

**Bay Area Chamber of Commerce  
Board of Directors  
June 6, 2007 at 7a.m.  
Red Lion**

Board members present: Jenny Bream, Brian Bream Screw Machines; Ken Croes, KCBY-TV; Dick Leshley, Yellow Cab; Sam Roth, Century 21; Chris Christoffer, Sterling Bank; Matt LeDoux, Fishermen's Wharf; Sherry Yarbrough, Umpqua Bank; Johanna Dillard; Costal Paper and Supply; Joanie Johnson, Sincerely Yours! Antique Mall; Renee Middleton, US Bank; Mel Campbell, Campbell's Vacation Apts; Mark Mattechek, North Bend Lanes; Joy McCarthy. Community at Large: Martin Callery, Port of Coos Bay.

Others present: Deryl Beebe, Ambassadors, Timm Slater, Executive Director; Pam Cottrell, Bay Area chamber of Commerce; Chris Cole, Coos Bay Downtown Association.

President Jenny Bream called the meeting to order. Introductions were made around the table. May minutes were approved and seconded.

**Presidents Report** – Jenny welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. She introduced and welcomed Timm Slater as the new Executive Director for the Chamber of Commerce.

**Executive Director-** Timm opened by thanking the board for the unique opportunity of serving as the Executive Director for the Chamber. His plan is to “do good things and have fun.” For the Chamber to be successful it takes the combined efforts of every member. His hope is to visit with every Director during the next two months, to learn their needs, expectations and share opportunities. On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Timm attended the first Education Committee meeting that was held at Milner Crest School. This committee hopes to link high school graduates with local businesses and improve the overall quality of education. Many topics were discussed with the participants agreeing to write a mission statement for the committee to help define a meaningful first effort. The next meeting is scheduled for June 19<sup>th</sup> at the North Bend School Head Office. This committee plans to meet in many different locations in the community. On another note the chamber Community Profile has been mailed out. This profile is a great tool for our members and community. Maps are being printed by Spring Hill Press. These maps will be on sale to visitors for \$1.00 at both North Bend and Coos Bay visitor centers by the end of the month. Please let the chamber know your ideas and opportunities. If you can identify another committee that we need as an area give me a call.

**Treasurer Report-** Sherry reports that the Chamber is liquid with funds available of over \$168,000.00. New membership shows revenue of over \$9000.00.

**Ambassadors Repot** – Deryl would like to remind everyone of Business After Hours tonight, June 6<sup>th</sup> at the Black Market Gourmet. The World will be introducing their new Publisher. There have been several Ribbon Cuttings for new businesses this month, Posto Bella, The Oregon Steakhouse, Scooter Mania and Easy Lane Frames. The Ambassadors helped with the RSVP dinner. It was a wonderful success. RSVP did a wonderful job. We are getting ready to

attend the Eugene Convention in September 2007. The Ambassadors hope to spike the interest of attendees to come to our area for Convention in 2008. Jill Hansen will be preparing a skit for the Ambassadors to perform. They will also be hosting a Hospitality Room, offering Oyster Shooters, Shrimp cocktails and Bog Water. Donations for Gift Baskets will be greatly appreciated. The goal is to offer 2 -3 gift baskets that would promote our area with gift certificates for activities, dining and lodging. Another idea is to have the Ambassador web site link with the Chamber web site so people may register for the convention on line. The Ambassadors are working on money making projects to help raise funding to pay for entertainment, speakers and tour busses for convention attendees. At this time the Ambassadors are selling Sweatshirts at both Coos Bay and North Bend Visitor Centers and 50/50 tickets at Business after Hours to raise funds. It has been figured that the registration fee that participants will pay will cover food cost for the convention.

**Tourism Report-** Joanie reports that Geocaching is a big draw to our area. There are over 800 GEO Cache spots to be located. For more information on this please visit [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com). The tourism route signs for the Coos Bay to Bandon route are up. Bandon has declined to pay for a portion of the signs. They feel that the route takes traffic away from their downtown area. The idea of having a Chamber bracelet available to tourist is in the works. The idea behind this bracelet is have treasure map that would encourage people to visit local businesses and purchase charms at \$1.00 each to collect and add to their charm bracelets. A Wine tasting walking tour is planed for Downtown Coos Bay on July 12<sup>th</sup> with a movie at the Egyptian Theatre to follow. The theme for this year's Fun Festival is "Slice of Heaven in 2007".

**IBO-** Timm reports, last Wednesday was the last IBO before the summer hiatus. Bob Huggins and Jay Farr did a presentation on the Prefontaine Run and Memorial. The IBO will begin again in September. The purpose of IBO is to show case businesses, their impact in our community and success stories. Please let Timm know your ideas for potential IBO speakers.

