

SPECIAL
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South Lakewood Business Association

formerly Jewell/Wadsworth Area Business Association

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President's update

The past year has been challenging with numerous changes occurring in the organization. The transition from long-time president John Gunzner to myself was fairly smooth but we had to change meeting locations with the closure of Liberty Bank's branch at Jewell and Wadsworth.

We continued the format of our general meetings with many varied guest speakers ranging from medical marijuana to small business administration services to renegade coyotes to light rail to animal sterilization. As always, we were kept informed with lively area reports from both police and fire departments. Mayor Bob Murphy contributed on occasion as well as City Council members Sue King and Tom Quinn, along with other

public officials from various governmental entities.

After years of discussion, we finally decided to expand our area of membership (as discussed in the accompanying article) and change our name.

Again, we have contributed to various needy causes and participated in worthy community events. We also awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to an incredible student at Alameda High School.

Upcoming plans include development of a new website, establishing a business mentoring program with area high schools, increasing the scholarship fund and awards, expanding our membership, continuing our community involvement and focusing on



**Richard K. Sotiros,
President**

promoting member business.

I look forward to an exciting year ahead and encourage all to get involved and participate as you are able. Together we can continue to grow and establish a vibrant, important organization.

Open House to be held again at great venue

On Tuesday, October 5th, we will again be holding our fall open house at the ever popular and fun White Fence Farm located at 6283 W. Jewell Ave. in Lakewood, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm.

As always, delicious appetizers and refreshments will be served in the comforting environment of

the White Fence Farm at no charge. Who can resist the corn fritters?

Please come and enjoy meeting and mingling with your friends, fellow community members, business associates and city representatives.

We are desirous of increasing

our membership, so please invite anyone who may be interested in joining our organization.

As in the past, the White Fence Farm has generously donated their time, effort and resources to this event. Help us show our appreciation and celebrate. See you there!



Former President,
John Gunzner

“Exciting changes are occurring that will continue to build on and help grow our organization to achieve our goals”

Past president leaves legacy

A year ago, after helping establish the Jewell/Wadsworth Area Business Association and serving as president for nearly nine years, John Gunzner, part owner of Front Range Lumber Company, stepped down. Fortunately, he stayed on as a board member and continues to specialize in helping cultivate relationships with the City and other organizations.

Not one to idly sit around, he helps run Front Range Lumber along with his sons John and Kent. He has been married to his wife, Mary, since 1956. They also have two daughters, Vickie and Julie, and six grandkids. In his spare time, he likes

to garden and occasionally golf.

He has lived in the Littleton areas his entire life, and was actually born there on a farm in 1937. After graduating from St. Francis de Sales High School in 1955 (closed since '67) he went on to work at various positions as an ambulance driver, at Montgomery Wards, and for several lumber yards.

He purchased Hartmuller Lumber in 1987 and changed the name to Front Range Lumber. All in all, John has been in the lumber business for 55 years.

He helped form JWABA

when a lady from the City stopped by the lumber yard one day and told him, “A year from now you won’t be here.” Apparently urban renewal was going to condemn and scrape the entire Northwest corner of Jewell and Wadsworth and allow an Eagle Hardware (Lowe’s) to be built.

John’s proudest accomplishment with JWABA is the development of relationships and, “bringing people together from the city and community.”

For his dedication, determination to improve the organization, and accomplishments we cannot thank John enough.

New president original resident

Our new president, Richard K. Sotiros, has deep roots in Lakewood. His parent’s moved to the area prior to its incorporation, and he has lived here on and off for most of his life. He attended Bear Creek and Green Gables Elementary schools, Carmody Middle school and Bear Creek High school, graduating in 1975.

He then attended Western

State College for two years on a basketball scholarship and graduated from the University of Colorado in 1979 with a business degree.

Richard worked in public accounting for several years, earned his CPA distinction, and also worked in various accounting positions in private industry. Nine years ago, he started his Lakewood based

public accounting firm, Sotiros & Sotiros, LLC, with his brother, Sam, Treasurer of SLBA.

He is married to Polly, who is the office manager of Sotiros & Sotiros, LLC, and they have two children, Haley and Chris.

Up to this year, Richard has been heavily involved in coaching men’s, women’s and children’s basketball.

What’s going on with JWABA?

After the idea was proposed several years ago about changing the name of our organization to the South Lakewood Business Association and expanding the membership area, steps have begun to accomplish these changes.

Why change? Members have received frequent input from

potential members that the name and area are too restrictive. In addition, membership has declined in recent years as “burning issues” in the area have declined. By enlarging our geographical base, we hope to provide a better network for businesses as well as serve a larger area of the com-

munity. The new area will encompass the section of Lakewood from Mississippi Avenue to Hampden Avenue, directly to the south of the Alameda Gateway Community Association.

