

Minutes
Albany Area Chamber of Commerce
General Membership Meeting
April 21st, 2010
12:00 Noon @ Albany Bowling Center

Members Present: Melissa Gerads, Jeannie White, Berni Orbeck, Janine Kutter, James Stueve, James Muellenbach, Dean Goebel, Mary Richter, Mary Sauerer, Kathleen Magel, Nicole Severson, Ken Eickhoff, Tom Schneider, Renee Thelen, Tim Jopp, Laura Reitmeier, Corey Nellis and Scott Thielman.

Meeting called to order by Chamber president, Melissa Gerads at 12:00PM.

The General Membership reviewed the minutes from the March 17th meeting. No changes or corrections made. Motion to approve the minutes made by Mary Sauerer and seconded by Renee Thelen. Minutes will stand as written.

Treasurer report was presented by Melissa Gerads. All activity was standard for the month.

The Chamber renewed a 12 month CD in the amount of \$4,132.98 with Central MN Federal Credit Union. The miscellaneous expense for \$50 was reimbursement of overpayment of membership dues.

No changes or corrections made to the Treasurer Report. Motion to approve Treasurer Report made by Janine Kutter, seconded by Tom Schneider; all in favor and none opposed. Treasurer Report will stand as written.

Albany Buck Report was available for review. Balance in the account is \$3,816.13 with decent activity for the month of April.

There was \$250 in Albany Bucks donated to the Albany Post Senior Graduation Party and will reflect on the report once the bucks are redeemed.

The Albany Buck Committee met the first part of April to discuss the main goal of the Albany Bucks which is to get them in the consumer's hands and redeemed at Albany Businesses. Right now there are ten percent of Albany Bucks that have not been redeemed which would cover the cost of any incentive we would like to offer. The committee decided to offer a special Mother's Day promo: Receive \$5 free in Albany Bucks for every \$50 you purchase before Mother's Day. The Albany Buck promo ad ran in the April Promo-Pak.

The Albany Chamber of Commerce would like to take this opportunity to thank Sean Artley, Paul's Par-A-Dice for hosting the Chamber Business after Hours on April 7th. There was wonderful food, conversation and networking. It was a great opportunity for those members who are unable to attend the Chamber General Membership Meetings. We invite other members to host a Chamber Business after Hours.

Dean Goebel, Edward Jones Investments, informed the membership that he has taken the May through August set on the billboard the Chamber is currently on just north of Don's I-94. The Chamber is currently on the billboard January through April.

Mr. Goebel suggested swapping sets with the Albany Chamber. The Chamber has more community events that take place in the summer months (Jaycee Street Dance, Heritage Day and Pioneer Days) and would better benefit from this time slot for advertising. Edward Jones Investments would better benefit during the January through April set.

It was the general consensus of the membership in attendance that it would be a good idea for the Chamber to swap sets with Edward Jones Investments. Motion made to swap the sets by Mary Sauerer, seconded by Kathleen Magel, all in favor and none opposed. Motion approved.

Tom Schneider, City of Albany: A meeting was held on March 30th to discuss the proposed changes to the city ordinances. Some changes and omissions have been made to those ordinances. There will be another public meeting on May 19th. Mr. Schneider will keep the Chamber informed on the changes and meeting schedule.

Tri-CAP Transit has been working with Mother of Mercy to create a public transit program for the City of Albany. This program would benefit the Mother of Mercy residents and would also be available for all city residents. The initial service would be one day per week for up to eight hours and would utilize a public transit bus, dispatching and CDL driver furnished by Tri-Cap.

To defray the cost of providing the service they are asking for \$1,200 a year. This money could be split among different organizations such as the Chamber, Lions and Jaycees. Mr. Schneider asked if this is something the Chamber would consider supporting? It was the general consensus of the membership in attendance to invite a representative from Tri-Cap and/or Mother of Mercy to the next Chamber General Membership meeting to discuss this further and get more detailed information. Mr. Schneider will set up representation for the next meeting.

The Albany Chamber of Commerce Board, along with Scott Weishair of Weishair Custom Software, met last week and discussed options on updating and overhauling the Chamber website. From the information and ideas that were discussed, Mr. Weishair will put together a proposal for a new chamber website that will be presented to the General Membership at next month's meeting.

The Albany Chamber of Commerce welcomes new member, Whispering Acres. Whispering Acres is a retreat rental located 5 miles north of Albany. It was suggested at today's meeting to suggest to Whispering Acres to host a business after hours to let members see their facility and learn more about what they have to offer.

