

**CCCRA Press Release
June 2018**

MEET THE MANAGER – HISTORIC CLAY COUNTY COURTHOUSE/BEAL CENTER

By Barbara Deas, guest writer

Kay Worden, a longtime resident of Hayesville has been selected as Manager of the Historic Clay County Courthouse/Beal Center, leased and operated by Clay County Communities Revitalization Association (CCCRA). Kay will be responsible for all aspects of event bookings, event management, and daily center and gift shop operations. Kay has been involved with CCCRA's fundraising and planning operations for the past year, and ended up being the perfect match to handle the responsibilities and demands of this new operation.

Kay is a familiar face in Hayesville, whether known from her days in real estate during the 1990's to mid- 2000's, or as the owner and manager of her own business, I STITCH Creative Embroidery & Design. She is also a past Clay County Chamber of Commerce Director, and was most recently an active member of the CCCRA Courthouse Operations Committee. Kay says "The opportunity to be part of the re-birth of this beautiful building was something I couldn't resist. The pride of all citizens in the county, whether local-born or 'got-here-as-soon-as-I-could,' is reflected in the care and thought that has gone into this project. We are entering an exciting time in Clay County and my goal is to contribute however possible to this upcoming successful growth."

Kay grew up in Michigan, where she started her career in banking and finance. Her business and non-profit background makes her an extraordinary choice to fill this new position. Kay volunteered, and later worked for a non-profit in south Florida whose focus was special needs children and adults. During this time, Kay organized and set up both summer camp and respite programs, both of which doubled over a five-year period. She was responsible for writing and acquiring grants not only for these programs, but she also successfully acquired over \$1.5 million in funding for five separate group homes for special needs adults. She planned and organized large fundraising events which drew over 10,000 people each year, including gala's, casino nights and celebrity auctions, and organized hurricane relief efforts for group homes that were devastated by Hurricane Andrew.

Kay's 25 years in the banking and real estate industry will also serve her well in this new position. Besides generating mortgage and real estate sales, Kay authored and taught approved continuing education programs in both the mortgage financing and real estate industries. The organizational, management and people skills Kay developed through her life's experiences are expected to help her create an organized, well-managed experience for all the clients of the new courthouse venue.

The Historic Clay County Courthouse/Beal Center will soon open as a unique event center in Western North Carolina. It is available for a variety of events, from all types of personal celebrations to business meetings, dinners, expositions, etc. Clay County Communities Revitalization Association (CCCRA) is the lessor and operator of the newly renovated facility.

Preparing for the operation of the center, CCCRA's Courthouse Operations Committee developed rental information and contracts, advertising, souvenir inventory, identified and ordered equipment, and determined that CCCRA would need to take the major step of hiring

their first-ever employee. Kay was chosen from pool of thirty-six candidates after a thorough selection process.

CCCRA is a 501(c)(3) organization. Our short mission statement is to stimulate, to promote, and to serve. A broader explanation of our mission is as follows:

CCCRA works to foster a cooperative, resourceful spirit within Clay County that will enable us to protect and maintain the heritage that we treasure; nurture a justifiable pride in our home-place, an appreciation of our unique history and a transforming delight in the richness of our traditions and culture; promote the preservation of our natural resources and the beauty of our surroundings in order to enhance their prolonged enjoyment for benefit of resident and visitor alike; promote the success of existing commerce, the attraction of new and appropriate businesses, and the growth of employment in order to secure the long-term economic welfare of all in our County; and to serve as a catalyst for the creative and collaborative shaping of our County's future, to ensure its prosperity while preserving its distinctive identity and intrinsic values.

Contact Kay for reservations and event information at 828-360-2368 or bealcenterevents@icloud.com. For more information, or to make a tax-deductible donation to CCCRA, visit cccra-nc.org.

