

Minutes
Albany Area Chamber of Commerce
General Membership Meeting
October 20th, 2010
12:00 Noon @ Albany Bowling Center

Members Present: Melissa Gerads, Evelyn Budde, Jeannie White, Tom Schneider, Renee Thelen, Lynette Thelen, Dr. Eric Medelberg, Kitty Eickhoff, Mary Richter, Dina Pierskalla, Gaylene Hanson, Lynn Jenc, Lynn Pennie, Shawn Thull, Nick Brandner, Nicole Severson, Brent Mellesmoen, Kathleen Magel and Jim Kastanek.

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

Mrs. Gerads welcomed everyone in attendance and introductions were made.

The General Membership reviewed the minutes from the September 15th meeting. No changes or corrections made.

Motion to approve the minutes made by Jeannie White and seconded by Evelyn Budde. Minutes will stand as written.

Treasurer Report was available for review. The \$600.00 in donation expense was for the Tri-Cap Bus Service.

No changes or corrections made to the Treasurer Report. Motion to approve Treasurer Report made by Shawn Thull and seconded by Renee Thelen. Treasurer Report will stand as written.

The only change in the Albany Buck account from last month was dividend income; no report was printed.

Members of the Albany Buck Promo Committee decided on the following holiday promotion:

Receive \$5 FREE in Albany Bucks for every \$50 you purchase before Christmas. \$30 free Albany Buck Limit.

The promo ad will run in the November & December Promo-Pak and four ¼ page ads will run in the Stearns Morrison Enterprise November 30th, December 7th, December 14th and December 21st.

Albany Bucks can be purchased at Central MN Federal Credit Union, Albany. They spend just like cash at any Albany Business. Businesses can redeem their Albany Bucks for cash at Central MN Federal Credit Union or Stearns Bank, Albany.

The Albany Chamber is currently in contract with Franklin Advertising for the billboard that is located just north of Don's I-94. The Chamber has the southwest facing for the months of January through April at \$400 a month for a total of \$1,600. Advertising for the northwest facing has been made possible due to the efforts of former Chamber member, Paul Solsrud, Franklin Advertising and the City of Albany. The billboard is currently being moved so the northwest facing is more visible.

Due to the efforts put forth by Mr. Solsrud on behalf of the Chamber, Franklin Advertising is offering the Chamber a northwest facing ad for 6 months at \$250 a month.

There was much discussion about keeping the southwest facing for 4 months or take the northwest facing for 6 months at the same cost and which side would be most beneficial to the Chamber.

It was decided that members take a look at the billboard now that it has been repositioned and give their feedback back to the Chamber office or Board Member. All comments must be received by October 29th. After October 29th, the Chamber Board will make the decision to either keep the current southwest facing for January through April at \$1,600 or take the northwest facing for 6 months, July through December, at the same cost.

The Santa Day Committee met for the first time just before today's General Membership Meeting. Santa Day is on Friday, December 10th from 4 to 8PM at Paul's Par-A-Dice reception hall.

Last year the Chamber ran a full page ad in the Stearns Morrison Enterprise for Santa Day. The cost of the ad was defrayed by businesses that purchased a \$30 ad within the full page ad. The General Membership was asked if the \$30 expense of advertising was beneficial or would they prefer the committee take a different avenue.

The general consensus of the membership was that the \$30 ad was beneficial and they would purchase it again. All businesses will be asked to pay for their ad before it goes to print.

The Albany Chamber of Commerce welcomes new members: State Farm Insurance, Dina Pierskalla and Top Choice Home Solutions, Sam Larson

Albany Area Hospital & Medical Center, Renee Thelen: The Albany Medical Center will be conducting additional influenza vaccination clinics on Friday, November 5 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and Wednesday, November 10 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. These clinics are for Medicare patients but individuals over the age of 18 may receive the vaccine for \$20.

Several questions and concerns were raised about Albany's Main Street Improvement Project and what impact it would have on local businesses. Businesses want to be involved with the planning and procedures that will affect their business.

Tom Schneider, City of Albany, informed membership in attendance that the City of Albany has just received a letter of intent that MN DOT will cover 50% of the 2 million dollar project. All other information is preliminary at this point. Once the City of Albany receives concrete information on all aspects of this project, they will present that information to business owners.

The City of Albany is equally concerned about the impact the project will have on business owners, wants to minimize those concerns and does want to have businesses involved. The City will ask for volunteers to form a small committee of business owners to be involved in the project.

Simpli Flowers will open on November 1st, 2010. This is a new little shop located on 8th street in the strip mall next to Edward Jones Investment.

Congresswoman Michele Bachmann's Office, Nicole Severson: Service Academy nomination deadline is at the end of this month. Please contact our office with your nominations (320) 253-5931 or Nicole.severson@mail.house.gov

Stearns Morrison Enterprise, Shawn Thull: The 2011 Albany Resource Guide is in the works. Mrs. Thull had 2011 pricing available for members in attendance. Chamber members receive 10% off their ad and receive a bold colored purple listing IF their 2011 chamber dues are paid by February 1st, 2011.

Prize drawing won by Evelyn Budde.

Next Chamber General Membership Meeting is Wednesday, November 17th, 2010 at noon at Grace Alive! Church. Lunch provided by Twin Pines catering for \$6 per person.

Respectively submitted,
Kim Fish, Executive Secretary