

Monthly Newsletter

NOCONA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

June 2025



A Letter from the Director

Dear Chamber Members,

As we close out an incredibly successful and energizing month, I want to take a moment to extend my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you. Your support, time, talents, and dedication have been instrumental in the Chamber's recent achievements, and I am proud to share in this moment of reflection and appreciation with you.

From the planning stages to the final details, the Chamber Banquet was a remarkable success thanks to your collective efforts. Whether you were behind the scenes, donated items, volunteered your time, or simply showed up to celebrate with us—your contributions did not go unnoticed. It was a beautiful evening that truly showcased the spirit and unity of our community.

Hot on the heels of the banquet, Cruisin' Nocona roared into town with incredible energy. This beloved

event continues to grow and thrive because of the hard work and commitment from volunteers, organizers, and community supporters like you. Your involvement ensures that this event remains a highlight for locals and visitors alike.

I'm also thrilled to see the growing engagement in our monthly meetings. The increase in participation and discussion is a clear sign that we are moving in a positive direction—one that fosters collaboration, communication, and a shared vision for Nocona's continued growth.

Thank you for showing up, for speaking up, and for lifting each other up. The success of the Chamber is a direct reflection of the people behind it, and I am genuinely grateful to be part of such a committed and passionate group.

Warm Regards,

Sarah Guerrero

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Chamber Updates: A Whirlwind Month

This past month has been a whirlwind adventure for the Nocona Chamber of Commerce, filled with celebration, collaboration, and exciting momentum for the months—and year—ahead. From unforgettable events like the Chamber Banquet and Cruisin' Nocona to welcoming new businesses and planning future celebrations, the energy in our Chamber is stronger than ever!

Ribbon Cuttings

On May 31st, we were proud to host a ribbon cutting to welcome Steam Craft Coffee and Blade Craft Barbershop to both the Nocona Chamber and our community. The turnout was incredible, and the show of support from local residents and fellow Chamber members was inspiring.

Next up, we're excited to celebrate The Mind's Eye Scholarship Fund with a ribbon cutting followed by a benefit concert at The Veranda Inn on Saturday, July 12th. The ribbon cutting is free and open to the public, and the concert will be \$20.00 per person, with proceeds supporting scholarships for six graduating seniors from county high schools.

The Mind's Eye is a local band performing golden oldies from the 50s, 60s, and 70s. Each year, they raise funds through concerts, parties, and community events to help students pursue their dreams. Don't miss this chance to support a great cause and enjoy a night of music and celebration!

Chamber Banquet

Our Roaring '20s-themed Chamber Banquet was a roaring success! The evening featured a delicious dinner catered by Tres Niños, paired with a delightful candy and dessert bar sponsored by Nortex Communications. We were proud to host an additional fundraiser that raised \$120 for A Hand Up!—a heartfelt thank you to our generous Chamber members for always stepping up to support our community.

During the banquet, we recognized several outstanding individuals and organizations for their contributions over the past year:

- Citizen of the Year – Hobie Meekins
- Volunteer of the Year – Jason Castle
- Volunteer Organization of the Year – The Carpenter's Shop
- Business of the Year – Circle B Trailers
- Bootstrap Business of the Year – Grace & Grit Boutique
- Best Dressed – Christen Manning
- Best Table – American Legion Riders, Chapter 220

Congratulations to all our award recipients—you are what makes Nocona shine!

Cruisin' Nocona

Thankfully, the rain held off just in time for this year's Cruisin' Nocona event! A lively caravan of about 30 motorcycles and classic cars made its way through the beautifully green countryside before returning to Nocona for lunch, hosted by the Nocona BBQ Team. After fueling up, the cruise continued and wrapped up at the Nocona Beer and Brewery with the final game draw, a cold beer, and a refreshing break in the air conditioning.

Congratulations to our cruise game winners:

- Third Place (\$50) – Lonnie Keen
- Second Place (\$100) – Robert Fenoglio
- First Place (\$200) – Emory Roden

The evening brought even more excitement with the Dark of the Moon Lighted Truck Convoy, a festive favorite for kids and adults alike. Clay Street lit up with bright lights, horns, and cheer as the convoy made its way downtown and returned to the brewery for a close-up look at the semis.

