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Thank You!





# London & Paris

The Chamber has partnered with Collette Travel to offer a 9 day trip to London and Paris. Patrick Kinsella, the local representative covering TN/KY for Collette, will be speaking at the January Chamber luncheon to give more details about this exciting travel opportunity.

Collette is the nation's oldest tour operator and Patrick has sent thousands of travelers from chambers all across the world to experience a once in a lifetime journey. The London Laurel Chamber is hosting a tour to two of the most iconic cities in the world: London & Paris! From cosmopolitan London to romantic Paris, cross the English Channel via train and take in the best of these iconic cities. Take a walking tour to Westminster to see Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament, and witness the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace. Personalize your stay in Paris by choosing to savor a thrilling dinner and cabaret show at the Paradis Latin theatre or indulge in a traditional brasserie dinner before sliding into the backseat of a retro Citroën classic car for a drive through the city's chic boulevards. Dine at the Eiffel Tower and cruise the River Seine at night."

Collette handles everything from airport transfers, flights, 4+ star accommodations, guided touring, and most meals. Let this be your trip of a lifetime!

Join us January 18th at Noon to hear Patrick discuss all the details of the trip as well as answer any questions you may have.



#### CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

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# 2023 . . . Chamber Review

#### London-Laurel County Chamber of Commerce Celebrates a Year of Growth and Community Engagement

The London-Laurel County Chamber of Commerce proudly announces a year of remarkable achievements and community initiatives in 2023. The Chamber has spearheaded several impactful programs, demonstrating commitment to educational development, business growth, and civic engagement.

Key achievements include the successful registration of 1,464 children in the Chamber Foundation's early education program, aiming to improve literacy rates among young children. This initiative is a cornerstone in our efforts to build a strong foundation for the future workforce.

The Chamber's Women in Business group has seen substantial growth, hosting numerous educational events and workshops, and fostering the economic empowerment of women in our community. This initiative aligns with our mission to promote inclusive growth and diversity in the business sector.

In collaboration with Junior Achievement of the Bluegrass, the Chamber launched the Miss Business program, highlighting women-owned businesses and impacting over 50 female high school students.

We also take pride in participating in the National Civics Bee, fostering civic awareness among middle school students. This initiative underscores our commitment to nurturing responsible and engaged future citizens.

Our Work Ethic Seal program has recognized outstanding students, reinforcing the importance of work ethic in our youth. Additionally, our annual events, including the Chamber Banquet and Golf Tournament, have seen record participation and support, reflecting the vibrant spirit of our business community.

As we continue to expand, the Chamber has welcomed 48 new members and celebrated the opening of 22 new businesses, indicating a thriving economic landscape in London-Laurel County.

Looking forward, we are excited to launch a Young Professional group, aiming to engage and develop the next generation of business leaders.

The London-Laurel County Chamber of Commerce remains dedicated to fostering a strong, inclusive, and prosperous community. We extend our gratitude to our members, partners, and the entire community for their unwavering support and contribution to our collective success.

#### 7AM - 7PM BANKING MONDAY THRU SATURDAY

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#### CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

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#### Meet the Chamber's New Retention Specialist

Hello! I am Abby Harris, the new Retention Specialist for the London-Laurel County Chamber of Commerce. I greatly look forward to building lasting relationships with each and every Chamber Member.

For 11 years now, I've been in the business of "people;" from developing business in our community to supporting and committing to providing excellent service to our area. My passion is to ensure Laurel County continues to thrive fundamentally and economically.

Since beginning with Chamber, I work closely with the Chamber Foundation in their efforts to advocate the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program. Also, I have implemented the Laurel Young Professionals Group and worked with several school systems to be involved with The National Civics Bee.

In addition to this position, I am Senior Partner REALTOR® with Century 21 Advantage Realty. I am also an Ambassador for the Brokerage's community outreach program (CSQUAD) where I serve our local communities each month. I involve myself with the KY National Association of Realtor's Young Professionals Network which allows me to meet other young professionals in the state to network/promote my community. I am a Head Dance Instructor at Diane McCowan's Academy of Dance for 8 years now so I work with our local children to develop their gross motor skills, physical activity, and social skills. I also co own a Kayak Rental & Shuttle Service (L3 Adventures) and an Event Rental Supply Company( Golden Hour KY Events).

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

I accepted my position with the Chamber because I truly love my town and community and I cherish this opportunity to influence and serve to make this county the best it can be! Please feel free to reach out if you ever wish to become more involved with our Chamber, whether its for our events, to make a donation, assistance in advertising, or are starting a new business, I'm your girl! You can reach me at 606-312-9864 or abby@londonlaurelchamber.com.





#### CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

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#### **RECENT RIBBON CUTTINGS**





#### Parkinson's in Motion Located at 202 West 7th Street



# I GOT Communities True Choice Health & Cafe

Located at 202 West 7th Street

#### CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

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# **Ribbon Cutting**



#### **Structure House Recovery LLC**

**Located at 318 West Dixie Street** 



The Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Executives hosted its first ever regional lunch in London on December 13th at Old Town Grill. This meeting provided an opportunity for local chamber professionals to connect and share information and updates!



#### CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

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The London-Laurel County Women In Business group launched in 2022 with great momentum and continued to grow in 2023. Coordinated by the London-Laurel County Chamber, the Women in Business group helps connect women in business to opportunities, and provides women with educational tools needed to lead them toward sustainable success. Our community hopes to see this group continue to grow and receive the support it needs to reach and invest in more women in our community and region.

