

# THE POINT

GREATER  
OKLAHOMA CITY  
CHAMBER



June 2020

[www.okcchamber.com](http://www.okcchamber.com)

## Chamber achieves legislative priorities during historic session

The 2020 Legislative Session, after being severely impacted by the COVID-19 global health pandemic, officially adjourned Sine Die on Friday, May 29. In retrospect, the session can be viewed as occurring in three distinct phases:

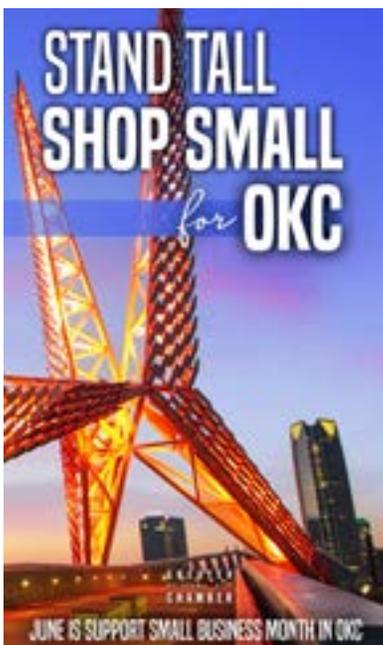
- Feb. 3 through mid-March - the period prior to the coronavirus infecting lawmakers and staff at the Capitol, when it was business as usual;
- March 23 through May 4 - the period during which the legislature met only twice and the public, including lobbyists, could not enter the Capitol; and,
- May 4 through May 29 - a sprint to the finish line when the budget and only a limited number of policy bills were considered/enacted.

The budget process was strained by a steep decline in state revenues due to the combined impact of the shelter-in-place mandate and a historic collapse of oil and gas prices. This ultimately led to a budget impasse between the legislature and governor which resulted in the legislature passing a budget, the governor vetoing it, and the legislature overriding the governor's veto.

During the shortened session, only 176 bills were passed (out of approximately 4,500). The Chamber maintained frequent contact with legislators in an ultimately successful effort to ensure two of our priority bills were considered. These bills, one involving an incentive for the development of software/cybersecurity engineers and the other addressing the payment of legal judgments against the newly formed Oklahoma County

*Continued on page 6*

## Chamber launches Stand Tall, Shop Small campaign



The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber is beginning its Stand Tall and Shop Small for OKC campaign for residents to give a boost to the businesses that make the city unique.

“Our staff has heard heart-breaking stories from our beloved shop owners about what the coronavirus pandemic has done to their business.” said Roy Williams, president and CEO of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber. “We were motivated by their struggles to figure out what we can do to help our small businesses.”

Taking pride in Oklahoma City by shopping small, local businesses is a direct way to fund vital city services. While the sales tax collection is down because of the pandemic, for every dollar spent at a locally-owned store, 67 cents stay in the community. Money spent at independent stores is multiplied in the community because it helps pay wages for residents.

The Chamber will promote the campaign and the districts' Stand Tall and Shop Small for OKC on its social media accounts. Additional information can be found at [okcchamber.com/shopsmallforokc](http://okcchamber.com/shopsmallforokc).

# Practice Social Distancing.

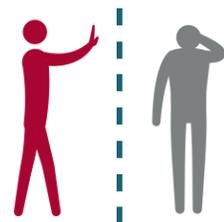
## What does this mean?



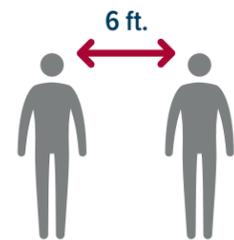
Avoid non-essential travel



Avoid places where large groups of people gather.



Limit any gatherings that include high-risk individuals



Stay at least 6 feet away from other individuals in public places.



Work from home if you can.

## Leadership Notes

*Oklahoma City has a history of rising to overcome challenges*

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a paradox for us all. People are anxious to get back to work and resume what they were doing. However, there is still hesitancy by some who are unsure about entering buildings not knowing the safeguard measures that may or may not be in place. In my conversations with business leaders and their employees, I have learned that the desire to get back is stronger than the desire to not.



Roy H. Williams, CCE  
President & CEO

The Chamber is no different.