Saturday's Car, Motorcycle, and Working Truck Show featured over 50 entries made up of cars, trucks, motorcycles, and ATVs. In addition, there were over a dozen semis—both bobtails and combos—lined up for the public to admire. We wrapped up the weekend with awards and an unforgettable concert by Tin Rivers—a perfect way to kick back, sing along, and soak up the good vibes after a full day of fun.

A Sincere Thank You

To all our Chamber members, sponsors, volunteers, and community supporters: thank you. Your commitment, energy, and generosity are the heartbeat of everything we do. We look forward to what's ahead and are grateful to have you by our side as we continue moving Nocona forward.



Upcoming Events



JJ's Armdrop

June 28, 2025

Time: Gates Open at 10:00 AM

Location:
Indian Valley Raceway
1103 US-82, Nocona

Details

Join JJ Da Boss and the Street Outlaws for real street-style racing! Bring the kids, lawn chairs, and coolers for an unforgettable time.

For tickets and info, visit the Indian Valley Raceway event page on Facebook.



Lion's Club Fireworks

July 4, 2025

Time: At Dark

Location:
Weldon Robb Park / Jaycee Park

Details

The Lion's Club will host their annual 4th of July Fireworks Show at Jaycee Park on Friday, July 4th. The fireworks will begin at dark.



July Ribbon Cutting

July 12, 2025

Time: Ribbon Cutting at 4:50 PM
(Concert to follow)

Location:
The Veranda Inn
1523 US-82, Nocona

Details

Join us for The Mind's Eye Scholarship Fund ribbon cutting followed by a benefit concert at the Veranda Inn! The ribbon cutting is FREE to attend, and the concert is just \$20 per person—all to support a great cause.

For tickets and info, visit The Mind's Eye event page on Facebook.



July Chamber Meeting

July 14, 2025

Time: 5:30 PM

Location:
Nocona Chamber of Commerce Office
304 Clay Street, Suite 3

Hosting an Event?

Let us help you spread the word? One of the benefits of your Chamber Membership is event promotion and support. We're here to help share your upcoming events with the community.

Contact the Chamber for more information!



Volunteer Spotlight: American Legion Riders Chapter 220

This month, our Volunteer Spotlight looks a little different—as it should—because we’re celebrating not just an individual, but an outstanding local organization whose dedication and service have truly made a difference: American Legion Riders Chapter 220.

From the moment they officially joined the Nocona Chamber of Commerce in January of this year, the Legion Riders have hit the ground running. Their involvement has gone far beyond showing up; they’ve consistently rolled up their sleeves, lent a hand, and brought meaningful contributions to every event and initiative they’ve touched.

Their commitment to our mission is apparent in every corner of Chamber life. At each monthly meeting, members of Chapter 220 are present, engaged, and vocal. By actively participating in discussions and offering thoughtful input, they help ensure the Chamber board hears directly from members before making decisions that affect the whole business community. Their voices have been a guiding light in aligning our direction with the values and hopes of our membership.

The Legion Riders have also become an integral part of welcoming new businesses to Nocona. Whether it’s standing proudly at ribbon cuttings or helping to spread the word about new Chamber members, they show up with encouragement and enthusiasm, making newcomers feel immediately part of something bigger.

Their event support has been nothing short of indispensable. From the early stages of planning to the final moments of clean-up, Chapter 220 has been all in. They played a critical role in advertising, promoting, and bringing energy to our Mardi Gras celebration—many of you no doubt noticed the incredible motorcycle participation in this year’s parade, a direct result of their efforts.

At our Roaring '20s-themed Chamber Banquet, the American Legion Riders didn't just stop at winning Best Decorated Table—they went a step further and added a surprise twist by hiding prizes around the room for guests to discover. It was one of the most talked-about and memorable moments of the evening, showing once again their creativity, thoughtfulness, and commitment to fun.

And then there was Cruisin' Nocona Weekend—an event that simply wouldn't have been possible without them. From set-up and registration to helping coordinate the Cruisin' lunch, participating in the cruise itself, and hosting a pancake breakfast, Chapter 220 wore more hats than we can count. They were also vendors, ran a raffle, and somehow still made themselves available throughout the weekend to help wherever needed.

Their spirit of volunteerism, leadership, and teamwork exemplifies what community service should look like. Their willingness to serve, not for recognition but for the good of the town, is something we all admire and appreciate deeply.

