

## **An Update from 2015 Marietta Business Association President, Julie Michaels**

What a GREAT start to 2015! We have continued to strengthen our connection with the City of Marietta and the local educational institutes; and I am happy to announce our first events of 2015 were a huge success. The success of each event sponsored by the Marietta Business Association is directly linked to the continued support of our members and our guests. We are continuing to grow as we all work to be sure that we ***inspire, inform, and influence*** our members, guests, community and each other. It is such a privilege to serve such a wonderful organization.

We have implemented a program to honor our educators in the Marietta City School District. One teacher from each of the schools will be awarded the Hero Teacher Award. We asked the principle from each school to nominate an educator who exemplifies the core principles of the Marietta Business Association: fosters integrity, respects colleagues and students, promotes community and family collaboration, and improves the lives and learning of students. The ceremony to honor each teacher will take place at their faculty meeting. A special thank you to our sponsor, Homes for Heroes, for supporting this program and providing a trophy and certificate. Our members are encouraged to offer gift cards to be presented to the recipient of this Hero Award.

Our event calendar is updated frequently on our website. Below are events we have on a regular and ongoing basis:

- N.O.W. - The Networking Opportunity Weekly that has grown to upwards of 30 people each week. We meet on Thursday's from 3-4:30 pm at the Central Library.
- NetEx - Our networking expo, which has given our members, and those outside of our group, the opportunity to share their wares and services to our members and guests.
- Luncheons- We hold our monthly luncheon on the 2nd Monday of the month at the Mansour Center. RSVP is recommended.
- Afterhours - We will continue to join forces with other local business associations for our afterhours events and are held once a month at different locations.
- Business and Breakfast - the networking opportunity for early birds, which we always hold at our members' places of business on the 5th Thursday of the month.
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies in partnership with the City of Marietta are held typically on Thursday afternoons when scheduled in advance with the City of Marietta.

The following special events are focused on our educators and young leaders, and serve our children and our community at large. The Marietta Business Association is currently involved in the following:

- Marietta High School - Shark Tank experience for the DECA members
- Career Day at Marietta High School
- Kids Expo at the Galleria (Completed - what a great success! Thanks to our participating members)
- Hero Teacher of the Month
- Special Principles luncheon

It is my goal to log a minimum of 500 volunteer hours between all of our members in 2015. We will be tracking our volunteer efforts as we serve our community with integrity. Building relationships

within our Association, and with our community, is vital to the growth and standing of our organization. As your president, it is my mission to serve each of you, the Marietta Business Association, and the community at large with strength and enthusiasm.

In closing, I offer our mission statement:

**The Marietta Business Association exists for the purpose of promoting the civic, social, commercial, economic welfare and business goals of its members.**

**We are like minded individuals representing businesses who come together to build relationships, grow our businesses and to add value to the economic welfare of our association and community. We give back to the community through collaborative efforts on projects in the education and local community of city, county and state. We add value to each other both personally and professionally in the form of service, business and relationships by providing venues to promote and strengthen these relationships by providing events in networking, business referrals and service in the community.**

Let's make this our year to....

**Inspire. Inform. Influence,**

**Julie Michaels, President, MBA**