



# The Commerce Connection

*"To promote the business growth and enhance the business environment of the Peotone area. "*



Spring, 2008

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## Thoughts for Today:

"You can't direct the wind, but you can adjust your sails..."

Unknown

In a quarrel, leave room for reconciliation.

Russian Proverb

"Right or wrong, the customer is always right."

Marshall Fields

## From the President:

Hello Again,

It looks like spring is finally upon us and the long winter of 2007-2008 has finally ended. It is a privilege to have the opportunity to share this publication with you and get you updated on the latest news and events from your Chamber of Commerce.



Well, it's finally here! The Peotone Sesquicentennial DVD production is complete. In it, you'll find pictures from some of Peotone's "first families", celebrations during the Sesquicentennial Year, and recognition of our proud sponsors for all of the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration events. Many of you remember the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary book that was published 50+ years ago in honor of the Centennial Celebration. This nostalgic piece of memorabilia encapsulated 100 years of Peotone history, writings of significant moments, and memories of the first 100 years of our town. Likewise, this is our contribution in the form of a modern-day DVD. For only \$35.00, you can take advantage of this opportunity to acquire a "movie" version of the ongoing legacy of Peotone. Place an order today by calling the Chamber office at 708.258.9450 or e-mail Kim at peotonechamber@hotmail.com.

I would like to thank the Daily Journal of Peotone for hosting a very successful and well-attended Business After Hours in February. It was great to be able to put a "name on the face" of the many individuals who are responsible for publishing a daily newspaper that serves our community. I'm looking forward to the next Business After Hours, scheduled for May 8<sup>th</sup> at the Throwback II Sports Bar & Grill.

Congratulations to the Peotone High School Dance Team on their three first place trophies at the Team Dance Illinois State Championship. Congratulations also to the Peotone Junior High 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Volleyball 2nd place finish at the IESA State Tournament. The Chamber is very proud of all of these student athletes.

Also, congratulations to our member, First Community Bank and Trust, for winning Illinois State Representative Lisa Dugan's "Good Neighbor" Business of the Year Award.

In addition, good luck to Helen Lewis on her retirement from Peotone Bank and Trust Co. after 27 years of employment. Job well done Helen.

Finally, please take a moment to read through the following pages and get acquainted with your Chamber. The Chamber encourages the community to frequent and utilize all of its members. Conversely, the Chamber Board strives to serve our members in a way that facilitates their efforts to be known in the community. To join, log onto [www.peotonechamber.com](http://www.peotonechamber.com) and download a membership application, or just call the chamber office.

Sincerely yours,

Marty Schmidt  
President



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The Peotone Chamber of Commerce is proud to introduce two of our members who are moms with businesses that are run out of their homes. In this day and age, it's difficult to balance raising children with earning an income. Janet Merigold of *Learn With Us, Inc.*, a tutoring service, and Michelle Miller, of *Michelle Miller Photography*, are two examples of how it works.

## Learn With Us, Inc. - Janet Merigold

A certified teacher, graduating with a Master of Education degree from National-Louis University in 1997, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Loyola University in 1993, Janet spent the first years of her career in the classroom. After starting a family, Janet went to Sylvan Learning Center, where she was able to work a more flexible schedule. From there, she decided to open up her own tutoring business, where she could serve students more locally, in the Peotone, Monee, and Frankfort districts.

At *Learn With Us* tutoring service, instructors are able to provide tailored, one-on-one tutoring in the comfort and convenience of a home, although instructors are more than happy to meet with students wherever it is most convenient, even at the child's school, or the local library. After receiving an academic assessment based on accepted grade level requirements, instruction and lessons are planned specifically for each child. The program is designed to help the student learn new strategies that will help them develop better study habits. The result? Reluctant learners become eager learners! Along with achieving confidence and improved self-esteem, academic improvement is almost certainly the outcome.

Learn With Us, Inc. has over 15 years of classroom experience in regular, special, and alternative school settings. This enables the program to cater to the needs of all students, including those with learning disabilities, poor reading comprehension, and ADD/ADHD. Instructors have special education training and follow plans that will compliment existing classroom strategies and enhance individual development.

If you are interested in getting in touch with Janet Merigold of Learn With Us, Inc., she can be reached at 708-743-9872. Janet is also a substitute teacher in the district, so if you have kids in school, you may be seeing her soon!



Michelle Miller's passion for photography



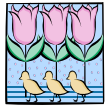
began back in the eighties while she was in high school. She started shooting film and just kept shooting, not to start a business, but just because she loved to do it! Michelle purchased her first digital SLR camera by the time she had given birth to her last child. She was completely blown away by the ease of shooting digital photography and hasn't been able to put the camera down since. What began as a hobby has turned into a thriving business. Michelle has studied (and continues to study) photography by attending frequent workshops, conferences, reading, and is a student of photography through the New York Institute of Photography. She is currently studying for the Certified Professional Photography (CPP) exam through PPA (Professional Photographers of America).