Our mission is to encourage and support local women to achieve their full potential in business, employment, learning and community life. We seek to achieve this by emboldening the economic power of women in our community, promoting social inclusion, and influencing policy.

In 2023, our group hosted 12 educational events/workshops with approximately 15-20 in attendance on average. Each time we met we featured a local business, local non-profit, and highlighted a womanowned business with an educational speaker. Over 22 different businesses have been impacted through the monthly meetings. In addition, we partnered with Junior Achievement of the Bluegrass to launch the first Miss Business program in Laurel County. This program highlighted more than 10 local women-owned or operated businesses and positively impacted more than 50 female high school juniors and seniors.

In addition to our events, we share information, connect, and encourage through our public Facebook page and private Facebook Group. The public page has reached over 15,000 since the initial creation of our group. Our audience is 97 percent women ages 18-65 years of age. Our private group has 213 total members, with 168 active members.

In 2024, we hope to continue to offer high-quality monthly events and expand our impact into the southern Kentucky region. Please feel free to contact Deanna Herrmann for further information. Her email is deanna@londonlaurelchamber.com or call (606) 864-4789.

#### McKnight Properties

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#### **Ambassador Patrol Is Back!!**

The Chamber Ambassadors continued their "patrol" this month and surprised six of our members with gifts and goodies. Each business was also given a Free Lunch certificate for this month's membership luncheon. It's always fun to visit members and learn more about their business.

Be on the lookout. . . next month they might be visiting you!



Kentucky Mountain Land Title 830 South Main Street



Laurel County Life Center 830 South Main Street, Ste 4



Edward Jones, Jonathon Hibbard
1574 North Main Street



Old Town Grill
25 Dog Patch Trading Center



Kentucky Sign Center
490 Moren Road



84 Lumber Company
452 Moren Road

#### CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

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#### The Chamber is pleased to welcome our newest members:



- Camping World Inc. London
- Hand Heart and Soul Reiki
  - Kentucky 811
- True Choice Health & Cafe

#### **Renewing Chamber Members**

- 1st Trust Bank
- A+ Portable Restrooms
  - Abner & Cox, PLLC
- American Legion Mart Gentry Post 16
  - Cornett Farm Fresh
  - Delta Natural Gas Co. Inc.
    - Dog Patch Trading Post
    - Faith Assembly of God
- Ford Brothers Inc. Auctioneers-Realtors
  - Friends of Boone Trace, Inc.
  - Goodwill Industries of Kentucky
    - Homes of Laurel County
      - Hometown Bank
        - House Bros.
  - House-Rawlings Funeral Home, Inc.
    - Jackson Energy Cooperative
    - Jones Petroleum Services
- Judy Phelps Insurance & Financial Services, Inc.
  - Kentucky Utilities
  - L4 Security & Consulting Group
    - Laurel Community Lions Club
      - Little Caesars Pizza
      - London Tire Center
    - Mi Casa Mexican Restaurant
      - Mike Distribution
      - Minuteman Press
      - Modern Distributors, Inc.
    - New London Country Club
      - Oak Hill Gardens
    - Patterson Chip Company
      - Perry Distributors Inc.
  - Precision Duplicating Solutions, Inc.
    - Regency Cinema 8
- Rural Transit Enterprises Coordinated Inc. (RTEC)
  - Serco Inc.
  - Shiloh Roadhouse
  - Southeast Banking Systems
- Southeastern Kentucky Rehabilitation Industries Inc.
  - Staffmark
  - Stanzel, Inc. / Papa John's Pizza
    - Surplus Sales, Inc.
  - Taylor, Keller & Oswald, PLLC
    - Whitaker Bank





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# December Luncheon

















**PHOTOS BY: Hey Sweet Angie Photog-**



The Chamber would like to express appreciation to the many businesses that donated prizes for our December Christmas luncheon. A big thanks to Daniel Carmack, Tim Smith and Angela Fischer for sharing their talents with us and to Scott Webster (a.k.a. Santa Claus). Also, a special thank you to our awesome group of Ambassadors who prepared lots of crazy games for us to play. With so many prizes,

everyone who attended went home a winner!
The room was filled with Christmas cheer . . . no scrooge to be found!

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# Save the Date

The date for the Chamber Annual Banquet has been set . . .

## **Tuesday, April 16th**

Mark your calendar now and make plans to join us!

#### **Sponsors** are needed for this event.

Sponsorships are \$750 and include a table for 8 at the banquet.

To sign on as a sponsor, contact the Chamber office today!



#### Your Chamber

#### **Board of Directors**



#### **Executive Committee**

#### **President**

Scott Webster | Tooms, Dunaway & Webster

#### **President Elect**

Donna Gregorich | Century 21 Advantage Realty

#### **Vice-President**

Kyle Gray | WB Transport LLC

#### Secretary

Sharon Benge | Benge Farm Supply

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Donnie Cox | Abner & Cox, PLLC

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Karen Hyde | Legacy Nissan

Brandon Keck | JBK, Inc. Roofing Division

Michael Sliter | Hotwire Productions.net

Eric Sproles | Aisin Automotive Casting, LLC

John Yanes | Saint Joseph London