

# **BARTON COUNTY** *Young Professionals* **LEAD. NETWORK. VOLUNTEER.**

## A Fast-Growing Local Force for Good

Barton County Young Professionals (BCYP) has been established as a well-known, quickly growing organization with an impressive track record, especially considering it's still relatively new, having been rebooted in 2011.

Nearly all of the members in its database of more than 750 joined since then, in large part thanks to a highly active steering committee and the support of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, which supported the development of regularly occurring mixers, special events like Casino Night, enhanced effort to encourage volunteerism and professional development opportunities and more.

Improved structure has been one of the focal points for the current Steering Committee. Members must attend at least two events per calendar year, one of which should be service-oriented, to maintain good standing. Otherwise, membership is completely free and those who work or live in Barton County between the ages of 21 and 40 can sign up online at BartonYP.com.

Clear focus and a defined mission are two other recent improvements. The Steering Committee identified three ideas that drive

the organization's decisions and projects: Lead. Network. Volunteer.

BCYP Steering Committee Vice Chair Regan Ochs said these concepts were derived from a combination of what the group was already doing and perceived needs in Barton County.

"Our organization works tirelessly to increase leadership aptitudes and opportunities for young professionals. We work to provide networking events to forge strong business and personal relationships within our communities. We promote volunteerism throughout the county in order to create a lasting impact and to be a force for good," Ochs said. "We encourage all of our members to get involved in their hometowns, whether that be in a community or career-related leadership role, through networking, or by volunteering in a civic or non-profit agency."

BCYP Steering Committee Chair Brandon Steinert said 2015 was a great year for progress. Some notable achievements include raising more than \$50,000 to install the Tot Spot playground equipment in Brit Spagh Park, the first ever YP5K and Half Marathon, which raised more than \$3,500

to install bike racks in Barton County, and the implementation of a Personal Development Series of luncheons for YP members.

"We accomplished a lot," he said. "It really felt like a growth spurt in terms of both awareness and activism. I have a lot of faith in our generation as one characterized by pragmatic steps taken toward a more humane society. Our every action is a vote for the type of society we want to live in, and the amazing people on our steering committee and standing action teams embody that belief."

Ochs agreed, saying she's excited about the opportunities ahead.

"We look forward to continuously growing our group and our efforts in order to create a lasting impact," she said. "Not just on our members' lives, but also on the health of our communities." —



### Steering Committee Volunteers 2015

Listed as they served in 2015. Roles for 2016 still being finalized.

- Brandon Steinert, Chair**  
Will Serve as Past Chair in 2016
- Regan Ochs, Vice Chair**  
Leadership Team & Elected 2016 Chair
- Andrea Bauer**  
Special Events Team
- Rob Bauer**  
Leadership Team
- Traci Burns**  
Community Impact Team
- AJ Chrest**  
Membership Team
- Megan Hammeke**  
Special Events Team
- Jesse Haney**  
Membership Team
- Katie Lear**  
Special Events Team
- Angie Linden**  
Membership Team
- Kristi Lovett**  
Public Relations & Membership Teams
- Rachel Mawhirter**  
Public Relations Team
- Candice Moeder**  
Community Impact Team
- Kristy Straub**  
Straub International

### Action Teams

Six volunteer committees that serve in a specific role to keep BCYP operating.

- Community Impact Team**  
Plans and implements volunteer and service projects in the community.
- Public Relations Team**  
Handles all marketing, public relations, and media correspondence.
- Leadership Team**  
Plans the Personal Development Series along with other leadership trainings.
- Special Events Team**  
Plans our largest annual family and social events such as Fall Fest and Casino Night.
- Membership Team**  
Manages and maintains the BCYP database, welcomes new members, greets at mixers, etc.