
November 17

Contact Information:

Cowan Commercial and Community Club
PO Box 585, Cowan, TN 37318-0585
commercialclub@yahoo.com

The Cowan Clipboard
PO Box 585, Cowan, TN 37318-0585
cowanclipboard@yahoo.com

Jarod Pearson, President
967-6038 h 598-1187 o
jpearson@sewanee.edu

Committees, Coordinators and Liaisons, 2003

Autumn Banquet/Nominations Committee

In compliance with our by-laws, Article VIII, Section 1, this committee will serve as our nominating committee for next year's officers and coordinate our annual tradition, the Autumn Banquet.

Chair - John Bynum

(1) Susan Nelson

(2)

Education Committee

Will work with our local library, schools, and churches to promote educational programs, particularly for the youth of the community.

Chair - Snooks Windels

(1) Kim Young

(2)

Fall Festival Task Force

Will oversee an excellent team effort to have another very successful Fall in Love With Cowan festival.

Event Coordinator - Kathy Syler

Pageant Coordinator - April Austin

Entertainment Coordinator - Jarod Pearson

Marketing Committee

Will work with local businesses and attractions to market and promote the town in ways that will boost tourism, and make Cowan a more attractive place for people moving into the region.

Chair - Regina Obermiller

(1) Bobbye Cox

(2) Dorothy DePhillip

Chamber of Commerce Liaison - Rhonda Acklen

Railroad Museum Liaison - Jarod Pearson

Railroad Park Coordinator - Mildred Hatchett

Proposed Goals for the Year 2003

With money raised from last year, make more improvements to the Railroad Park, including the long-awaited repairs to the gazebo, new light fixtures to replace those that are broken, and repairs to the benches.

Successfully complete the Memorial Brick project, and transfer existing bricks to another section of the park.

Develop exiting new literature to promote the town, and introduce the long-awaited Cowan website on the Internet.

Continue enhancing the town's decorations at Christmas and in preparation for the Fall Festival.

Have an even more successful Fall in Love With Cowan Festival, with more music, more activities for children, and more publicity.

Have new metal signs posted on the two ends of town, and encourage churches and other organizations to do likewise.

Make more definite plans to remodel the Bill Miller Center.

Work to recruit more bus tours, and develop a "Welcome Protocol" for these groups, when they visit.

Continue to promote the Cowan Clipboard and e-Clipboard as a means for keeping the community stay connected and in touch.

Explore new possibilities, such as recruiting new businesses and organizations into Cowan, bringing a bank into town, more actively promoting the arts, and encouraging new citizens and families to locate here.

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 the oldest civic organizations in the Volunteer State.

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

A: Our purpose, as stated in Article II, Section 2 of our by-laws, is “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 this organization?

A: Cowan Commercial Club oversaw and contributed to major community projects, including the recruitment of new industry, the paving of Tennessee Avenue, the formation of the Boy Scouts organization, and the building of the Bill Miller Community Center (a.k.a. the “Scout House”). In the latter part of the 20th Century, Commercial Club purchased town Christmas decorations for the utility poles, helped promote Habitat for Humanity, and helped maintain the railroad park. More recently, Commercial Club is helping to promote and develop the Cowan Library, enhance the general atmosphere of the community, especially during the holidays, and introduce vibrant new traditions like the annual Fall in Love With Cowan Festival.

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

A: We are working tirelessly to reposition Cowan as an old fashioned, industrious little town. We are helping Cowan develop its most untapped industry – tourism. We are working to attract the year-round guests at The University of the South in nearby Sewanee into Cowan to enjoy the things that make our town unique. We are also promoting the ongoing preservation and restoration of our historic homes and buildings while nurturing our citizens and businesses in a friendly, small town way.

Q: How can I help Commercial Club work toward the betterment of Cowan?

A: Join us! We generally meet on the fourth Monday of each month at 6:30 PM in the Bill Miller Community Center. We also gather for our annual Autumn Banquet once every year in the month of October. Membership dues are \$20 for a six-month period or \$40 for a full-year. We hope you will join us!

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