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Shelby Area Chamber of Commerce hosting Cinco De Mayo party May 5

By Jennifer Van Heel Shelby Promoter Apr 12, 2023 0



The Shelby Area Chamber of Commerce is excited to host its annual Chamber Banquet with this year's event happening on May 5, Cinco De Mayo!

This year's banquet will definitely be a party at the Elks Lodge, with live music by the Slow Rollers and TLC Catering will be keeping with the theme and serving an amazing dinner full of Mexican cuisine.

Tickets are currently on sale for \$45 per person, which includes two free drink tickets.

There are also table and sponsorship options and to learn more about being a sponsor, contact Chamber Executive Director Shane Adams at (406) 434-7184 or shelymtcoc@gmail.com for more information.

The doors open at 5:30 p.m. for no-host cocktails, provided by the Elks, with dinner getting underway at 6 p.m.

This year's guest speaker is one you won't want to miss, Dr. Gerard Gibbons, grandson of famous boxer Tommy Gibbons. The 1923 Dempsey/Gibbons fight made history right here in Shelby and with the centennial celebration of the fight coming up in July it is an honor to have him travel from California to come speak prior to the festivities.

There will be a silent auction and possibly a live auction with Jeff Flesch. "Jeff Flesch is set up as auctioneer, depending what we get for donations exactly will determine if we do live auction or just silent auction/bucket prizes," said Adams.

Auction items are still being sought and collected and once all have been received it will be decided if a live auction will be taking place.

There will also be 50/50 tickets for sale and a gun raffle. Tickets for the gun raffle are currently available from any Chamber member and the drawing will take place at the conclusion of the banquet. The gun being raffled is a Sig Sauer P365 9mm pistol with three magazines and a holster. You must be 21-years-old to win and be able to pass a background check. The winner does not need to be present to win. Tickets are \$20 each and if you buy five you get one free.

Tickets are on sale now and available for purchase from any Chamber Board member or the Chamber office, located at 239 Main Street in Shelby. Call (406) 434-7184 or email shelymtcoc@gmail.com for more information or any questions.

The silent auction, live auction, bucket packages and gun raffle were all extremely successful. There were 20 silent auction items up for grabs and all were sold. There were a total of six live auction items and those were also bid up and bought quickly.

Mikel Martin, of Conrad, was the lucky winner of the gun raffle. There were eight different bucket packages for raffles and a nice sum of money was brought in by those as well.

"We are still compiling our numbers for money raised, but everything is pointing to it being very successful," smiled Adams. "We raised more than expected, it was great!"

A few awards given out to some very deserving folks during the event. The Leadership Award went to Leavitt Group, the Helping Hands Award was accepted by Kevin and Elaine Mitchell and the New Prominent Business award was given to Northern Plains Electric. Tim Moylan and his wife, Kayla, were recognized as new business owners and prior Chamber Executive Director, Ashley Lampert, was recognized and thanked for all of her hard work.

"I did not present Ashley with an actual award, but recognized her for all the help and support she gave me while I learned, and continue to learn, my job," said Adams.

"Without her assistance I wouldn't be able to be doing what I'm doing and hopefully people think I'm being successful at it too!"

There were also some great door prizes given away. Tim Moylan was the winner of two tickets to the Marias Fair and Chrissy Bauman is the lucky winner of four tickets to the boxing matches taking place on July 4.

Throughout the event people enjoyed the music provided by the band, "The Slow Rollers," and featured speaker, Dr. Gerard Gibbons, grandson of boxer, Tommy Gibbons, gave an interesting, insider's version of the "fight that won't stay dead" from 1923. Dr. Gibbons and his wife, Mia, made the trip from California to attend the event and shared they are looking forward to returning in July for the Centennial Celebration of the Dempsey/Gibbons fight. Something to keep in mind, when the couple returns the coffee table book full of images and history of the area and the 1923 boxing match, Shelby, 1923: A Fight for Glory Story, will be available for purchase!

"It's a story that means a lot to me and was written with the people of Montana very much in mind," said Dr. Gibbons. "We'll have copies available at the Centennial event."

The Centennial celebration of the 1923 Dempsey/Gibbons boxing match is sure to be one of the biggest and best events of the summer and the Chamber Banquet offered the perfect intro to the event with Dr. Gibbons as the keynote speaker. While Adams did a phenomenal job of organizing his first Chamber Banquet, he did have a lot of help in making it the success it was.

"I'd like to thank every single person who attended, who donated items, all the sponsors and my Board of Directors making this event super successful and fun! Without all of you, this event would not have been possible," said Adams. "I'd also like to thank Robyn, from TLC, for a great job on the food, Dr. Gerard Gibbons for his great speech, The Slow Rollers for providing great music, Blazing Saddles 4-H for helping and to the Elks Club and its staff for all the help as well. Thank you, Jeff Flesch, for spearheading the live auction, Pastor Chad Scarborough for saying the blessing before the meal and to Allen Underdahl for singing the Star Spangled Banner! Thank you all, I can't wait until next year's Banquet. We'll see if we can make it even better than this year's!"