We have 65 employees who are in the process of returning to the office. We've talked to, and surveyed, our employees to learn their personal situations, family responsibilities, medical concerns and what makes them feel safe. We've constructed our offices to make it compliant with the social distancing and sanitization mandates. Like other businesses, it won't be a flip of the switch. We are taking measured steps and returning in a slow and gradual fashion.

We are creating virtual meetings for businesses large and small to come together and discuss re-opening plans. We are finding that no business is totally unique to itself. Together we can work on common guidelines, best-practice measures, where to find PPE and gain some common ground that helps all our approaches.

When I think about Oklahoma City, I remember our history as a land run city. It takes a certain type of person to take advantage of the opportunities, and the qualities that our forerunners had in our ethos. When you look at the major setbacks in the history of Oklahoma City – economic trouble, natural disasters or a terrorist act. We have always ended up as a stronger and more tight-knit community afterward.

I remain optimistic. People here are very creative and innovative. Oklahomans have always been able to roll with the punches. People are going to adapt and overcome, and we will eventually be better off than before just as we have done throughout our history.

Roy H. Williams, CCE  
Chamber President & CEO

VELOCITY

» READ ROY'S VELOCITYOKC STORY OF THE MONTH

"A plea on behalf of local retail"

VELOCITYOKC.COM/ROYSPICK

## 2020 OFFICERS

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**ROY H. WILLIAMS, CCE**  
Greater Oklahoma City Chamber  
President & CEO

## THE POINT!

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[www.OUmedicine.com/COVID](http://www.OUmedicine.com/COVID)



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

# CHAMBER FORUM

### CALENDAR

(Events are subject to change. Consult [www.okcchamber.com/events](http://www.okcchamber.com/events) for the most recent updates.)

#### June 9 Member Orientation

4 to 5 p.m.  
[okcchamber.com/orientation](http://okcchamber.com/orientation)

#### June 12 Enlighten Webinar

Noon to 1 p.m.  
[okcchamber.com/events](http://okcchamber.com/events)

#### June 17 Chamber Forum

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
[okcchamber.com/juneforum](http://okcchamber.com/juneforum)

#### June 25 Rise & Shine

9 to 10 a.m.  
[okcchamber.com/riseshine](http://okcchamber.com/riseshine)

#### June 26 Enlighten Webinar

Noon to 1 p.m.  
[okcchamber.com/events](http://okcchamber.com/events)

#### July 10 Enlighten Webinar

Noon to 1 p.m.  
[okcchamber.com/events](http://okcchamber.com/events)

#### July 13 State of Health

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
[okcchamber.com/statehealth](http://okcchamber.com/statehealth)

#### July 14 Member Orientation

9 to 10 a.m.  
[okcchamber.com/orientation2](http://okcchamber.com/orientation2)

#### July 15 Chamber Forum

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
[okcchamber.com/julyforum](http://okcchamber.com/julyforum)

## Chamber Forum resumes its programming on June 17

The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber's monthly Chamber Forum event series will resume its programming virtually on Wednesday, June 17, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The June Forum will feature the perspectives of companies about why they choose to grow in Oklahoma City and what our community can do to better support a vibrant business climate.

Speakers include Alexis Lusby, HR / Recruiting Manager for Rural Sourcing; Heather Nottingham, Regional Sales Director / Site Director for Dell EMC; and Larry Sanford, Executive Vice President for M-D Building Products Incorporated. The cost of this virtual event is \$15 for Chamber members and \$25 for nonmembers. Register online at [www.okcchamber.com/juneforum](http://www.okcchamber.com/juneforum). Special thanks to our Series Presenting Sponsor Cox Business and Series Corporate Sponsor ADG.

## State of Health to feature community health care leaders on July 13

The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber's State of Health signature event returns on Monday, July 13, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will focus on how innovative health care practices can increase wellness outcomes in our community. This virtual event will feature noted health care and finance filmmaker and researcher Ron Galloway. Galloway will deliver a keynote address on how innovation and technology might light the way forward in a post-pandemic health care industry society.

