

Minutes  
Albany Area Chamber of Commerce  
General Membership Meeting  
November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
12:00 Noon @ Grace Alive! Church

Members Present: Melissa Gerads, Evelyn Budde, Jeannie White, Tom Schneider, Renee Thelen, Dr. Eric Medelberg, Kitty Eickhoff, Janine Kutter, Lynn Pennie, Mary Sauerer, Nick Brandner, Kathleen Magel, Ron Paulsen, Ross Voit, Laura Reitmeier, Tim Jopp, Steve Danzl, Dale Overman, Ryan Eiden, Kari Eiden, Pastor Joe Williquette, Pam Williquette and Kevin Oslin.

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

Mrs. Gerads welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked Steve Danzl, Twin Pines Catering for the wonderful lunch.

The General Membership reviewed the minutes from the October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. No changes or corrections made.

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

Treasurer Report was presented by Interim Treasurer, Laura Reitmeier. All activity was standard for the month. The Chamber does not have a CD due until January.

No changes or corrections made to the Treasurer Report. Motion to approve Treasurer Report made by Tom Schneider and seconded by Kathleen Magel. Treasurer Report will stand as written.

The Albany Buck report was available for review. Balance in the account is \$3,690.25. The Albany Buck holiday promotion, receive \$5 FREE in Albany Bucks for every \$50 you purchase, will run through December 24<sup>th</sup>. An ad was in the November Promo-Pak and four additional ads will run in the Stearns Morrison Enterprise. The promo has already started to generate some sales.

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 needed to make a decision as to whether to keep the current southwest facing January through April (4 months) for \$1,600 or the northwest facing July through December (6 months) for \$1,600. Members were to contact the Chamber office or a Board Member with their opinions by October 29<sup>th</sup>. After October 29<sup>th</sup>, the Chamber Board would make the decision to either keep the current southwest facing January through April or take the northwest facing for 6 months, July through December.

Majority decided to take the northwest facing of the billboard for 6 months, July through December for \$1,600.

Santa Day is on Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 8PM at Paul's Par-A-Dice reception hall. Last year we gave out over 350 treat bags to the children. This year the committee will be preparing 400 treat bags.

Santa Day is made possible by the donations of the Albany Lions and Jaycees. This year, The Albany Lions Club has decided that all the proceeds from their Christmas wreath sales will be donated to the Albany Chamber of Commerce for Santa Day. Last year their net profit was \$995.00. The Lions feel this is a great event for the children and City of Albany. Please pre order your wreaths from any Lions member. All wreaths will be delivered. Each wreath costs \$20.00.

Thank you to the Albany Lions Club.

The new Albany Chamber of Commerce website is up and running. Check it out! The website address is the same; [www.albanymnchamber.com](http://www.albanymnchamber.com)

The City of Albany asked the Albany Chamber to choose 3 individuals to be on Albany's Main Street Improvement Project Committee. This committee would consist of 5 members; 2 city council members and 3 individuals chosen by the Chamber General Membership. The committee will be involved in the planning and procedures that will affect businesses during the entire project.

Letters from the City of Albany and the Chamber of Commerce were delivered to all Main Street businesses and business owners. The letter informed businesses that a committee was going to be formed. Those interested in being on the committee were to contact the City of Albany or the Chamber office and a voting for committee members would take place at today's General Membership Meeting.

Those on the ballot were (\*denotes chamber members):

1. Mitch Bates, Mitchel's Barber & Style (building owner)
2. \*Kitty Eickhoff, Albany County Floral & Gifts (renter, Bryan Schiffler is building owner)
3. \*Ryan Eiden, Straight Line Auto Glass (building owner)
4. \*James Kastanek, Total Agri-Businesses (building owner)
5. \*Kathleen Magel, Lake Country Veterinary Service (employee of Lake Country, Curtis Leyk & Neil Womack are building owners)
6. Joyce Winter, Main Street (building owner)

Voting was conducted; one vote per business/organization per Chamber By-laws. Ballots were collected and tallied at the end of the meeting.

The following 3 individuals were voted in to be on the Main Street Improvement Project Committee:

1. Kitty Eickhoff, Albany County Floral & Gifts
2. James Kastanek, Total Agri-Businesses
3. Kathleen Magel, Lake Country Veterinary Service

The Chamber Annual Banquet "Toast of the Town" will be on January 22, 2011. Volunteering to be on the Banquet Committee were Evelyn Budde, Lynn Pennie, Renee Thelen, Kathleen Magel, Kitty Eickhoff and Mary Sauerer.

The Chamber office has been in contact with Don Schiffler, Central MN SCORE Chapter Chair, talking about "tools" the Chamber could offer for local businesses. Mr. Schiffler said that one of the most important things a business, new or existing,

needs is a Business Plan. Mr. Schiffler will be doing a "Business Planning Session" on Tuesday, January 4<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 7:30PM at Grace Alive! Church. Cost per person is \$25. Pre-registration and payment required. Please contact the Chamber office for registration.

There are no Chamber Board Members' terms that expire this year although, new officers for president and vice president need to be appointed. No office can be held for more than 2 consecutive years without a year off in between per Chamber By-laws. Current president, Melissa Gerads and vice president, Kari Eiden, will have served to consecutive years as officers as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

These 2 office positions need to be filled by January 1, 2011. Mrs. Gerads asked the General Membership in attendance if anyone was interested in filling either of the positions. There was no response at this time.

The Albany Lions will hold their Meat Raffle on Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 4PM at The Albany Bowling Center. Please support the Lions Meat Raffle, proceeds from the raffle goes back into our community.

Thank you to Grand Casino for their recent donation of \$700 to the Albany Chamber. Grand Casino's Business Holiday Event is on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011. Flyers were available at today's meeting and were also in the November issue of the chamber newsletter.

The Albany Area Home Care & Hospice will be having an Open House on Thursday, November 18, 1 to 4 p.m. at 161 4th Street, Suite B, former Albany Medical Center building. View the new location, meet the staff and enjoy cookies and coffee.

Nick Brandner, administrator of Albany Area Hospital & Medical Center, announced that Lynette Thelen, foundation director, would be working on a capital campaign for imaging equipment (radiology and fluoroscopy) beginning in January 2011.

Evelyn Budde, Mercy Manor, announced that Mother of Mercy Campus of care has purchased 18 acres of land east of Albany on County Road 54 with first option to buy an additional 18 acres of the 45 acre section. Mother of Mercy is looking into several options such as more affordable housing, market rate housing and patio homes.

Schlenner Wenner & Company will again host a Quickbooks training class on Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at their St. Cloud office. Laura Reitmeier will get the information to the Chamber office so it may be forwarded to the membership.

Bob Hengel, Schlenner Wenner & Company, will be talking about the tax changes at December's General Membership Meeting.

Ron Paulsen had several announcements for Albany Area Schools. Congratulations to the Albany Huskies Varsity Football Team who made it to the state semi-finals. The first game will take place Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at the Metrodome.

There will be a Three Act Play Performances, AHS Theater November 18<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM and November 21<sup>st</sup> at 2PM.

Albany Area School's student enrollment is up 100 students from last year.

Pastor Joe Williquette wanted to remind everyone that the Grace Alive! Church facility is open for community use.

Prize drawing won by Tim Jopp.

Next Chamber General Membership Meeting is Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at noon at The Albany Bowling Center

Respectively submitted,  
Kim Fish, Executive Secretary