**CB/NB Tourism and Conventions Bureau-** Mark announced that Katherine Hoppe has taken her new position with the bureau. She has moved her office from the Chamber office to the Visitor Center. The new web page design is coming along. Pony Village is hosting "Save our Pool" Beach party, this Saturday at Pony Village Mall. The theme is a beach party with real sand. There will be music, food and beverages. Several drawings are planned and a Dune Buggy will be raffled. This event is to help raise money to refurbish the North Bend Pool.

**Government Affairs-** Dick reminded everyone of the opportunity available to talk directly to our legislators at the Teleforums. The Teleforums have been Tuesday mornings at the ESD. The last session was yesterday and will begin again in February. There are plans to move the Teleforums from the ESD building to SOCC.

**Forestry & Fisheries** - Timm invited everyone to attend the Forestry & Fisheries meetings. The meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month, 7AM at the Red Lion. Lumberjack Competition will be taking place at the end of the month at The

Mill Casino. This is a great event for our area. Volunteers are still needed for clean up and timers at the event. The competition is sponsored by The Mill Casino and the Chamber in partnership with Douglas Timber Operators.

**Membership Development-** Johanna reminded the board she will be retiring after twenty five years of service. Theresa Haga has offered to help with membership development after Johanna retires. Johanna recognized the efforts being made by Sarah in recruiting new chamber members. She would like to encourage board members to call new members and welcome them. Johanna has found that new members really appreciate the welcome phone calls.

**Leadership Coos-** Pam reports that the Steering committee will meet on June 12<sup>th</sup> to start planning the 2007-08 year. Leadership Coos begins September 11<sup>th</sup> and ends in May. This program accepts 30 participants each year. There are 36 interested parties on the waiting list. Applications will be mailed in the next couple of weeks. Positions will be filled by the first 30 to respond. This is a great program. If you or someone you know is interested in attending, please contact me to be put on the waiting list for 2008-09.

**Transportation-** Martin reports that bills are moving slowly. The Connect Oregon Bill will reduce allocation by 10% per region. Focus on projects. The impact is statewide.

**4 Star Awards-** Johanna plans on presenting awards this month. She would like everyone to know that Rick and Becky Richardson have purchased Sozo Coffeehouse in North Bend. They have done some wonderful things getting ready to reopen. The business is now open and offering many new and delicious treats. July Jubilee meeting is tonight. This event is held the 3<sup>rd</sup> week-end of July. There are plans for live music, Disc golf and big celebration.

**Charleston-** Mel is proud to report that landscaping is done. Charley has moved to the end of the bridge. Seafood festival will be held the 3<sup>rd</sup> week end in August. We are asking for help with decorations. Mermaid cut outs will be placed around town. Your help is also needed in planning the "worst parade". Your ideas on forming groups to walk in the parade are welcomed, the sillier and dumber the better. This is a great opportunity to come have some real fun. There are plans for a "Flying Fish" contest. The Sunrise Rotary Club will have their 1<sup>st</sup> annual Mud Flat triathlon. In the month of May, Charleston recorded 1050 visitors. On a serious note, over 1000 signatures have been collected to oppose the proposed Marine reserves bill. This bill will limit people from fishing and crabbing within 3 miles of the shoreline, which would have a tremendous effect on our community. Please write letters to the governor to express our opposition to this bill. Another concern is the effect that the Wind Wave project will have on our crabbers and fishermen. Let's become knowledgeable and be heard. Lastly an item of concern is the ODOT proposal to reclassify Cape Arago from a state highway to a county highway. This road is the only access to our beautiful beaches and state parks. Not maintaining this road would affect everyone.

**Port of Coos Bay-** Martin shared the master plan to improve the Port facilities at the Charleston Marina. It is hoped that these improvements will serve as a template to encourage others to make improvements. Senate Bill 21, a non

federal fund to dredge the channel, is at the Ways and Means committee and moving forward.

**Coos Bay Downtown Association-** Chris announced, the Coos Bay Downtown Association, in conjunction with the City of Coos Bay will be hosting an Open House July 11th at the Black Market Gourmet. Concepts of Downtown Revitalization will be explored. Guest speakers will be Mayor Jeff McKeown; Andrew Locati from Crow and Clay will speak on the historic architecture of the downtown buildings; Joan Wessal, City Manager from Corvallis; Vicki Dugger, Oregon Downtown Development Association; Hillary Baker, Facade Renditions; and Peggy O'Neal and Larry Watson, Public Art and Public Space. This is an exciting time for the downtown area. This event will be by invitation/RSVP. A survey will be circulating to hear the ideas that businesses have to improve their facades and area. Joanie took this opportunity to show her support in revitalizing the downtown area. There are plans in the works to enhance the breezeway downtown—rename this area, add murals on the building walls, banners to mark the area, benches, flower planters, waste cans and picnic benches. Chris continued her report mentioning that Gary Rifkin is updating the Downtown Association's website. The Farmers Market is currently active every Wednesday, in downtown Coos Bay.

**Adjourn-** Jenny adjourned the meeting.