The event will also feature two panel discussions with community health care leaders focusing on public health in the Greater Oklahoma City region. The leaders of Oklahoma City's four major health institutions will participate in a panel discussion that will give event viewers an update on our region's hospitals. An additional panel discussion will highlight public health officials as they give an overview of the community's response to COVID-19 and what our region might expect in the fall. View speaker names and register for this event at [www.okcchamber.com/statehealth](http://www.okcchamber.com/statehealth). Individual tickets are \$25 for Chamber members and \$40 for nonmembers. Special thanks to Presenting Sponsor BKD CPAs & Advisors and Host Sponsor OU Medicine.



*Ron Galloway will be delivering the keynote address at this year's event.*

## Small business owners are using creative measures to keep in front of their customer base

Oklahoma City's resilient retail industry is fighting back after a two-month shutdown. Whether online, curbside or on social media, retailers are finding new ways to help customers even in these extraordinarily difficult times.

Traci Walton is the owner of Chamber member Plenty Mercantile, a sustainable lifestyle store with three locations in the Oklahoma City metro area. She has managed to rally support from her employees and customers while maintaining her optimistic outlook.

"When the shutdown happened, none of us knew how it would play out regarding its duration and scope," Walton said. "We knew we were going to do our best to keep our staff intact. They are what make our business go. We quickly shifted many employees to our e-commerce site so we could make it better for our customers. We couldn't have done this large of personnel transitioning before because of the demands that exist by running 24/7."

Walton said she believes that her 8-year-old store has been able to survive thanks to multiple locations and a well-stocked inventory while they scaled down orders from manufacturers. The company was able to shift inventory from its newly opened Edmond location to its main store at 807 N. Broadway in Oklahoma City. Also, the Edmond store was the benefactor of a surplus in stock at the OKC store.

"We were driven to tears by the outpouring of our customers, many of which have been with us since the beginning," Walton said. "People on our social media sites have been very encouraging. They believe in us and showed their support by continuing to order. We have had signs stuck on our windows telling us to "hang in there" and "stay with us."

Walton said that even though they are phasing back into full operations a lot of unknowns remain. "I know this may sound weird to some, but we'll emerge out of this as a stronger business. The Oklahoma Standard of taking care of your neighbor remains alive. We have witnessed it played out every day."

At The Black Scintilla, a Chamber member clothing boutique that is favored among women across the city, owner Rachel Gruntmeir has cut her hours in half but continues to make the shop available through free



*Many stores like The Black Scintilla are finding new ways to serve their customers through adaptations such as private shopping, enhanced online presence and curbside delivery.*

private appointments and growing its social media reach.

"We know there are a lot of people uncomfortable shopping in crowds right now," Gruntmeir said. "Our hours are now 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., but we have continued a good number of private appointments outside that time frame. We are eager to work with our customers and to assure them that we will continue to follow the guidelines for opening businesses such as ours."

Gruntmeir said that even with the private appointment option available, her boutique has done well by pivoting more to do-it-yourself projects that people can enjoy from their home. "We know many people have been switched to working remotely or have been forced home because of a job loss. We quickly added a whole line of simple craft projects that families can do around their house with their kids and so they can better enjoy their time together."

While foot traffic outside their location at 112 N. Walker remains light, Gruntmeir has been able to accommodate those who prefer to stay at home.

"Our gift cards have been popular and are very unique. We wrap them for free and even write a handwritten note from the sender before mailing it. Much of our business is by referrals. A positive review, a share on Facebook, all generate new business. I think Oklahoma City's small business community has an incredible spirit and has the best interest at heart for each of us."

# Top Chamber priorities enacted (cont'd from page 1)

Jail Trust, were passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Stitt.

The following is a report on the highlights of the historic and memorable 2020 legislative session, which ranks among the most abbreviated in state history.

## Critical changes to software/cyber-security program enacted during the final days of the session

In 2019, the Chamber successfully pursued the creation of an incentive program to develop and retain software engineer/cybersecurity professionals in Oklahoma. However, following the 2019 session we were made aware of a drafting error that resulted in the omission of 85% of the college degree programs intended to qualify for the incentive. For this workforce development program to be effective, the Chamber pursued legislation this year to include the primary degree programs (computer science, computer engineering) to the program. Facilitating the development of this sector of the Oklahoma workforce is critical to building an economy with high-paying 21st-century jobs. Tinker AFB could presently hire 1,000 software/cyber-security engineers if they were available.

The Chamber would like to thank Sen. Stephanie Bice (R-OKC) and Rep. Scott Fetgatter (R-Okmulgee) for their excellent work on SB 1204, as well as Gov. Stitt, who signed the bill into law on May 18.

