

Wednesday, October 27, 2021

Honorary joint membership of Charleston and Oakland Chambers of Commerce announced

The Charleston Area and Oakland Chambers of Commerce (CACC and OCC) recently announced reciprocal resolutions for Honorary Membership in each other's organization. Both organizations shared the following in a Joint Statement: "In an ever-changing retail market environment and in the middle of a global pandemic, we believe it is well past

time for both Chambers to more closely work together. We strongly feel this exchange of membership will benefit our respective members.

"The OCC and CACC have more in common than we do apart. We look forward to strengthening our ties by working together on mutually beneficial initiatives in the more important days

ahead." George Edwards, President, OCC and Jeff Baker, Board of Directors, CACC.

The dual, Honorary member status includes all the privileges of membership with the exception of paying dues and voting.

The CACC was chartered in 1919 and is a member-driven, independent corporation responsible for promoting the

economic climate in the greater Charleston area.

The OCC began in 1953 by group of local business people as a Booster Club for the community, sponsoring local events along with a festival in the Oakland area. As a Chamber of Commerce, they have continued over the years supporting economic activities and events.

SBL donates to Arthur Athletic Booster Club



Sarah Bush Lincoln Arthur Clinic recently donated \$880 to the Arthur Knights Athletic Booster Club from sports physicals performed over the summer. The physicals were provided at reduced costs to numerous athletes at the SBL Arthur Clinic by Advanced Practice Provider Keith Ballinger, PA-C, and his medical staff. The physicals were \$20 each, and all of the proceeds were donated back to the school. Pictured left to right are: Keith Ballinger, Arthur Sports Director Nathan Seal, and Dorothy Nichols.

Cold weather, fire and heating safety tips from the American Red Cross of Illinois

National Emergency Blood Shortage: Donors and Volunteers Needed

Disaster Action Team volunteers with American Red Cross respond to home fires year-round providing temporary emergency shelter, health services, disaster mental health services, financial assistance and information about recovery planning.

If you or someone you know needs assistance after a home fire or local disaster, please call our dispatch line: 1-877-597-0747.

Cold Weather and Home Fire Safety

Home fires are most common in cooler months when people spend more time inside, and cooking and heating equipment are the leading causes of these crises. The Red Cross has the following tips to help keep you and your loved ones safe:

Heating Equipment - Help keep your family safe by providing at least three feet of space for all heating equipment.

* This is critical because most home heating fire tragedies occur when flammable items like furniture, rugs and drapes are too close.

* In addition, never leave space heaters unattended - as they're involved in most fatal home heating fires.

* If you must use a space heater, place it on a level, hard and nonflammable surface, such as a ceramic tile floor. Don't place it on rugs and carpets, or near bedding and drapes. And turn it off every time you leave the room or go to sleep.

* You can also help your family stay safe by testing your smoke alarms monthly and practicing your two-minute home fire escape drill.

Also, when cooking, keep an eye on what you fry and never leave cooking food unattended. If you need to leave the kitchen even for a short period of time, turn off the stove.

A fire can take a home in as little as two minutes. Therefore, escaping in less than two minutes can be the difference between survival and tragedy.

How to Protect Your Family: Test your smoke alarms and practice your



two-minute home fire escape drill - the amount of time that experts say you may have to get out before it's too late. Teach children what a smoke alarm sounds like and talk about fire safety and what to do in an emergency. Visit redcross.org/fire for more information. You can also download our free Emergency app (search "American Red Cross" in app stores or go to redcross.org/apps). Children can also learn what to do during a home fire and other emergencies with free resources at redcross.org/YouthPrep.

For free home fire safety resources, including an escape plan, visit redcross.org/fire or download the free Red Cross Emergency app (search "American Red Cross" in app stores or go to redcross.org/apps).

National Emergency Blood Shortage Continues

Right now, the Red Cross has an emergency blood and platelet shortage. The Red Cross national blood inventory is the lowest it's been at this time of year since 2015 as blood donor turnout has reached the lowest levels of the year as many delayed giving amid a return to the workplace and in-person learning and a spike in COVID-19 cases due to the delta variant. Donors of all blood types - especially type O - and platelet donors are urged to make an appointment at redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS to give now and in the weeks ahead to overcome this current shortage.

How to Donate Blood

All blood types are

needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Individuals who have received a COVID-19 vaccine are still eligible to donate blood and platelets. If you are feeling healthy and are eligible to donate we ask you to make an appointment.

Blood drive safety

Each Red Cross blood drive center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions - including face masks for donors and staff, regardless of vaccination status - have been implemented to help protect the health of all those in attendance. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive.

Health insights for donors

At a time when health information has never been more important, the Red Cross is screening all blood, platelet and plasma donations from self-identified African American donors for the sickle cell trait. This additional screening will provide Black donors with an additional health insight and help the Red Cross identify compatible blood

types more quickly to help patients with sickle cell disease who require trait-negative blood. Blood transfusion is an essential treatment for those with sickle cell disease, and blood donations from individuals of the same race, ethnicity and blood type have a unique ability to help patients fighting sickle cell disease.

Donors can expect to receive sickle cell trait screening results, if applicable, within one to two weeks through the Red Cross Blood Donor App and the online donor portal at RedCrossBlood.org.

You can also help through volunteering, please visit redcross.org/volunteer to find available opportunities, including virtual positions and the most needed ones listed below:

Blood Transportation Specialist - These volunteers deliver lifesaving blood products from Red Cross distribution facilities to hospitals, using a Red Cross-owned vehicle. You'll also need to meet these important qualifications: Have a valid state driver's license and proof of insurance, have three years driving experience and a clean driving record.

Blood Donor Ambassador - These volunteers welcome visitors to the Red Cross facilities or blood drives and take their temperatures before they enter. Visitors could include potential blood donors, people seeking help, course participants and Red Cross employees and volunteers.

About the American Red Cross of Illinois

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit us at Redcross.org/Illinois or visit us on Twitter @RedCrossIL.

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