

January 2018



REDC January Newsletter

Membership Drive 2018



Our membership drive is underway! Richland Economic Development Corp appreciates the continued investment by our membership to assist in improving our economy.

We conducted outreach activities to Fairview, Lambert, Savage and Sidney. Our office is pleased to offer our assistance to all communities of Richland County when asked.

We truly and deeply value our memberships' financial commitments as well as their suggestions and comments. Thank you for continuing to support Richland Economic Development Corp.

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Revolving Loan Fund

Available

Richland Economic Development Corp encourages existing businesses and new business startup projects to consider the RLF as a resource. The RLF loan pool of \$1,000,000 is not free money, but an investment made by the Richland County Commissioners, to assist in the development of business in our economy. The application and review process is achievable, and done in conjunction with the area financial institutions in Richland County.

If you, or someone you know, is thinking of expanding or launching a new business in Richland County, contact any of the local financial institutions or Richland Economic Development Corp today for an application!

2017 REDC Annual Meeting Recap

The event was held on Tuesday, November 7th, 2017, at the Sidney Elks Lodge, and was well attended with over 100 people.

We were pleased to have Martin DeWitt, USDA Business Program Specialist, provide an overview of the many programs that USDA has to offer.

Executive Director, Leslie Messer, presented an overview of REDC's activities and accomplishments. Highlights included: how the oil downturn has affected all businesses and our membership base, the LYIP efforts, recruitment efforts, and business expansion efforts.

In addition, we asked our audience to give us some feedback on our organization. There were 3 questions asked: Briefly describe what REDC does, what projects can REDC do to improve Richland County? and what more can we do to add relevance to your membership?

What we learned from our members' responses:

- People like what we're doing
- People want us to stay involved
- People would like to hear from us more
- People would like to see more business attraction efforts
- People would like us to stay committed to the LYIP efforts



We appreciate the support of our membership, and strive to make our annual meetings a worthwhile event. We also value your participation and input to improve our economy.



2018 REDC Board of Directors

Back L-R: Leslie Messer, Tami Christensen, Jackie Washechek, Pam Burman, Vanessa Pooch, Cami Skinner and Katie Dasinger. Front L-R: Blaine Rogers, Gary Schoepp, Shane Gorder, Randy Olson, Chip Gifford, Don Steinbeisser, Alan Seigfreid, and Leif Anderson. Not pictured are: Craig Averett, Bryce Baker, Jason Brothen, Bill Henderson, Walt McNutt, and Mark Rehbein.

Outgoing President



We honored Chip Gifford as the out-going President for the past two years.

We'd like to thank Chip for volunteering his time and expertise to the mission of our organization. Randy Olson presents an outgoing President Award to Chip for his service.



2017 Financial Review

Our financial operations were assessed by Travis Gerten of Brenner & Averett. REDC has been given a positive review and we are on solid footing. In addition, we have passed a conservative budget for 2018.

Leadership Montana Board of Governors

Leslie is very honored to serve on the Board of Governors for this amazing organization. Some of the committees that Leslie serves on are the Selection Committee and the Training Committee.

Sidney now has 4 active Leadership Montana Alums: Leslie Messer, Cami Skinner, Paula Eberling and Kelly Reisig. The foursome have begun to meet on a quarterly basis to stay connected.



The ladies are all excited to host the current Leadership MT class in Sidney in March. This is a wonderful opportunity to promote the entire area to these leaders from all across Montana.

Back L-R: Anna Berg, Leslie Messer, Mike O'Neil, Scott Sehnert, Rolf Groseth, Rick Leuthold, Lanny Hubbard, Brenda Peterson, Jamie Dogget. Front: Chantel Schieffer, Barbara Braided Hair, Amy Kellog, and Marlenea Robinson.

Sidney Young Professionals

SYP has been busy over this quarter. Here are some highlights:

October: SYP partnered with the County Commissioners and LYIP to take SYP members out to Intake to have a hands-on learning experience of the diversion Dam. The bus trip provided a great question and answers session with LYIP Manager, James Brower. The event allowed members an opportunity to learn more about the Federal Court Case currently plaguing LYIP and our area's irrigated farming future.

November: SYP hosted a networking social to keep members connected to each other and to grow in personal and professional development.

December: SYP partnered with Nick Lonski- Edward Jones and Lauren Sukut- Edward Jones to host our second annual "Cold Weather Gear Drive". The event, which was held at the Meadowlark, allowed members the opportunity to learn about early retirement investing, as well the chance to make donations to area schools of cold weather gear! The boxes remained up at HeathWorks and Meadowlark during the Holiday season.

Mentorship Program: SYP members have been given a unique opportunity to be paired with local, established business professionals to grow and hone their professional and personal relationships. The program currently has 9 mentors and 12 participants and is excited to grow in the future. Mentors and mentees meet as often as their personal schedules allow. Topics discussed range from inter-office relations to balancing work and home passions on a focused, personal level. If you are interested in participating as either a mentor or mentee please contact us!



SYP Upcoming Events:

January: In January, SYP is partnering with the MonDak Heritage Center to provide members with a “Night at the Museum”. There will be the option to participate in one of the wonderful art classes offered by the center as well as a scavenger hunt to highlight all the rich history of our area!

January 2.0: With an exciting opportunity, SYP and Kiwanis will be hosting a question and answer round table discussion with Senator Tester in Mid-January!

February: Along with valentines and chocolate, February will bring a partnership with the Sidney Health Center. In a night called “Behind the Scenes: Behind your Health” SYP members will be treated to an in-depth VIP tour of the Health Center.

March: Our community is one that thrives off of volunteers and the kindness of others. In order to better help SYP members find places to volunteer their time, money, or to look for help if needed, SYP will once again be hosting their “Find your Passion- A non-profit fair”. The goal of the evening is to be both informative and as well as philanthropic. SYP knows not every non-profit needs volunteers, but having the knowledge of the non-profits will only help strengthen our community. If you know of a group who might be interested in participating, please let us know!



As President of SYP, it has been exciting to watch this program continue to grow and morph into an organization that fills a void in the community. It is our hope that by providing these different opportunities, SYP can give back to the area through education, engagement and retention. I look forward to working with different groups and businesses to make SYP a success.

- Katie Dasinger





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