## Oklahoma County Jail Trust allowed to follow the status quo on legal judgments

The Chamber gained passage of an important measure relating to the Oklahoma County Detention Center (County Jail) during the final week of the session. The Chamber requested legislation on behalf of the newly formed Oklahoma County Criminal Justice Authority (Jail Trust), which will assume financial and operational control of the County Jail on July 1, to allow county commissioners to treat liability judgments against the Jail Trust in the same manner as judgments are currently treated—by placing the judgments on the county tax rolls.

HB 2668 by Rep. Mark Lepak (R-Claremore) and Sen. Adam Pugh (R-Edmond) provides this option/ability to county commissioners and the Jail Trust. The legislation was passed 95-4 by the House during the final week of the session after being passed the week before by the Senate 45-0. The bill was signed into law by Gov. Stitt on May

20. We would like to thank Rep. Lepak and Sen. Pugh for their successful efforts. We also want to give a special thanks to Oklahoma State Treasurer Randy McDaniel, who postponed legislation he was pursuing on behalf of the Treasurer's office (HB 2668) so the Chamber could insert the Jail Trust language into his bill.

## State Question 780 (Criminal Justice Reform) protected

One of the positive outcomes of the shortened session was harmful legislation that did not advance, such as multiple attempts to roll back SQ 780, which was approved by Oklahoma voters in 2016 and reclassified many low-level drug possession and property crimes as misdemeanors (from felonies). Multiple bills were introduced that would have rolled back those important reforms by reinstating felonies for certain drug possession and larceny crimes. The Chamber worked with a broad coalition to oppose those bills, which ultimately failed to advance once the Legislature returned to the Capitol.

## Harmful gun measures fail to advance

Over the past several years, the Chamber has led "Oklahomans for Business and Property Owners' Rights," a coalition of more than 50 businesses, business/economic development associations, educational institutions and law enforcement organizations as opposed to the harmful expansion of gun rights in Oklahoma. This session, at least 50 bills proposed the continued expansion of gun rights, including legislation to allow guns on college campuses and legislation to limit the rights of business owners and event hosts to prohibit firearms. As the session came to a close, Oklahomans for Business and Property Owners' Rights was again successful in stopping all legislation that would have negatively impacted the rights of a business owner, event host, or college campus to control firearms. The Chamber would like to thank all members of the coalition for their continued support.

## Governor protects the state's five-year ad valorem exemption for new manufacturing facilities

On May 14 and 15, the House and Senate voted to repeal one of the state's premier economic development programs, the five-year ad valorem exemption for new manufacturing facilities. On May 21, at the request of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, the State Chamber and Tulsa Regional Chamber, Gov. Stitt vetoed the legislation

(SB 1595). This economic development program is a valuable tool in recruiting new manufacturing operations to locate in Oklahoma and has been successfully used by our Chamber. Repealing this program would unilaterally disarm Oklahoma from competing on a level playing field with other states, most all of whom offer this incentive. The Chamber applauds Gov. Stitt for his pro-business veto of SB 1595.

## COVID-19 business liability protections pass Legislature

Legislation authored by Senate President Pro Tempore Greg Treat (R-OKC) and Speaker of the House Charles McCall (R-Atoka) provides civil liability immunity to a business if it had safely reopened and was operating in accordance with federal/state regulations, a Presidential or Gubernatorial Executive Order or CDC guidelines at the time of the alleged exposure. SB 1946 passed the House 76-20 and the Senate 34-11 during the final week of the session. In addition, SB 1947, also authored by Treat and McCall, provides lawsuit protections to businesses that manufacture or donate materials in response to the COVID-19 crisis. Gov. Stitt signed both bills into law on May 21. The effort to pass this legislation was led by the

## Coalition focuses on OKC COVID-19 research

Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation (OMRF) and the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC) are teaming with institutions around the United States to study the safest ways for people to return to work as the COVID-19 pandemic lessens.

Oklahoma City has been chosen as an initial test city for the "START Coalition" (Smart Testing and Analysis to Return Tomorrow) and hopes to lessen the virus threat until a vaccine is created and to also come up with long-term preventive measures while also leading to a cure.