Our new President, Richard Sotiros, believes, “Exciting changes are occurring that will

JWABA, continued from page 2

continue to build on and help grow our organization to achieve our goals.”

We have many worthy causes in our area and we would like to increase our level of support. Other goals include expanding our scholarship fund and awards, developing a mentoring program with area high schools, and increasing the networking and promotional efforts of our members.

In addition to the name change and area expansion, the locations of

our general and board meetings have changed. Long-time member Liberty Bank, who graciously hosted the meetings, closed their branch at Jewell and Wadsworth. The general meetings are now held at “The Cloisters” at Wadsworth Boulevard and Evans Avenue. The Board meetings have moved to the White Fence Farm.

A new website is under construction and should be functional by the end of October. Members will have

the ability to be linked and promoted through the site.

Lastly, a new dues structure has been adopted to more closely align with other area business and community organizations and help us achieve the goals we have established. Member dues for individuals and not-for-profits will be \$25/year, small businesses \$50/year and large businesses \$100/year. (see page 4)

JWABA

now

SLBA

Alameda student shines

This year’s scholarship was awarded to recent Alameda High School graduate and standout, Anjali Kumar. Her cumulative weighted GPA was 4.122.



Currently, she attends UCD but plans to transfer to CSU’s architectural school next year and obtain a degree in landscape architecture, eventually earning a Master’s de-

gree. She has been involved in Alameda’s architecture/engineering program since the ninth grade and she said, “I like the idea of being environmentally friendly and going green.”

Anjali Kumar, this year’s scholarship winner

Prior to graduation, Anjali was active volunteering at the Belmar Library and Villa Manor Nursing Home. Presently, she is employed at the American Eagle clothing store at the Southwest Plaza in addition to attending school.

Anjali’s family is originally from New Delhi, India, however, she was

born in Colorado. She lives with her mother, grandparents and brother. Her father passed away when she was one year old. She became interested in the architectural field through an Uncle who is an architect and who, also, helped move the entire family to the U.S.

She has visited India three times, learned to play badminton while there and continues to enjoy participating recreationally in the sport. Another area of interest for her is in Web design utilizing Java.

We can fully expect that Anjali will attain her dream of becoming a licensed architect and anything else she attempts to achieve!

“I like the idea of being environmentally friendly and going green”

Spotlight on prior scholarship recipient

Shortly after speaking to Margaret Kimble, the first thought that comes to mind is “go-getter.”

Currently, Margaret is in her junior year at the University of Wyoming, where she is pursuing an engineering degree. Though she has yet to determine a specific emphasis, she is exploring transportation and structural engineering. However, she has expressed a strong

interest in bridge design.

As for school, she maintains a diversity in her coursework as a member of the Honors Program.

In addition, Margaret is involved in several extra-curricular organizations which include: the Wyoming Mounted Color Guard (an 1860’s Indian War Era reenactment group), the UW Student Chapter of

the American Society of Civil Engineers (serving as the school’s chairman to the Rocky Mountain Regional Student Conference), and as a design assistant at the Wyoming Department of Transportation Laramie Design Squad (working with roadway geometrics and developing plans for various projects).

Congratulations to Margaret and her continued success!



Margaret Kimble, prior year scholarship winner

New member dues rate structure



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SLBA

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P.O. Box 150473
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New dues structure

The new member dues rate structure has been changed to more closely align with other area business or community associations and help us achieve the goals we have established, in a manner that we hope is fair and not burdensome to our members.

Individuals/Not-for-Profits **\$25/year**

Small Business (< 50 employees) **\$50/year**

Large Business (> 50 employees) **\$100/year**

Please help recruit new members!



Calendar

The following listing reflects expected dates and is, however, subject to change:

- General meetings held the 1st Tuesday of each month from 7:30am—8:30am. No meeting is scheduled for January.
- Board meetings held the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 7:30am—8:30am.
- Fall open house at White Fence Farm— Tuesday, October 5, 2010 from 6:00pm— 8:00pm.
- Spring open house (TBD) - Tuesday, May 3, 2011 from 6:00pm—8:00pm.
- Scholarship awarded to Alameda High School—May 2011.
- Quarterly area trash pickups (TBD).

General meetings are held at the new location at Wadsworth Blvd and Evans Ave called “**The Cloisters.**”

Board meetings are held at the **White Fence Farm.** All members are welcome to attend.

Board of Directors

Richard K. Sotiros, President

Sotiros & Sotiros, LLC 303-716-0581

Mike Wuestner, Vice President

White Fence Farm 303-935-5945

Sam Sotiros, Treasurer

Sotiros & Sotiros, LLC 303-716-0581

John Gunzner

Front Range Lumber Co. 303-988-5980

Roger Olds

Prepaid Legal Services 303-934-1556

Mary Bindner

Area resident 303-985-1978