

**Blackstone Chamber of Commerce
Annual Membership Meeting and Dinner Dance
Friday, March 26, 2010**

On Friday, **March 26th**, the Blackstone Chamber of Commerce will hold its Annual Membership Meeting and Dinner Dance at the Camp Pickett Officers' Club. This year the meeting has a Hats On! Wear Your Party Hat theme. All attendees are invited and encouraged to wear their favorite party hat. There will be **prizes** for the best, funniest and most unique hats.

To continue the tradition of years past, there will be a silent auction with donations from many of the area Chamber member businesses. **The night will start earlier this year, at 5:30 p.m.**, with passed hors d'oeuvres, an open bar, and an opportunity for all attendees to participate in the silent auction. Another change this year is that silent auction items will be sectioned into groups with bids closing about every 20 minutes for each consecutive group throughout the night. If your business has not yet made a donation to the silent auction please contact Joe McMilian (434-294-3506) or Grace McDonald (434-607-9410). Remember, all donated items are tax deductible, as an advertising expense, for your business.

The business portion of the night will begin at 7:00 p.m. with the chairman's report and the introduction of this year's new board members. The numerous efforts of the board will be reviewed, thus, demonstrating what a busy year it has been. This will be followed by recognition and presentation of the *Business of the Year*, *Business Advocate of the Year*, *Volunteer of the Year*, and *Lifetime Achievement Awards*. Details and the form for nominating a business can be found inside this newsletter and on the website at www.blackstoneva.com .

A delicious dinner will be served beginning at 7:30 p.m. and includes a choice of Delmonico Steak or Chicken Cordon Bleu served with a baked potato, garden green salad, rolls and dessert. To continue the fun a **dance will immediately follow dinner**.

This wonderful evening can be enjoyed for only **\$30 per person which includes an open bar**. **Reservations will be accepted until March 19th**. You can call the chamber office at 434-292-1677 or email the Chamber at director@blackstoneva.com to make your reservation.



Nominate Businesses for the Blackstone Chamber of Commerce Annual Chamber Awards

It's time to start thinking of local businesses and companies that deserve recognition for their achievements and contributions to the community. The Chamber is accepting nominations for its 2009 Business of the Year, Business Advocate of the Year, and Lifetime Achievement Awards through March 15th and wants your help in finding worthy candidates to be honored. Don't hesitate to nominate more than one business or yourself if you feel you merit consideration for one of these awards.

Business of the Year, which will go to a business that will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Staying power, a substantiated history as an established business
- Growth in number of employees: a benchmark to judge the impact of the business on the job market
- Increase in sales and/or unit volume: an indication of continued growth
- Innovativeness of product or service offered: illustrations of the creativity and imagination of the nominee
- Response to adversity: examples of problems faced in the nominee's business and the methods used to solve them

Evidence of contributions by nominee to aid community-oriented projects: through the use of personal time and other resources

Business Advocate of the Year, which will go to a business or group that has supported and advanced the interest of the business community, and will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Voluntary efforts beyond business/professional responsibilities to advance the business community
- Effective support within the community for the establishment of new businesses
- Demonstrated efforts to improve conditions in the business community as a whole, note solely for individual personal advancement

Other accomplishments demonstrating the nominee's merit as an effective advocate for business interests

Lifetime Achievement Award, which will go to a business or individual (active or retired) that has been in business in the Blackstone area for over 20 years and will be evaluated by the following:

- Demonstrated exemplary commitment to the community above and beyond business contributions
- Service to the Blackstone Chamber of Commerce
- Established ability to be successful in changing times

Advocate for business in the Greater Blackstone area

The Chamber considers any company in the Blackstone area for nomination. Nominees must be current Chamber members in good standing. Winners will receive an engraved plaque at the Annual Meeting and the Chamber will publicize their honors through the media and our website (www.blackstoneva.com)



Nomination Form for Annual Chamber Awards

Candidate for:

(Business of the Year, Business Advocate of the Year, Lifetime Achievement)

Business Name

Contact Person

Address

Type of Business

Phone Number

With regards to the stated criteria, please give a statement of the qualities and performance which merit the award for the nominee. Also include any other supporting documentation deemed significant by the nominator, including news clips, letters of recommendation, and other evidence of the appropriateness of the nomination.

(This sheet may be copied for numerous nominations—additional space may also be used)

Signature of Nominator

Date

(This form must be signed as a condition of nomination)

Please send your completed form to the Chamber office **no later than 5 pm, March 15th**, via mail to P O Box 295, Blackstone, VA 23824 or email to chamber@blackstoneva.com

For more information or if you need your form picked-up call 434-292-1677