The coalition includes some of the world's leading medical researchers. Partners include Harvard Medical School's Center for Global Health Delivery and experts from Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy.

The coalition, consisting of local corporate executives and researchers as well as experts from top institutions, is focused on creating a surplus of tests and samples to investigate how many asymptomatic cases have spread and the search for an antidote to the virus.

OMRF President Stephen Prescott, M.D., said Oklahoma City's selection was a combination of a number of things.

State Chamber and supported by the Greater Oklahoma City and Tulsa Regional Chambers.

## Regional transportation legislation has momentum, on temporary hold

The Chamber worked closely with the Central Oklahoma Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) on legislation (HB 3155/SB 1263) seeking to amend state law to provide liability protection for Class 1 railroads should central Oklahoma decided to pursue the development of passenger rail (Edmond-OKC-Norman). These bills received strong support in the Senate and House (HB 3155 passed by House, SB 1263 passed by Senate). However, due to the shortened session, these bills did not advance through the entire legislative process. Plans are underway to resume efforts to pursue this legislation again next session. We would like to thank Sen. Adam Pugh (R-Edmond), Rep. Ryan Martinez (R-Edmond), RTA leadership (including Chairman and former Governor Brad Henry) and several central Oklahoma cities and chambers of commerce for their help on this legislation.

"The OMRF and the OU Health Sciences Center got into the conversation early," Prescott said. "Oklahoma City is an ideal sample size. Like the children's story 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears,' we're not too hot and not too cold. We're not too big and not too small. The coalition thought of us as just right."



OMRF President Stephen Prescott, M.D.

Prescott said Oklahoma City COVID-19 cases are currently running at 3% whereas New York City is running over 30%.

"It would be very hard to do the things that we are trying to do if we were the size of a major metropolitan city such as New York City," Prescott said. "Here the evidence will be obtained quicker and studied earlier since we have allowed a large segment of the population to begin working from their places of employment."

# OKC leaders helping business community navigate through economic rebuild

The COVID-19 pandemic has accounted for many businesses suffering from critical financial hardships. Regretfully, some small businesses have not made it through and others remain unsure about the future.

While work continues to provide support and assistance, a number of Oklahoma City business leaders have emerged as heroes by helping many until the community reaches the other side of this pandemic.



**Steve Hart**  
*Executive Vice President,  
First Fidelity Bank*

“I received a phone call from Brent Bryant, finance director for the City of Oklahoma City. He described the Oklahoma City Small Business Continuity

Program and asked if First Fidelity would be willing to partner with the city to help the community.

“Our role was to help provide underwriting assistance using our standardized small business loan scoring to help OKC evaluate the ‘No-interest forgivable loans’ and the ‘low-interest 10-year loans’ available for the OKC Small Business Continuity Loan. We volunteered to help the City provide our bank expertise with the administration of the loans to accept payments and track the history of each loan originated under the new program. It was a pleasure working with great representatives from OKC, the Chamber and The Alliance for Economic Development for Oklahoma City which provided necessary technical support to the team.

“Oklahoma’s banks are strong and continue to be very willing to help support local businesses during a time of need. Employees of First Fidelity Bank enjoy opportunities to strengthen our community and help local businesses face the economic challenges presented during these difficult times. We also provided more than 1,600 Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) forgivable loans for a combined amount exceeding \$177 million to small businesses under the SBA’s program. We value our local small businesses and truly appreciate the invitation to partner with the City to help provide much-needed assistance to local companies.”



**Mark Nance**  
*VP, Chief Data Officer,  
American Fidelity*

“I received a phone call from the Chamber asking if we could provide assistance creating a portal for the purpose of taking applications for small business assistance grants and

loans in relief of those impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. I discussed the situation with our team and let them know that we believed that we could be of assistance.

“Our team participated in meetings right away to get an understanding of the requirements and related timeframes. We proposed a solution for the creation of a portal for the public to use in applying for a grant or loan including the back-end processes to communicate this information to the appropriate parties. The entire process was very collaborative and the dynamic of the cross-organizational teams coming together to build a viable solution in a very compressed time frame was energizing. Our team set about the task of creating the website and getting it operational. After going live, we continued working to solve support questions, develop further enhancements and ensuring all parties were receiving the data that they were needing.

