The **FUN!** Committee

*Jerry Smith, Morrilton Chamber of Commerce*

improve the overall success of the Chamber of Commerce by insuring that having fun is **part of everything associated with the organization**
The FUN! Committee

• facilitates fun happening; it doesn’t make it happen
  – brainstorms and plans - doesn’t drive fun things happening
  – helps create environments for laughter and fun
– Fun committee customers:
  – Committee chairs
  – Event leaders
  – Funnies (associates of the FUN Committee)
  – Participants (committee members, general public)
  – Staff
The **FUN!** Committee

- committee maintains an **inventory of fun tools**
  - Physical – For example, listening enhancers, balloons, energizers
  - Other

- For fun to happen it should **not depend on the direct on-site involvement** of members of the **FUN Committee**

- committee **evaluates to learn** how things could be more fun
The **FUN!** Committee

- committee *works closely with* the Personnel Committee, Events Committee, Hospitality and the Membership Committee
- Fun is something *unexpected*
  - A *graphic* on the Chamber entrance
  - A *unique* way of meeting people
  - Minutes of a meeting on *multi-colored paper*
  - Listening enhancers on the table
  - A group *sing*
Fun is

- an *ambience* – when you walk in the room, it just feels fun.
- *physical* – “Everybody stand up and on 3, point north!”
- *visual* – A T-shirt that makes you laugh
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Four Reasons to Include fun! in Chamber of Commerce Activities

1. Promotes Inclusion
2. Addresses Multiple Intelligences
3. Restores Energy
4. Propels Social Change
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"Rex, come here and mark your territory."
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• Volunteering is, by definition, a leisure time activity.

• So the choice we’re asking people to make is whether to do volunteer work or play golf, see a movie, or just plain rest.
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• made a mistake patterning volunteering on the *work model* (notice we even say “volunteer work”).

• Perhaps, we ought to use the *recreation model* instead.
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"Let me put my husband on. He's in charge of all our bad decision-making."
The FUN! Committee

• Do people need more work in their lives, or more play?

  – *The human race has one really effective weapon, and that is laughter.* -- Mark Twain
  
  – *Laughter gives us distance. It allows us to step back from an event, deal with it and then move on.*
  
    -- Bob Newhart
The FUN! Committee

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• Laughter really is the best medicine.

  – Look at the healing work of Dr. Patch Adams and his Gesundheit! Institute

  – think of how much easier it would be to recruit volunteers to spend a few hours smiling.
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• What our communities need is **elbow grease**
  – The **reward along the way** to the goal
  – So is making new **friends**, feeling **satisfaction**, improved physical **health**, and all the other perks of volunteering.
  – We ought to revel in it!

• *Laughter is the closest distance between two people*. -- Victor Borge
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• We aren't competing amongst other volunteer opportunities or organizations;
  – we're competing against time spent with loved ones, time spent on hobbies and more.
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• Be eccentric and start
  – a sing-a-long during a long painting project.
  – Turn up a radio and dance with children while providing child care.
  – Start a race between volunteers stuffing envelopes for a mailing.
The **FUN!** Committee

- Humor is often the glue that supports
  - team formation and effectiveness
- Remember the joy that laughter can bring
  - *psychologically*
  - *physiologically*
  - *spiritually*
  - emotionally
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• Humor is so important to keep our spirits up

• people need lots of opportunities to laugh (and even celebrate) or they will fade away from the volunteer experience
The **FUN!** Committee

- With fun comes creativity and creativity opens doors to new ideas and ways to be innovative with your volunteer team and paid staff.
The FUN! Committee

Hi Honey, Please remember to:
1) Put on clothes
2) Water plants
3) Drop off dry cleaning
4) Mail letter