The Central Minnesota Chapter of SCORE "Counselors to America's Small Business" is part of a national nonprofit association dedicated to entrepreneur education and the formation, growth and success of the nation's small business.

SCORE provides free and confidential business counseling tailored to meet the needs of your small business and your personal objectives. SCORE also offers workshops, for a modest fee, for both start-up entrepreneurs and in-business small business owners.

SCORE assists people in starting a new business and by providing counseling to existing small and mid-sized business owners.

SCORE volunteers are real-world professionals with time-tested knowledge who donate thousands of hours to help small businesses succeed. Counselors are experts in such areas as accounting, finance, operations, marketing, management and business plan preparation.

Don Schiffler, SCORE Chapter Chair, will be doing a presentation at the June Chamber General Membership Meeting. SCORE informational pamphlets were available at today's meeting. For more information visit their website at www.stcloudscore.org

On behalf of the Avon Chamber of Commerce, Janine Kutter asks if the Albany Chamber would be interested in paring with Avon in an Avon/Albany Chamber Golf Fundraiser. It was the general consensus of the membership in attendance that golf fundraising is fairly saturated in this area and they choose to decline Avon's offer but thank them for thinking of us.

James Stueve, Albany Police Department along with guest, Corey Nellis, Avon Police Department: Albany Police Chief, James Stueve, informed the membership that the Albany and Avon Police Departments are looking at combining to make one police department for the cities of Albany & Avon. The major goal of the police departments is to offer safe working conditions for their officers and 24 hour coverage for their citizens. Combining forces would save money and offer better protection for their communities.

Both departments feel we need a local police department and do not want to see our cities' police departments abandoned and have to rely on the county for service. The process of combining both forces will take a lot of research before any steps are taken to permanently combine the two departments.

Chief Stueve asked that if anyone hears of others having questions or concerns about this process, please direct them to Avon Police Chief, Corey Nellis or himself.

It is that time of year again to get the Main Street flower pots ready for planting. Volunteer to help were Mary Sauerer, Melissa Gerads, Dean Goebel, Laura Reitmeier, Janine Kutter and Tim Jopp. A group meeting will be scheduled soon.

Bernie Orbeck, Stearns Morrison Enterprise, informed the membership in attendance that Richard Raecker's visitation and funeral will be Thursday, April 22nd at New Munich Church, (visitation from 9 to 11AM; funeral at 11AM).

Upcoming Events:

- * Lake Wobegon Marathon May 8th
- * Albany Area Hospital & Medical Center 11th Annual 'Drive for Health' Golf Tournament on June 7th. This is an 18 hole best ball golf scramble for \$75 and includes lunch and dinner. Hole sponsorship and donations are welcomed.
- *Edward Jones Financial Advisor, Dean Goebel presents Investment Perspective Seminar "Demystifying the Deficit" at no charge. Seminar will take place Wednesday, April 28 from 12 to 1pm at Jimmy's Pizza (lunch buffet provided for

Seminar attendees). RSVP: call 845-7796 or email Meghan at dingmann.meghan@edwardjones.com

*Schlenner Wenner and Company will again offer their "Quick Books" training at their St. Cloud office on May 19th. Cost is \$99 for a full day of training.

Janine Kutter, Bueckers City Sanitation: The City Wide Cleanup will be held on Saturday, May 22nd from 9AM to 12PM in the Albany City Hall parking lot. The cleanup will take place in all three cities (Albany, Avon, Melrose) after all city wide garage sales are over. Most items can be dropped off for \$5 - \$15.

Scott Thielman, Albany Area Schools, informed the membership the progress on the bus garage is a little slower than expected. The school did decide to make the bus garage larger than before housing up to 24 buses and 8 vans.

Dr. Thielman wanted to inform the membership of these upcoming events and encouraged everyone to check out all event information on the school's website:

www.albany.k12.mn.us

*April 23-25, Spring Musical, Oklahoma, Albany High School Theater, Friday/Saturday at 7PM and Sunday at 2PM.

*May 6, Academic Wall of Honor Banquet, Albany High School at 6PM.

Dr. Thielman also reminded the membership that there is a link to the school website on the City of Albany, City of Avon, Albany Chamber & Avon Chamber websites.

Prize drawing was won by Janine Kutter.

Melissa Gerads announced the next Chamber General Membership Meeting which is Wednesday, April 21st, 2010 at NOON at Hillcrest Family Restaurant.

Respectively submitted,
Kim Fish, Executive Secretary