“We wanted to contribute, however possible, in efforts to benefit our business community. The situation with COVID-19 and the resulting shutdowns are unprecedented in our lifetimes. Our executives and leadership collectively wanted to contribute in any way possible to help our City and community. It was the right thing to do.”



**Chris Cox**  
*Owner,  
The House*

“Once the shutdown began, we knew right away that many of our clients that we work with would need to cut costs as quickly as possible. We figured marketing

would be among the first to go. So, we created ‘The House Helps,’ an immersive live stream fundraising

programming that seeks out small donations from a large audience. It’s crowdsourcing with a twist. We knew that if everyone chipped in \$1, we could raise a couple of thousand fast. We win by keeping people at home safe and entertained. We win when we continue to do what we love and hopefully inspire others.

“Our first event was with my personal favorite watering hole in OKC, The Pump Bar and Bunker Club. We tried a unique setup where we brought in some of their employees to do cocktail demonstrations and more. We created different tiers of donation. For instance, if we received a \$25 donation, one in the group would take a shot. It worked its way up to The Pump giving away a 50-person party that contained drinks for the top level. It was a lot of fun.

“Since then we’ve worked with OSO, the Picasso Cafe, the Other Room and The Dust Bowl dolls. All totalled, we have raised \$16,141 with plans to do more livestream fundraising events, with our next one being with OKC Pride since they have to cancel their annual event. We also pass through 100% of all donations, our team has been working extremely hard at a pro-bono rate because we love this city and the community it’s become and we are honored to keep that spirit alive in desperate times.”



**Hailey McDermid**  
*Owner,  
The Pump Bar/Bunker Club*

“The shutdown could not have come at a worse time for us. We were gearing up for our busiest season which is March, April and

May. When it warms up outside and is beautiful that’s when we’re the busiest. We survive on our spring business that’s what keeps us alive. We closed on March 16, the day before St. Patrick’s Day. It was painful and scary on a lot of levels. I have 37 people that I employ, and I was scared of what that was going to mean for them.

“While we were waiting to re-open I wanted a way to be involved and help even if it was from my house. I reached out to some friends I know who work at the OU Heart Hospital and asked what they might need. That is where I found out about the mask extenders.

“They are small plastic devices that allow you to adjust

your mask to make it tighter or looser depending on how it fits. A lot of people liked them and told me how it takes the pressure off the back of the ear and keeps it from falling off their face.”

“I’ve been using a pair of 3-D printers to make them. It takes one hour to print eight of them, so it’s a slow go. But, in 45 days we have made and distributed over 2,000 to area hospitals and EMSA personnel.”

**Jana Steelman**



*Vice President/Communications,  
United Way of Central Oklahoma*

“We had begun starting a response beginning on March 11. It became really real on March 16 and we’ve been in full disaster mode since then. We still have been able to continue providing

our basic services, but we knew we had to act quickly and come up with new ways to reach those agencies who depend on us.

“What has helped us is that we have experience in generating disaster response funds including the Murrah Building bombing and the May 3 tornado outbreak. Because of this, we were able to put our COVID response fund into action relatively quickly.

“Our board of trustees took action and established a response fund dedicated to increasing resilience among our most vulnerable individuals and families. We were able to quickly distribute those funds in support of our partner agencies of the United Way of Central Oklahoma and used to address the needs of those individuals who are experiencing COVID-19 related hardship. Primarily we are helping people due to temporary unemployment, lost income or unexpected expenses related and due to COVID-19.

“Since then, we saw an outpouring of support from the community. We’ve raised more than \$1.2 million and have distributed more than \$1 million to 25 different partnering agencies in the community. We were lucky to get this out the door. It has allowed us to provide money right away so these agencies could survive until federal funding arrives. We’re still accepting donations because none of us know how long the need will remain.”

*Continued on page 11*

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Businesses who join the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber are part of the largest coalition of businesses in the state and make the Chamber's work in the community possible. Each member level is identified on the listing below.

