

**Bay Area Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors
August 2, 2006
Red Lion Hotel – 7:00 am**

Members present: Chris Christoffer, Sterling Bank; Dick Leshley, Yellow Cab; Ken Croes, KCBY-TV; Joy McCarthy, CCAT; Barry Hayes, Pony Village Mall; Rick Howell, South Coast ESD; Judith Hansen, SOCC; Martin Callery, Oregon International Port of Coos Bay; Ron Oprits, SCDC; Barb Gunnell, Gunnell Insurance Agency; Scott McClure, City of Coos Bay; Chris Coles, Downtown Association; Brandy Thompson, Cardinal Services; Bonnie Barron, Bay Area Hospital; Renee Middleton, US Bank; Jenny Bream, Brian Bream Screw Machines; Joanie Johnson, Sincerely Yours! Antique Mall; Jon Richards, Southwestern Business Development Center; Tom Scheideman.
Others Present: Shirley Liberante, Executive Director; Pam Cottrell, Office Manager.

President Chris Christoffer called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone, Introductions were made.

The minutes of July 12, 2006 Board Meeting were unanimously approved as mailed.

President's Report – Chris announced Shirley Liberante's resignation as Director of Bay Area Chamber of Commerce. A copy of the press release was mailed to all members. Shirley will resign as of October 31, 2006. Chris expressed the appreciation of the work that Shirley has done with the Chamber, and the regret of no longer having her as director. He also took the opportunity to wish her well in her future plans. Chris explained that the Bylaws outline that a Search Committee must consist of: 1 Executive board member, 1 past president and 3 present board members. The function of the Search Committee is to look over applicants for the position of Director of Bay Area Chamber. All members are welcome to attend the actual interviews. The Search Committee is Lucinda DiNovo, Bonnie Barron, Dick Leshley, Chris Christoffer, Greg Stevens and Shirley Liberante. The Goal is to have a smooth transition. Open committee for interviews will start in the next 10 days. Last month the board voted on Bylaw changes. There were some questions on voting procedures as outlined in the Bylaws. Clarification will be made and sent to the board. Clarification of Bylaws for voting: Article VI Board of Directors Meetings: Suggested changes for section 4, Section 4: Voting on Regular Business Items – a quorum must be present consisting of ½ the voting members with a majority (greater than one-half of the voting members present) required for passage. Article XIII Amendments to the Bylaws, Suggested additions for Section 2 Adoption: If 2/3 of the voting members are not present to vote, the election may be held electronically with the approval of the members present.

President Christoffer commented on the Curtis Cup held last week-end in Bandon. "A great event, and the weather was perfect." Judith Hansen and Rick Howell presided as Marshall's during the event.

Executive Director's Report- Shirley thanked the board for their kind words, concerning the announcement of her resignation. She assured the board that her goal is to be involved in picking her replacement and having a smooth transition. Board Elections are coming up. Nominating committee met. The ballot will be in the mail soon. New members joining are the Bank of America, North Bend Branch and Brooke Insurance. Preparations for 2007 Retreat are being made. The retreat will be held October 20th. Shirley encouraged all committees to prepare their plans and goals to be discussed at the retreat, as soon as possible. Bay Area Chamber of Commerce and Pony Village Mall will be hosting "Taste of the Town" on September 12th at Pony Village Mall. This is a benefit for local schools, to help purchase school supplies for children. The Blackberry Arts Festival will be August 26 and 27th. The first IBO meeting will be September 13th. A great line up is planned for this year sessions. Mr Zuppi, founder of Sterling Bank will be the first speaker.

Treasurers Report- Barb Gunnell reports that the Chamber does have money. That the bills are being paid. Next month report will outline a full picture.

