

# CHAMBER LINK

February 2012

## Tennessee Speaker of the House Harwell Highlights Annual Meeting

Tennessee Speaker of the House Beth Harwell, the main speaker, introduced by state Sen. Doug Overbey, set the tone for the Blount County Chamber of Commerce's 92nd annual meeting that drew 430 Chamber members and elected officials on Feb. 2 at the Airport Hilton.

Harwell outlined Gov. Bill Haslam's legislative agenda for 2012 that include lower taxes and fiscal responsibility. An increase for the inheritance tax exemption from \$1 million to \$1.25 million was well received, as was the possibility of lowering the food sales tax from 5.5 to 5.0 percent over the next three years.

The dinner gathering was preceded by a member reception. Blount Partnership President and CEO Bryan Daniels gave the welcome, while the invocation was delivered by Sharon Hannum and Pledge of Allegiance by Luis Gonzalez of Youth Leadership Blount. Outgoing Chamber Chair Greg Wilson of First Tennessee Bank turned over the reigns to 2012 Chair Allan Cox of Denark Construction.



Tennessee Speaker of the House Beth Harwell.



Sen. Doug Overbey introduces Ms. Harwell.



## BlountChamber.com Relaunches

After four months of redesign, the Blount County Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the relaunching of its web site, [www.BlountChamber.com](http://www.BlountChamber.com).

The new site boasts larger images, a dedicated video area, a blog, expanded public policy section, social media links and a calendar that Chamber members can update with their events.

The revamped business directory allows members to offer online deals and coupons to customers.

The slimmed down menu and site map makes things easier to find and a complete listing of member assistance, benefits, sponsorship, advertising opportunities and a form to get involved in groups and event planning is available.

There are also links to the Blount Partnership's other sites: [www.BlountIndustry.com](http://www.BlountIndustry.com), [www.SmokyMountains.org](http://www.SmokyMountains.org), [www.MeetingsandMountains.com](http://www.MeetingsandMountains.com) and [www.PellissippiPlace.com](http://www.PellissippiPlace.com).



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## Don't Forget

### Learn About the Cloud

The tools you need for business are becoming more mobile, more collaborative and more accessible on the go. This workshop will walk you through some of the latest tools and resources necessary to begin operating your business "in the cloud," including ways to access your documents on the go, credit card processing on your smartphone and online collaboration.

Brandon Moore, owner of Speak, will lead this workshop. He has worked with businesses and non-profit organizations over the last decade to provide quality solutions for their technology needs.

**March 13, 2012**  
**11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. (meeting includes lunch)**  
**Blount County Chamber of Commerce**  
**201 S. Washington St.**  
**Maryville, TN 37804**

Register today \$25 for Chamber members and \$40 for non & prospective members

Call 865.273.1205 or email [reservations@blountpartnership.com](mailto:reservations@blountpartnership.com)



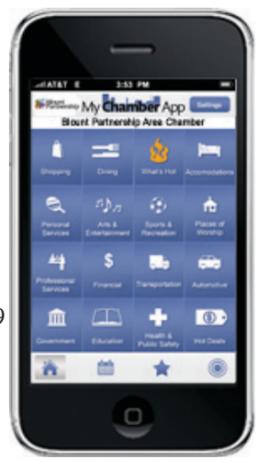
## Did You Know?

Did you know that the Chamber has a mobile app?

Check it out by downloading the free app on iTunes or the Android Market by searching for **My Chamber App**. Get information on all Chamber members, including address, phone number, web site and directions.

Chamber members need to take advantage of getting an expanded listing on the Blount Partnership's mobile app by upgrading for \$249 to include a logo, web site link, larger ad size, **hot deals**, better placement and a business description.

For more information, call 865.983.2241



## New Members

### Always Buy Chamber – New Members

By joining the Blount Chamber, the following companies have made an important decision in their business. Use the ABC theory -- Always Buy Chamber. It's good business to do business with Chamber Members. Use them for your professional and personal needs. Find out more information on all 1300 plus Chamber Members online at [www.blount-chamber.com](http://www.blount-chamber.com), click on Business Directory.

- Red Chair Architects — [www.redchairarchitects.com](http://www.redchairarchitects.com)
- Target Marketing — [www.chambermaps.com](http://www.chambermaps.com)
- Kirby Consulting — [www.jkirbyfarley.com](http://www.jkirbyfarley.com)
- All Dry Roofing — [www.alldryroofkinginc.com](http://www.alldryroofkinginc.com)
- J's Quality Chem-Dry — [www.jsqualitychemdry.com](http://www.jsqualitychemdry.com)
- Smoky Mountain Insurance — 865.742.4388
- MK Russell & Abbott — [www.cleanaircomfort.com](http://www.cleanaircomfort.com)
- FletcherPR — [www.kellyfletcherpr.com](http://www.kellyfletcherpr.com)
- Log Homes of the Smokies — [www.loghomesofthesmokies.net](http://www.loghomesofthesmokies.net)
- Comcast Spotlight — [www.comcastspotlight.com](http://www.comcastspotlight.com)

## Event Calendar

The new event calendar on [www.BlountChamber.com](http://www.BlountChamber.com) allows Chamber members to post their events directly to gain added exposure. These are great opportunities for members to connect and network with potential customers. The events and meetings below will be held at the Chamber unless otherwise noted. Visit our website to receive notices of events and meetings you would like to attend – [www.BlountChamber.com](http://www.BlountChamber.com), click on Events Calendar. For more information, call 983-2241.

- Feb. 20 Presidents' Day Holiday – Chamber Office is Closed
- Feb. 23 7:45 a.m. Coffee Club at Kingdom Design Ministries  
334 S. Washington (Law Bldg.) Maryville
- Feb. 23 9:00 a.m. Small Business Counseling
- Feb. 29-March 2 "Operation Thank You" Deliveries
- March 1 9:00 a.m. Small Business Counseling
- March 5 TBA Windham Professionals Grand Opening
- March 6 3:45 p.m. New Member Reception at Bell Maryville  
100 Enterprise Way, Maryville
- March 6 5:30 p.m. Carmike Cinemas Ribbon Cutting at Foothills Mall
- March 8 9:00 a.m. Small Business Counseling
- March 9 8:00 a.m. State Legislative Coffee
- March 12 11:30 a.m. Chamber Board Meeting
- March 13 11:30 a.m. Cloud Computing Seminar
- March 14 8:00 a.m. Employment Law featuring Howard Jackson

To schedule a free small business counseling session or to make an appointment with a representative from the Tennessee Small Business Development Center call Vicky at 983-2241.

Get Connected for Chamber News

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[flickr.com/photos/blountchamber](http://flickr.com/photos/blountchamber)