Her other passion is teaching. For the past 10 years, she has been teaching high school Biology and Anatomy at Oak Lawn Community High School in Oak Lawn, IL. She earned her bachelor's degree in science at Eastern Illinois University in 1998 and is currently pursuing her master's degree in education at Olivet Nazarene University.

In 1999, Michelle opened up an on-line business selling hair bows, which her youngest daughter, Shannon modeled for her. Many clothing designers came across her photography work from her hair bow website and asked Michelle to photograph their designs for them. After doing this for a about 2 years, Michelle and Shannon were hired by GreggyGirl.com (an online children's clothing boutique) to shoot part of their Spring '06 collection. She also worked for an online children's boutique named "Lotu Blu". During this time, word was spreading and Michelle began to get frequent requests from families to photograph their children. It was around this time (2006) that she closed her hair bow business and began taking on photography clients.

Michelle currently resides in Peotone, IL with her husband and 3 children.

# Peotone Chamber of Commerce



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Charter One Bank	Peotone Park District
Chef Klaus' Peotone Bier Stube	Peotone Police Dept.
Daily Journal	Peotone Public Library
Dralle Chevrolet & Buick	Peotone Storage
Dreis Krump Manufacturing	Peotone Township
Fedde – Helfrich	Peter J. March, DDS
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First Community Insurance	Pueblo Viejo
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Good Times Video	RLR Insurance
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Keira Construction	Teresa Foods
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Learn With Us	Tongren Law Offices
McDonald's	Tunzi & Sons Landscaping, Inc.
Melco Tire	United Country Properties
Michelle Miller Photography	Village of Peotone
Natural Health & Wellness Ctr.	VIP Pizza
Nature's Turf	Will County Fairgrounds
Nietfeldt Insurance	Will Township
Osby Water Conditioning	Your Logo Here

## What's Happening....

- Wed., Apr. 9th - 8:30am  
Chamber BOD Mtg.  
First Comm. Bank
- Apr. 18, 19, 20th  
PHS presents,  
*Cinderella*
- Thurs., May 8th  
5-7pm  
Business After Hours  
Throwback II
- Wed., May 14th – 8:30am  
Chamber BOD Mtg.  
First Comm. Bank
- Mon. May 26th  
Memorial Day
- Wed. June 11th - 8:30am  
Chamber BOD Mtg.  
First Comm. Bank

## Congratulations!

To our Board Member, Scot Carder and his wife, Amber who added boy #3, Everett, to their family on February 4th!



## **We would love to have you on board!**

Being a member of the Chamber enables you to market your products and services in the surrounding community. By displaying your Chamber Membership Plaque, your business receives credibility, visibility, and marketability. Your business will receive free listing on our website, with a free link from the Chamber's page to yours. Our Member Spotlight features a new chamber member on the website each month. A free subscription to the Vedette also comes with your membership, not to mention referrals from the Chamber to your business. Finally, a quarterly newsletter is published for our members and the community and placed as an insert in the Vedette. The newsletter provides the opportunity for our members to advertise and announce any upcoming promotions or events they may be planning. These are just a few of the advantages of becoming a member of your Chamber of Commerce. For more information about us, and for a complete listing of membership, go to our website at [www.peotonechamber.com](http://www.peotonechamber.com). You can download a membership application, or feel free to call the Peotone Chamber of Commerce at 258-9450. We look forward to hearing from you!

## Peotone Chamber of Commerce

104 W. Main St. Phone (708)258-9450  
P.O. Box 877 Fax (708)258-3956  
Peotone, IL 60468



### Peotone Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

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*First Community Bank and Trust*

**Bob Rademacher, Vice Pres.**  
*RLR Insurance*

**Tammy Hoffman, Treasurer**  
*First Community Bank and Trust*

**Adam Baumgartner**  
*Baumgartner's Unlimited*

**Scot Carder**  
*Peotone Bank & Trust*

**Kevin Carey**  
*Peotone CUSD 207U*

**Karen Dralle**  
*Dralle Chevrolet Buick*

**Dr. Christine Hoch,**  
*Natural Health Chiropractic*

**Kay Hoffman**  
*Land-N-Lots Realty*

**Adam Jones**  
*Jones Enterprises*

**Mike Jones**  
*Jones Enterprises*

**Dan Mosca**  
*State Farm Insurance*

**Ken Shivers**  
*Peotone Bank and Trust*



A group shot was taken at the Business After Hours held at the Daily Journal offices in Peotone. Listed from left to right are Nancy Ghiotto, Carrie Wick, Craig Campbell, Cherie Smolkovich, Ken Munjy, Dawn Breedon, Lyle Turro, Tom Goodrich, and Amy Fields.

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### ATTENTION CHAMBER MEMBERS

This publication goes out quarterly. If there is anything you would like us to place in the next newsletter, please let us know. The next edition of the Commerce Connection will go out in June. We would love to feature any information that would assist you in promoting your business. Please e-mail the chamber at [peotonechamber@hotmail.com](mailto:peotonechamber@hotmail.com) or call Kim at 258-9450.

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