

2023 Shelby Chamber Banquet, a Success

By Jennifer Van Heel Shelby Promoter May 17, 2023 0



Randi Lamb, right, displayed one of six fantastic live auction items as local auctioneer, Jeff Flesch, got the bidding underway at the Shelby Area Chamber of Commerce Chamber Banquet held Friday, May 5, in the Shelby Elks Lodge.

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The Shelby Chamber Banquet held, May 5, was an outstanding success! Over 200 tickets for the event were sold with many of those ticket purchasers attending the festivities.

Shelby Chamber Executive Director Shane Adams couldn't be more pleased with how the event went, especially with this being the first one he has overseen.

"With being my first banquet I helped organize here in Shelby I was nervous, yet confident, in my abilities to make it one to remember," said Adams. "I've helped organize Friends of NRA banquets in the past and this is no different, first and foremost you have to get people in the door and make sure they have fun. And that's exactly what we did!"

Many enjoyed the delicious dinner provided by TLC Catering and the fantastic service from members of the Blazing Saddles 4-H Club.

Members of Blazing Saddles did a great job of making sure water pitchers on the tables never ran dry, retrieving and disposing of plates once dinner was done and helping assist in making sure all ran smoothly throughout the evening. These young members of the community were on task, polite and professional throughout the evening and are to be commended for doing such a nice job. Allan Underdahl got the evening underway by singing the "Star Spangled Banner" and Pastor Chad Scarborough, of the First Baptist Church, provided the invocation.

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!"