

Minutes
Albany Area Chamber of Commerce
General Membership Meeting
September 15th, 2010
12:00 Noon @ Hillcrest Family Restaurant

Members Present: Melissa Gerads, Evelyn Budde, Tim Jopp, Jeannie White, Tom Schneider, Ross Voit, Renee Thelen, Lynette Thelen, Mary Sauerer, Steven Dooley, Dale Overman, Randy Rothstein, Laura Reitmeier, Dr. Eric Medelberg, Kitty Eickhoff and Ken Eickhoff.

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 August 18th meeting. No changes or corrections made.

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

Treasurer Report was presented by Interim Treasurer, Laura Reitmeier. All activity was standard for the month.

The Chamber has an 8 month CD with Stearns Bank for \$4,023.43 that will mature on September 24, 2010. Motion made by Mary Sauerer allowing Laura Reitmeier to use her discretion in renewing the CD and seconded by Renee Thelen.

Billboard expenditures show an expense of \$4,685.00 and income of \$1,840.15. The income reflects the Lamar Billboard (contract expired) paid for by Chamber Members participating in advertising. The expense reflects the Lamar billboard and also the Franklin billboard north of Don's I-94 which the Chamber pays for. These expenditures will be separated and reflected on next month's report.

No changes or corrections made to the Treasurer Report. Motion to approve Treasurer Report made by Jeannie White and seconded by Mary Sauerer. Treasurer Report will stand as written.

Albany Buck Report was available for review. Balance in the account is \$3,438.19.

Activity has been fairly slow. It was decided that the Chamber run a comparable promotion to the promo that was run this past Mother's Day, considering the holidays are not too far off.

The Mother's Day promo was: Buy \$50 in Albany Bucks and get \$5 free (limit \$60 in free Albany Bucks). This promo generated \$1,460.00 in Albany Bucks sold and \$115.00 given away. The cost of advertising and the amount given away was covered by the 10% margin of Albany Bucks that were not redeemed.

Those volunteering to help with another Albany Buck promo were Melissa Gerads, Mary Sauerer, Randy Rothstein and Kitty Eickhoff.

Tri-CAP will begin service on September 21st operating on Tuesdays between 9AM - 4PM. Rides for the first two weeks will be free. Going forward, tokens must be purchased to ride the bus.

Evelyn Budde, Mercy Manor, has asked their foundation to purchase \$500.00 in tokens for their residents. Tentatively, they are checking into selling the tokens at Mercy Manor and Mother of Mercy Campus of Care to make it convenient for their residents.

The Albany Chamber of Commerce welcomes new member: Albany Recycling Center, Dale Overman. Albany Recycling Center is located southeast of Albany Chrysler center, the former JT Electric building. They accept all types of metals, appliances and electronics. Their open house special, offering \$.60 per pound for aluminum, brought in 3 ½ tons of aluminum cans.

Santa Day is fast approaching and is scheduled for Friday, December 3rd from 4 to 8PM. Committee members will meet 3 to 4 times before the event; determine advertising and decorations; this event has been very successful in past years.

Those volunteering to be on the committee are: Jeannie White, Mary Sauerer, Renee Thelen, Kitty Eickhoff and Dr. Eric Medelberg.

The Albany Chamber has a very old heavy sign which is used while taking a new member photo welcoming each new business to the Albany Chamber of Commerce. The sign needs to be updated and more user friendly.

It was decided that the Chamber office has the approval of purchasing a new sign at or below \$200.00.

Albany Area Hospital & Medical Center, Renee Thelen had several announcements. We have signed agreements from Libby and Nate Brever. Nate's parents (Tom and Bonnie (Voit) are Albany graduates and Nate's grandfather (Don Brever) continues to reside in Albany. Nate will begin in August 2011 and Libby will begin in September.

Unfortunately, Dr. Sola Sanusi has resigned effective September 28. Dr. Sanusi will be joining his family in England. There will be a farewell reception for him on Monday, September 27, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the lobby of the Albany Medical Center.

On Wednesday, September 29, Albany Area Hospital & Medical Center is sponsoring their annual blood drive held at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, from 1 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

With that, Mrs. Thelen introduced Albany Area Hospital & Medical Center's new Foundation Development Officer, Lynette Thelen. Lynette started on August 30th in the new position of Foundation Development Officer. As Development Officer, Lynette will lead all fundraising efforts for the organization.

Albany Chrysler Center would like to invite everyone to a "Business after Hours" on Friday, September 24th from 5 to 7PM. This is a Jeep Celebration Event featuring the new 2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee and the new Commercial Buyers. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be provided.

Fall Plant & Produce Sale at Our Saviors Lutheran Church on September 18th from 8AM to noon.

Holy Family School will celebrate their 100th birthday on Sunday, September 26th.

Tom Schneider, City of Albany: Police Chief, Jim Stueve is on medical leave. Officer Ted Boran will be appointed acting police chief at tonight's City Council meeting.

The city's water tower will be back online tonight or tomorrow after all the painting and repairs have been completed.

The City of Albany street projects are wrapping up and will be completed soon.

Albany Area Schools Superintendent, Steven Dooley: Mr. Dooley thanked the Chamber for sponsoring the new staff social which was very well received.

Albany Area Schools is getting geared up for next week's homecoming.

Laura Reitmeier, Schlenner Wenner & Company, handed out flyers for a benefit for Kyle Dokken who was paralyzed due to injuries caused in a swimming accident. The benefit will take place on October 9th at the VFW in Belgrade at 5PM.

Renaissance Tickets, compliments of KASM/KDDG, won by Steve Dooley. Prize drawing was won by Ken Eickhoff.

Next Chamber General Membership Meeting is Wednesday, October 20th, 2010 at Noon at Albany Bowling Center.

Motion to adjourn made by Randy Rothstein and seconded by Mary Sauerer.

Respectively submitted,
Kim Fish, Executive Secretary