

## **Chamber Chairman Recaps 2015-2016 Year**

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to serve as your 2015-2016 Chamber Board Chairman! It has been an absolute honor to work with our outstanding Chamber staff and board, as well as many community leaders and volunteers. For me, this past year has surpassed even the privilege I had 10 years ago of first serving as the 2005-2006 Chamber Board Chairman.

This has been an exciting year for our community, and the Chamber has stayed actively engaged, providing leadership and continuing to collaborate and partner with other key organizations. The following is a sampling of some of the great things happening in our Enid community!

- **K-12 education valued in Enid!** Enid voters approved a \$93 million Enid Public Schools bond issue and the Coach-A-Kid program has greatly expanded mentoring in Enid Public Schools.
- **Massive \$1.5 billion capital investment occurring in our community!** A recently completed wind farm, coupled with an ongoing Koch Fertilizer plant expansion, represent projects with huge impact for Garfield County.
- **Additional housing becoming available for our growing community!** Several single-family and multi-family housing projects are under construction and others are planned.
- **More places to shop and sleep in Enid!** New retail businesses and hotels have opened and other major retail projects are in progress.
- **Unique, one-of-a-kind Enid icon reopened!** Leonardo's Children's Museum grand re-opening was celebrated after completing a multi-million dollar renovation.
- **Heart of downtown Enid – the place to be!** Enid Event Center & Convention Hall have continued to expand Enid's visitor industry and bring outstanding entertainment opportunities to northwest Oklahoma.
- **Key issues discussed at Pentagon and U.S. Capitol!** The 2016 Washington, D.C. Federal Legislative Trip discussion topics included: Vance AFB, Woodring Airport projects, federal regulatory overreach, medical sector and education.
- **Legislation that benefits local retailers!** The Chamber supported legislation which increases the state's ability to collect sales tax for online retail sales, thus leveling the playing field between Oklahoma retailers and national online retailers.

- **Annual Chamber events highly successful!** Candy Cane Cash provided \$15,000 in cash prizes, Enlisted Appreciation Night at Vance AFB generated \$24,000, Northwest District Junior Livestock Show raised \$139,000, Cherokee Strip Celebration promoted Enid's history and heritage, and Business Spotlight @ Lunch/Business after Hours provided well-attended networking opportunities.

Thank you for your ongoing support for the Chamber and our wonderful Enid community. May God bless you and your family as we work together to make our great community even better!

John Little  
Chairman of the Board