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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – February 20, 2018

Guest speaker from National Main Street Center set for Chamber Meeting

(Ocean Springs, MS) – Matthew Wagner, Ph.D. will be the guest speaker at the Ocean Springs Chamber of Commerce-Main Street-Tourism Bureau's annual meeting set for Tuesday, Feb 27 at 6:30 p.m. at Gulf Hills Hotel & Conference Center.

Wagner serves as the Vice President of Revitalization Programs at the National Main Street Center, Inc. where he is responsible for driving the Center's field service initiatives including the development and delivery of technical services for Main Street America and Urban Main programs as well as professional development programming through the Main Street America Institute.

With more than 20 years of non-profit management and teaching experience in the area of downtown revitalization, entrepreneurship and economic development, Dr. Wagner has served as leader in the area of community revitalization, directly guiding two nationally recognized downtown revitalization efforts.

Dr. Wagner has a long history of program and service delivery in the area of small business development. He has been awarded the U.S. Small Business Administration's Wisconsin Champion for Women-Owned Businesses, for his efforts to support women entrepreneurs. He is also a former Executive in Residence at Cardinal Stritch University, crafting the University's professional development programming and social entrepreneurship.

Aside from his professional experiences, academically Dr. Wagner has completed his Ph.D. with a focus on economic development and entrepreneurship. He is a Fulbright Specialist Scholar, completing a teaching assignment on social entrepreneurship at the University of Hyderabad, India. He has also presented internationally on topics of economic development and community revitalization in Japan and Australia. Dr. Wagner also served as part of the US State Department's Speakers Bureau program, working with the U.S. Embassy in Lithuania as part of a five region tour on entrepreneurship and community development.

"As a main street community and winner of the Great American Main Street Award through the National Main Street Center, we are honoured to have Dr. Wagner speak to Ocean Springs at our annual meeting, says Cynthia Sutton executive director of the Ocean Springs Chamber of Commerce-Main Street-Tourism Bureau. "His knowledge and expertise on revitalization and entrepreneurship will in deed inspire our community."

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The evening will begin at 6:00 p.m. with cocktails and an "I Love OS" video presentation. The program will officially begin at 6:30 p.m. and will include recognition of the 2018 Board of Directors, annual community awards presentation, and keynote speaker Dr. Matthew Wagner. Light music and dinner will be included.

Tickets are required to attend and must be purchased in advance. Seating is limited. Tickets are \$45 per person and can be purchased at the Chamber office will supplies last. Tickets **will not be available at the door.**

For more information on this event, please contact the Ocean Springs Chamber of Commerce – Main Street – Tourism Bureau at 228-875-4424.

Mission: *To promote tourism, provide progressive leadership for economic and community vitality for the greater Ocean Springs, Jackson County area and gulf coast and to enhance local culture and preserve quality of life through planned growth, diversification and beautification.*

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