

THE LEADER

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Tony **RAMPLEY**
Chairman 2015 - 2016



Mark **MAYFIELD**
Chairman 2016 - 2017



As the 2015-2016 Chamber year comes to a close, Tony Rampley, outgoing chairman of the board, hands over the gavel to Mark Mayfield, incoming chairman of the board. See Tony's thoughts about this past year and get to know Mark and his plans for the upcoming year.



Tony **RAMPLEY**

Chairman 2015 - 2016

Can you summarize your year as Chairman of the board in one word?

FANTASTIC!!!!!!!

Ok, how about one sentence?

It was an incredible journey from Power Breakfasts to Business After Hours to Ribbon Cuttings to the DC Trip to Arkansas Scholars to JYPN balloon stomping to Political Animals to Tech Starz to I-555 status to Highway 226 opening to Chamber Board meetings.

Give us some highlights of the year?

Some highlights of this past Chamber year would be the trip to DC to meet and converse with Senators Boozman and Cotton and Representative Crawford, participating in the Arkansas Scholars program and the Tech Starz entry into manufacturing, being a part of the youthfulness of the JYPN meetings. In addition, seeing I-555

designated and Hwy 226 completed.

We have so many programs during the year, which of those do you think were the most valuable to our members and why?

I don't know that I can list any one of the programs that the Chamber is involved with that is more valuable than the others because they each have a very important place in the whole of the Chamber. But, I do believe what is very important is involving our young people in as much as we can in the Chamber process because they are going to be the one's that will build and maintain the Chamber in the future.

Anything else you would like to add?

Luckily I only pulled the chair out from under one person at the Power Breakfast meetings we had this past year.

Tell me what you do in your job and a little about your younger years (hometown, school, family, etc.).

An ice storm in Central Arkansas in February 1994 caused me to cancel my interview in Jonesboro. I convinced myself I had no chance of being invited back. At the time, I lived in Little Rock on a hill. It took me 40 minutes to go three miles and another 20 minutes to walk in the ice up the hill. The problem was there was no weather in Jonesboro. Fortunately, and I mean that word deeply, a few days later the law firm was courteous enough to reschedule.

My connections with Jonesboro then consisted of a few friends and a cousin who was about to move. I grew up in Sheridan, Arkansas, where my parents, Jim and Margaret Mayfield, still live. I spent a lot of time at Reynolds Texaco, a small service station owned by my Mom's family for multiple generations. I learned two things there – you did what needed to be done without regard to pay, and you could have a Coke and a snack pretty much whenever you wanted.

From Sheridan, I moved to Fayetteville, earning two degrees from the University of Arkansas – a Bachelor of Arts from the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Arkansas School of Law. After law school, I left Fayetteville and moved back to Central Arkansas.

After law school, I had the privilege of serving as a Judicial Law Clerk for the Honorable G. Thomas Eisele, a United States District Court Judge. I worked as an Attorney for the Office of Revenue Legal Counsel with the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration.

As luck would have it, on the day after the Super Bowl in 1994, I became the first person in my law school class to argue a case before the Arkansas Supreme Court. During the argument, I remember the internal panic when I used the word “analogically” because I wasn't sure it was a word (it was). But, who would use such a word and why.

Since moving to Jonesboro 22 years ago, I met my wife, Kara, and we are raising two daughters. Kara, who has an accounting degree from ASTATE, spends her time with

School Board-related work and educating people on the use of essential oils. Victoria, our oldest, is a Junior at Jonesboro High School, plays tennis and is in the Junior Leadership Program. Celia is in Seventh Grade at Douglas MacArthur Junior High School and enjoys her time on stage, at school or at the Foundation of the Arts.

My goal is to help clients anticipate employment and business disputes, avoid those disputes where possible, and navigate the process effectively. The reputation of the law firm, now Womack Phelps Puryear Mayfield & McNeil, P.A., brought me to Jonesboro twenty-two years ago. The law firm works with clients in estate planning, business transactions and civil trial work. From Jonesboro, I have had the opportunity to work for clients locally, around our state, and across our country, to deal with situations that I frankly did not expect in a city and firm of this size.

What changes do you anticipate in our community in the next several years?

The easy answer is that Jonesboro and the surrounding area will grow. Our employment base will be larger. We have hit a point population-wise where I believe we provide amenities that are attractive to people looking for a place to live. We MUST continue to be forward-focused to improve and expand on what the area offers. The presence of NYIT College of Medicine at ASTATE signals growth in attracting professionals and it will be exciting to have a front-row seat to the changes in the healthcare field in our area.

You have served in several leadership roles what organizations are you most passionate about?

Professionally, serving on the Arkansas Access to Justice Commission, I have become more acutely aware of the need to expand access to the civil justice system for all Arkansans. When an employer or prospective employee has a legal matter that interferes with their work and that threatens their family, it hurts that employee, the employer and our community. We need to make improvements in access and find additional resources to help lessen negative effects of this problem.

Personally, I am driven by our work at



our local church, First Baptist. Because of Kara's many talents, we have had the chance to spend a lot of time with people beginning their careers. There is energy at that stage of life that is enjoyable.

What are the top three things you would like to accomplish this year as Chairman of the Board?

First, the success of the Chamber or any similar organization is oftentimes a reflection of the value that it provides. We must continually ask what value does this give to our members. I am particularly interested in that as it relates to new businesses and small businesses.

Second, our Chamber's programming needs to remain focused on what works and what is beneficial to the members in the community and to those who ought to be members.

Third, I hope that we can highlight workforce development. Those that know workforce development dedicate a tremendous amount of energy and have some innovative ideas. With the tools we have available, we have a lot to do to meet current workforce needs and prepare for the needs employers have in the future.

What do you like to do most when you are not at work?

I like to play golf and enjoy traveling. My family has had a tradition over the last few years of relaxing in the mountains of Western North Carolina. At the same time, we always have more places that we want to see than we have time to see those places.

Give us an example of a typical day (from the time you wake up) in the life of Mark Mayfield.

Mornings usually begin with light exercise followed by quick breakfast with the family. At that point I am off to the office or wherever I might end up traveling that day. I thrive on adapting to situations, so most days there is a general plan of what I want to accomplish in between whatever situation arises that needs immediate attention. That may be a problem related to an employee or a client's customer where prompt advice is needed and a decision has to be made quickly. Most evenings, I try to make it home in time to have dinner with the family. After dinner, it is on to normal household chores and brief time to relax and get ready to start all over again.

Anything else you want to share?

I really appreciate the encouragement of my law partners, actually everyone at the law firm, particularly the patience of Rebecca Hartgraves, my legal assistant who this year will no doubt feel like scheduler-in-chief.

We're Headed for the Future!



ANNUAL MEETING *Thursday*
October 6, 2016

The Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce is headed for the next '100' years... We want to celebrate our future by inviting our members to the 2016 Annual Meeting to experience our success and hope.

Please join us for an evening of entertainment by the young and 'not so old' members of our Chamber and our community's children and young adults.

Featuring: **Dr. Barbara Ross-Lee**

NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine

