

Minutes  
Albany Area Chamber of Commerce  
General Membership Meeting  
December 21, 2011  
12:00 p.m. @ Albany Bowling Center

Members present: Melissa Gerads, Kathleen Magel, Evelyn Budde  
Jeannie White, Tom Schneider, Steve Dooley, Lynn Pennie, Ross Voit, Aaron  
Smith, Kitty Eickhoff, Ken Eickhoff, Janine Kutter, Dina Pierskalla, Mary Sauerer,  
Bob Hengel, Paul Tomczik, and Timothy Vos.

Meeting called to order by Chamber President, Kathleen Magel @ 12:00 p.m.

The general membership reviewed the minutes from the November 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.  
No changes or corrections made. Motion to approve the minutes made by Evelyn  
Budde and seconded by Mary Sauerer.

Treasurer report was presented by treasurer, Adam Smith. Activity on the report  
was standard for the month. The chamber has a CD coming due in January and  
as per the November meeting we will just renew that for 6 months. No changes  
or corrections made to the Treasurers report. Motion to approve the treasurer  
report made by Jeannie White and seconded by Evelyn Budde.

Albany Buck report was available for review. December has been very busy  
with the Promo running. Melissa Gerads made mention that Mother of Mercy  
purchased over \$2,500 -- she thanked them for supporting local businesses.

Ms Magel announced that banquet tickets can be purchased at Stearns Bank,  
CMCU, and the chamber office. She also commented that the committee has  
met and planning is underway. Banquet forms can be found online. Evelyn also  
mentioned that businesses should start thinking of who they could nominate for  
things such as years of services and any other wonderful things they do. The  
Chamber Annual Banquet is January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Ms Magel asked if there was anyone else interested in fulfilling the open board  
position. Laurie Dingmann was unable to attend the meeting however she is  
interested. Ross Voit made a motion for Laurie to fulfill this position and Bob  
Hengel seconded.

Janine Kutter and Ms Magel commented on another successful Santa Day. Over  
445 kids attended. They also commented that the location was great -- it allowed  
for less outside doors to monitor and the flow of kids went well. Mrs. Kutter also  
said that every year they plan for 50 more kids and it seems that every year they  
reach that goal. Tom Schneider also commented that the Lions support this  
event with their wreath sales and this year they sold 130 of them. He thanked

those who support this fundraiser as all proceeds are turned over to the Santa Day Event.

#### New Business:

Aaron presented the 2012 budget. Kathleen, Aaron, Tom and Kim met in November to prepare the budget and they struggled to get things to balance. They discussed several things -- increasing dues, cutting out some donations to school etc all of which were not favorable. It was decided to leave the budget as it was – negative \$1,829.03 and discuss options with the membership. One idea mentioned was having someone sponsor the billboard that is costing us \$1,500 per year. Melissa Gerads said she would work with Kim on this to talk with Franklin about how many advertisers we could get on the billboard and still have it easily readable. She will also bring back to membership the terms of our current contact with Franklin.

Motion by Tom Schneider and second by Janine Kutter to approve budget as is and amend later if need be, as there are funds in reserve.

Tom Schneider discussed the Christmas lights on Main Street. With the new light poles coming in 2012, our current lights will not work with those poles and it would be nice to get new lights for our “new main street”. Mr. Schneider stated that they have come down in cost; they are \$220-260 each. Mr. Schneider also commented that the Lions have set aside \$3,500 for new lights and they are talking about approaching the Jaycees to see if they would support this as well. They are currently working with the city and discussing the best way to mount new lights on the new poles. More info to come as it progresses. It was also suggested that we sell the current lights as they do still work.

Steve Dooley, Albany Area Schools, commented that all of the concerts are done and kids are just getting anxious for Christmas break.

Prize drawing winner was Kitty Eickhoff.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at noon at Grace Alive!. Lunch provided by Twin Pines Catering for \$6 per person.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:28pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Melissa Gerads - acting Secretary