Ambassadors – Joy McCarthy reports that the goal of the Ambassadors is to promote Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, businesses and economic development. The Ambassadors have always had a good relationship with the board, and with Shirley and her Positivity philosophy. The Ambassadors will be going to State Convention in September in Roseburg, and will be hosting a hospitality room to showcase our Bay Area, in hopes of bidding on the 2008 convention to be held in the Bay Area. Their slogan is "Coast is great in 2008, You'll love it here". Joy asked for feed back from the board to support the convention. Shirley and members of the board unanimously voiced their support of the Ambassadors in their endeavor to win the bid for the 2008 convention to be held in the Bay Area.

Tourism - Jenny Bream reports that there will be a meeting the third Thursday, this month. She wanted to take the opportunity to comment on how wonderful the area looks. " Everything seems to be alive and well in the bay area."

IBO – Shirley took this opportunity to ask the board to select someone to work with the new director on this project. We would like to see it to continue to succeed.

Government Affairs – Rick Howell reported that meetings will start up in September. Weekly legislative forums are planned to be held the 3rd Tuesday of the month with Interactive Video, at the ESD offices.

Leadership Coos - Pam Cottrell reported that due to the efforts of last years promotion and recruitment for the program, we started with 38 interested people on the waiting list for 2006-2007 program, to fill the 30 open spots. On July 5th applications were mailed to the 38 participants, with a letter that applications will be accepted on a first come bases to fill the 30 positions. To date we have received 10 completed applications. Deadline for accepting applications is August 11th. Brandy reported that the planning committee met in July to start planning the first session which will be held September 12th.

Banquet Committee – Barb Gunnell reported that the banquet is planned for January 20th.

Transportation - Martin Callery reports that a meeting is planned September 1st. A couple items on the agenda are Connect Oregon and Criminal Control at the Airport.

City of Coos Bay – Scott McClure reports that the WiFi tower will have a new location soon. The new tower we give WiFi downtown Coos Bay range along Hwy 101 as far north as Park Street, south to Hall Street, five blocks to the east and if you are on a boat in the bay. Blue tourist signs will be going up soon, indicating Coos Bay as a WiFi community. The Empire boat ramp has been resurfaced. ODOT will include a sidewalk in their plans,that will connect to downtown from the Red Lion, on the same side of the street. Central Dock, the new site for the Historic museum, is waiting for funding.

Charleston – Martin Callery reports that Charleston will hold their annual Seafood Festival August 19th and 20th. Their will be lots of Tuna. The amount of Salmon is questionable. Moorage payment has been deferred for 36-38 commercial fishermen while they wait for Federal or State funds. The Ice plant in the Charleston Marina is open and producing ice.

South Coast Development Council – Ron Opitz congratulated Shirley and the Chamber on a job well done. It's a great time to live in this region. Many businesses are putting money into remodeling projects. This region is in the game to win.

BDC Business Development Center – Jon Richards reported on the upcoming event "Disney Institute". Disney Institute will be at Southwestern Oregon Community College on September 14th. The program is open to local businesses to attend and take a look at "Business Behind the Magic". Disney facilitators will share the successful business practices that have made the Disney name synonymous with Leadership strategies, service excellence and customer loyalty throughout the world. We feel honored to be able to have this training available to our local businesses.

Southwestern Oregon Community College – Dr. Judith Hansen reports that enrollment is up 9 % at SOCC. The percentage of high school graduates have increased. September 29th will kick off their 45th anniversary. The new Recreation area is open and ready for visitors. This new area includes a climbing wall. They are in the process of interviewing for a director for OCCI. Over 50 applications were received for this position.

Chris Christoffer thanked Tom Scheideman for his participation with the board and wished him luck on his transfer to Washington with Weyerheuser.

After much discussion a motion was made by Dr. Judith Hansen, "To put together a task force to disseminate accurate information concerning the LNG project." The motion was seconded by Dick Leshley. Discussion continued sharing information and ideas on this project. After much discussion, the motion was brought to vote. The board unanimously voted in favor. The board will not take a stand, but will provide accurate information to the community so that as a whole, the community can make an educated decision for themselves.

Adjournment: President Chris Christoffer, ask if any further business to be discussed. Hearing none, meeting was adjourned.