As a small token of our appreciation, we want to take a moment to share more about the broader mission and work of the American Legion. The following pages offer a closer look at the American Legion, the American Legion Riders, and our local Chapter 220—their mission, values, and the vital role they play in strengthening not just Nocona, but every community touched by our military service members and their families.

The American Legion Family

The American Legion was chartered after World War I by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veteran's organization. Focusing on service to veterans, service members and communities, the Legion evolved from a group of war-weary veterans of World War I into one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the United States. Membership swiftly grew to over 1 million, and local posts sprang up across the country. Today, membership stands at over 1.6 million in more than 12,000 posts worldwide. The posts are organized into 55 departments: one each for the 50 states, along with the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Latin America, and the Philippines.

Over the years, the Legion has built its identity by achieving hundreds of benefits and services for veterans, supporting the U.S. Armed Forces and instilling the values of responsible citizenship among young people. From the nation-changing of the American Legion-drafted GI Bill to relief for veterans exposed to toxic contamination in the service, veterans of The American Legion have worked for over a century to improve and strengthen the nation they swore with their lives to defend.

The American Legion family consists of 3 membership groups. Regular Legion members or "Legionnaires", who are US Armed Forces Veterans. Those who have served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941, and were honorably discharged or are still serving active military duty honorably, are eligible for membership with The American Legion.

Sons of The American Legion (SAL). Members include males of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the U.S. military and were eligible for American Legion membership.

American Legion Auxiliary (ALA). Members include grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who served.

American Legion Riders

In Garden City, Michigan in 1993, Chuck "Tramp" Dare and Bill "Polka" Kaledas, commander of American Legion Post 396, shared an idea to start a motorcycle enthusiasts association within the organization. The two longtime riders wanted an environment where Legion family members could come together to share a common love for motorcycles.

Joined by 19 other founding members from their post, Dare and Kaledas were flooded with requests for information about their organization. They agreed to establish a central source for the Riders to ensure that chapters formed not as motorcycle clubs or gangs, but as Legionnaires and Auxiliary and SAL members joining to ride as Legion family.

American Legion Riders chapters are well known for their charitable work, which has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars from local children's hospitals, schools, veterans' homes and severely wounded service members. And since 2006, Riders nationwide have participated in The American Legion Legacy Run, first raising money for scholarships for children of U.S. military personnel killed since September 11, 2001, and now for the Veterans & Children Foundation, which funds American Legion service officer training and provides grants for at-risk minor children of Legionnaires and active-duty military.



The American Legion Family

Currently, over 110,000 American Legion Riders meet in over 2,000 chapters in every domestic department and in at least three foreign counties. Riders in Iowa have formed an honor guard called The Five Star Freedom Riders, and Riders in Mulvane, Kansas founded the Patriot Guard to protect the sanctity of military funerals from protesters. Riders in all states have escorted military units returning home from combat tours overseas, conducted massive cross-country fundraising events for wounded warriors from all services, and have raised millions of dollars for countless local, state and national charities. Many Riders, supported by their departments, conduct annual statewide Legacy Runs in direct support of American Legion scholarship programs of Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW), supporting our wounded service memberships across the nation.

True to the Legion's grassroots tradition, each chapter manages its programs at the post level, where the best ideas are born. The Riders are part of many projects and events, including:

- Annual regional rides such as Operation Wounded Warrior, sponsored by Riders in Nevada, Texas, New Mexico, Utah, Arizona, California and other Western states.
- Local charity events in support of The American Legion and local communities.
- Raising money for VA hospitals, women and children centers, children and youth centers, schools and other facilities.
- Sponsoring or participating in motorcycle runs to benefit numerous charities.
- Local memorial ceremonies and community parades.
- The American Legion Legacy Run, an annual cross-country fundraising ride from National Headquarters in Indianapolis to the national convention city.
- Riding to honor fallen military men and women, and to protect the sanctity of their funerals from those who would dishonor their memory.
- Escorting military units to departure airfields and airports for combat tours overseas and welcoming them home upon their return.

All American Legion Rider (ALR) groups must be a program supported by a post or department of The American Legion and shall uphold the declared principles of The American Legion and conform to and abide by the regulations and decisions of the department, post, or other duly constituted department governing body.