## ADVISOR

### Stride Bank

*Banks*  
Mr. Kevin Guarnera ..... 594-2600  
514 Colcord Drive  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102  
www.stridebank.com

## CORE

### Bio-One OKC

*Environmental Services*  
Mr. Martin Mayfield ..... 816-5744  
P.O. Box 545  
Mustang, OK 73064  
www.biooneokc.com

## CORE

### Ned's Catering LLC

*Caterers*  
Mr. Ned Shadid ..... 810-0208  
6444 N.W. Expressway, Suite 840A  
Oklahoma City, OK 73132  
www.nedscatering.com

## CORE

### Pippin Properties

*Real Estate - Commercial*  
Mr. Phillip Pippin ..... 848-6161  
5653 N. Pennsylvania Ave.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

## Members Upgrade Their Support of the Chamber

The following member companies increased their investment in the Chamber, demonstrating strong support of the Chamber's efforts to drive the region's economy. To increase your investment, contact the membership division of the Chamber at 405-297-8949 or membership@okcchamber.com.



## PARTNER+

### HoganTaylor LLP

*Accountants and Accounting Services*  
Mr. Richard A. Wright ..... 848-2020  
1225 N. Broadway Ave., Suite 200  
Oklahoma City, OK 73103  
www.hogantaylor.com

## ADVISOR

### Epworth Villa

*Retirement Communities & Homes*  
Ms. Beth Case ..... 752-1200  
14901 N. Pennsylvania Ave.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73134-6071  
www.epworthvilla.org

## Leaders navigating through rebuild (cont'd from page 7)



### Deborah McAuliffe Senner

*President/CEO,  
Allied Arts*

"We were preparing to host our 18th annual Artini event, Oklahoma City's largest martini competition and art auction which brings together 800-1,000 patrons, local restaurants, entertainment and local artists for a dynamic evening benefiting the arts. We were truly excited about this year's event which we had entitled, Camptini – A Celebration of the Outrageous.

"However, since all large-scale events were being canceled or postponed we took a huge leap and decided to take our event totally virtual. We first contacted all of our sponsors, and they agreed to our virtual decision.

"The artists were supportive as well, so we launched our virtual bidding website and ended up with the most successful Artini in the 18-year history of the event, raising over \$121,000. We sold \$60,000 in artwork. We gave artists 100 percent of the art sales. Then our partners at

UPS donated their time and resources in delivering all of the artwork to the purchasers. I am thankful for my team at Allied Arts who were able to quickly adapt, to the committee for planning, to all of the sponsors and attendees who helped to make it a success and to UPS for delivering.

"The art world is affected in calamitous ways and will likely be among the last to return to any kind of normalcy due to our interaction with large groups and audiences. Allied Arts also launched the Central Oklahoma Arts Relief fund to respond to the emergency needs of the arts and cultural community. We've spent more than 20 years growing a vibrant arts community in Oklahoma. When we reach the other side of this pandemic it will be the arts that continue to educate, inspire, enlighten and entertain Oklahoma audiences. We're doing some heavy lifting, but no one entity can shoulder the entire economic loss to the art sector. That's why we are appealing to the community for their support."

To see other heroes of the OKC community, check out more at [velocityokc.com/okcbizboost](http://velocityokc.com/okcbizboost).

## ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Oklahoma City ranked as one of America's hardest-working cities

### Hardest-Working Cities in the U.S.

Overall Rank	City	Total Score	Direct Work Factors Rank	Indirect Work Factors Rank
1	Anchorage, AK	80.07	4	8
2	San Francisco, CA	76.87	3	43
3	Virginia Beach, VA	76.61	13	13
20	Sioux Falls, SD	69.51	19	69
21	Arlington, TX	69.38	18	60
<b>22</b>	<b>Oklahoma City, OK</b>	<b>69.08</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>67</b>
23	Salt Lake City, UT	68.58	54	1
24	Houston, TX	68.52	17	80

Source: WalletHub 2020; US Census Bureau & Bureau of Labor Statistics

- Oklahoma City was ranked the 22nd most hard-working city in America.
- WalletHub compared a total of 116 of the most populated cities to determine where the hardest-working Americans live.
- They based their ranking across two dimensions (Direct Work Factors & Indirect Work Factors) that included a total of 11 key metrics.
- A few of the factors included average workweek hours, vacation time unused, employment rate and share of workers with multiple jobs.

For comprehensive Economic Indicators and Regional Data, [www.greateroklahomacity.com/economicindicators](http://www.greateroklahomacity.com/economicindicators) or contact Eric Long, Research Economist – 297-8976; [elong@okcchamber.com](mailto:elong@okcchamber.com)

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