

POA Governmental Affairs Committee

2008 Annual Report

In April 2007 Keith Brown and Jim Zahnd replaced committee members Paul Day and Teri Jackson who had each been elected to the POA Board of Directors. POA Director Bob Shoemaker continued to serve as the POA Board Liaison and Linda Mayhood continued to be our POA Staff Liaison. The incumbent committee members included Herb Perrin , Ron Petti, Jerry Yeric, Tom Arwood, Tom Bryant, Art Saalfield, Keith Brown, Jim Zahnd with EX-official members, Al Behn for water management and John Lands for school coordination. Once the new committee was seated Tom Arwood was elected Chairman and Tom Bryant elected Vice Chairman with Ron Petti designated as Secretary.

The first item of business for this committee was to organize the committee with members working in the same county area as they resided in. Tom Bryant was designated the leader for Garland County and Art Saalfield for Saline County. All members assigned then were living in the counties they worked with. This worked well as our counterparts appreciated that our people that worked with them also voted in their county.

The committee continued to work closely with each county and the communities throughout the year. In Garland county committee members sat in the Quorum Court, Chamber of Commerce, Governmental Affairs committee,(MPO) Metro Planning Office Hot Springs City Council and closely with the County Judge Larry Williams and his office, maintained close coordination with JP Dist. 11 Larry Griffin and JP Dist 12 Mickey Gates. Additionally they kept in touch and provided information of interest to State Senator Terry Smith and State Representative Bill Sample. In Saline County the members attended a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce in Bryant and Benton, Governmental Affairs committees in those two cities, sat in the Saline County Quorum court and Chairman Tom Arwood was elected to be on the Executive Board and full Board of the Saline County Economic Development Corporation. Close ties were made with State Senator Shane Broadway of Bryant and Hot Springs Village and State Representative Dan Greenberg who represents part of Hot Springs Village.

Listed below are highlighted actions and items of interest under taken by the Committee during the year from 2007 to 2008:

- The committee reviewed the current "White Papers" for update and preparation to work with the representatives before the next session of the Senate and the House;
- The GAC worked with the POA Staff and Board in hosting the State Highway Commissioner Carl Rosenbaum in the Village to discuss the

highway situation of the bypass from Hot Springs as well as the possible improvement of Hwy 5 to the east from the Village.

- The GAC hosted the Fountain Lake School Board candidates in a forum in the Village so attendees could know them before the election in the fall. John Lands chaired the session and then gave an excellent update on the issues at Fountain Lake School.
- The GAC continued to stay abreast of the environmental and water issues that effect or may impact the Village. Al Behm attends all the meetings held by AIM and ADEQ.
- Members of the GAC worked on both the Declaration changes and the Ordinances (Noise & Maintenance). The Declaration was approved by the property owners by vote and GAC members worked with the County JP's and each county quorum court and was successful in having both counties to pass the ordinances. This provides the enforcement tools the Village needs in Village maintenance.
- The GAC committee set up a forum for all the State Representatives that represent the Village to give the Village people feedback on the legislative actions during the session. They also gave those in attendance a feel for what the issues will be in the 2009 session.
- The GAC arranged for the Fountain Lake School Board to have an "off sight" meeting in the Village. The Superintendent was very pleased with the place and the support.
- Members of the GAC attended the annual Chamber of Commerce dinners held in February. This included Hot Springs, Hot Springs Village, Bryant and Benton. At each location the representatives of Hot Springs Village were recognized. Board members of the POA were also in attendance.
- The GAC committee is working on the Hwy. 5 project and has support from Benton and Bryant. Senator Shane Broadway is working with the Committee to have Governor Beebe visit Hot Springs Village in April to discuss the value of encouraging people to relocate to Arkansas. The current interest is in encouraging tourists with little support for relocation.
- The GAC committee has continued to work with the Little Rock MPO to assure the census in 2010 includes the entire village. In the 2000 census a large portion in the east end of the Village was not identified as part of the village. We have now been advised that 13,950 residents are now identified with the Village. Tom Arwood is working on the Saline County census board to make sure the Village is properly identified.