American Legion Rider groups shall abide by The American Legion Constitution and By-laws at each level and the established post and department directives, standing rules, etc.

American Legion Riders Chapter 220, Nocona, Texas

In addition to other projects such as the Veteran and Children's Fund (VCF), the Nocona Legion Riders have as an ongoing service commitment, Project RAD (Remembering All Deployed). The purpose of this program is to deliver care packages to deployed service personnel overseas, with a focus on service personnel who do not have the support of family back home or whose family is unable to financially provide care packages. The Nocona Legion Riders work in conjunction with the Family Services Office at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls. Periodically, Nocona Legion Riders will put together care packages and deliver them to Sheppard Air Force Base, to be sent overseas. The packages contain items that are approved by the Department of Defense. Items include such things as grooming and hygiene products, coffee, beef jerky, puzzle books and more. The majority of these items are donated by the community. Some cash donations are collected as well, with the money being used to purchase items that are on the DOD approved list.

Information compiled by:
Travis Vilas, SAL Commander Post 220 Nocona, TX
Sergeant-At-Arms, American Legion Riders Chapter 220 Nocona, Texas



New Chamber Members

We are thrilled to welcome these amazing new businesses and organizations to the Nocona Chamber family.



Circle B Trailers

Circle B Trailers is a privately owned company selling horse, stock, utility, and cargo trailers.

209 E Hwy 82
Nocona, TX 76255

(817) 279-3655



Indian Valley Raceway

Indian Valley Raceway is a non-profit dragstrip owned and operated by the Nocona Gas Junkies.

735 Airport Rd
Nocona, TX 76255



JK Miller & Sons Trucking

Family-owned and operated local trucking company.

(940) 233-0586



McKinney BBQ

Local food truck that is ready to meet your needs and taste buds.

Wichita Falls, TX 76306



Texoma Stump and Trench

Expert stump removal and trenching services with precision, reliability, and a focus on customer satisfaction and lasting results.

Nocona, TX 76255

(940) 531-0526



The Mind's Eye Scholarship Fund

Through Golden Oldies benefit concerts, parties, and other community events, we raise funds to provide scholarships for six graduating seniors from county high schools.

(940) 781-7203

Renewed Chamber Members

We're excited to recognize and sincerely thank the Chamber Members who have renewed their memberships.



Kyle Reynolds Insurance

Help customers like you
identify the insurance
coverage that best fits
your needs.

113 Cooke Street
Nocona, TX 76255

(940) 825-6069



Shelby Weaver, Real Estate Broker at 940 Realty

Here to serve all your real
estate needs.

Nocona, TX 76255

(940) 232-3355



Twisted Oak Salon

Boutique Hair Salon in
Nocona, TX offering
expert color, cuts, and
custom extensions—
relax and let us pamper
you.

113 E Oak Street
Nocona, TX 76255

(940) 841-4775



Frequently Asked Questions

How can I get my business event, promotion, or sale featured in the Chamber newsletter?

We'd love to help spread the word! Chamber members can submit events, promotions, or business updates for inclusion in our monthly newsletter and social media. Just email your information to VisitNocona@gmail.com.

When are the monthly Chamber meetings?

Our monthly meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 5:30 PM at the Chamber Office (304 Clay Street, Suite 3).

If the meeting is scheduled at a different location, we'll be sure to notify everyone in advance.

How can I get more involved with the Chamber?

A simple and impactful way to get involved is by attending our monthly Chamber meetings. These meetings are open to everyone, and we highly encourage Chamber members to come share their thoughts and ideas.

You'll be the first to hear about upcoming events, help shape the future of Chamber projects and have opportunities to join committees that organize initiatives focused on bringing people and business to Nocona.

What is a ribbon cutting, and how can I schedule one?

Ribbon cuttings are a great way to celebrate big milestones like:

- Joining the Chamber
- Opening a new business or location
- Renovating or expanding your current business
- Marking a significant anniversary or achievement

If you're a Chamber member and would like to schedule a ribbon cutting, contact us at VisitNocona@gmail.com and we'll help coordinate the event and promotion.

NOCONA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	(940) 825-3526
nocona.org	304 Clay Street, Suite 3 Nocona, TX 76255

Have news, events or highlights to share?

Email us at VisitNocona@gmail.com to be featured in the next newsletter!