

**Bay area Chamber of commerce
Board Meeting
March 2, 2011**

Board Members present: Eric Farm, Menasha Forest Products; Pam Plummer, Umpqua Bank; Renee Middleton, US Bank; Dana Webber, Sterling Savings Bank; Clark Walworth, The World Newspaper; Gerry Miller, Star of Hope; Pam de Jong, Star of Hope; Al Petitt, Hwy 101 Harley Davidson; Mark Mattecheck, North Bend Lanes; Gary Rifkin, Fiddlesticks; Steve Schniederma, Marshfield Bargain House; Crystal Shoji, Shoji Planning; Chris Davis, Carson-Davis Oil; Matt Jarvis, Jarvis Communications; Jessica Randle, The Human Bean; Matt Le Doux, Fishermen's Wharf.

At Large or Ex-Officio Board Members present: Joe Benetti, Airport District; Rodger Craddock, city of Coos Bay; Sandy Messerle, South Coast Business Council.

Others present: Joanne Moss, Bay Area Mailing Connection; Carol Yardley, Ambassadors; Pam Cottrell, Bay Area Chamber of Commerce; Timm Slater, Bay Area Chamber of Commerce.

Eric called the meeting to order. Introductions were made around the table. Due to illness in the Chamber office, February minutes will be sent to you with next meeting's material for approval at our April session.

President's Report: Eric Reports on the Chamber's position on Marine Reserves. We had 14 out of 26 votes, with two abstaining and 12 votes in support of Proposal H- No Marine Reserve or Marine protected area.

Matt reports: The last two weeks we did our presentation to the North Bend and Coos Bay City Councils on how we reached our decision on Marine Reserves. The North Bend City council voted in support of the no Marine Reserve Proposal H. At the Coos Bay City Council there were some differences of opinion. Coos Bay Council was hoping for more information.

Eric recapped the Chamber's position on Marine Reserves saying our ocean is pretty well regulated. What we want to focus on is the proposals themselves and the funding issues.

Thursday March 10, 2011 will be OSCC Chamber Day at the Capital. There are five people registered to attend. There is room for a couple more. This is an all day trip. If you are interested in attending please contact Timm. House Representatives Bruce Hanan and Arnie Roblan; Diane Rosenbalm and Governor Kitzhaber will be speaking.

We are planning a Bay Area Day at the Capital in April. More information to follow.

The League of Women voters will be hosting an informational session on March 9th, 7PM in the Coos Bay Council Chambers on County government reorganization.

The Legislative Action Committee will have a draft ready for us to look at next month .

Executive Director's Report: Timm reports that the 3A Basketball Tournament starts tonight. There is an extreme amount of community support for this event. We are asking business to post the window flyer in their business windows to welcome the players and their families. We will e-mail these to you to print and post. Printed flyers will also be available at the Chamber office. Also we ask that you use your Reader Boards to welcome 3A Basketball. Tickets may be purchased at both high school athletic departments. Coach's bags have been put together. Tonight at the Egyptian the BACC has sponsored a free movie "The Hoosiers". Teams will enjoy a burger BBQ for dinner and the Coaches will be served a seafood dinner this evening at 6PM.

Eric reports that different activities have been planned for the 3A Teams. On Friday the teams will have the opportunity to tour a Kentuck area logging site and South Port Sawmill and enjoy a free lunch. On Saturday we will tour the fish hatchery.

Let's be sure to make this a great event. We would like to see this tournament come back to the area.

Timm reports on the county Commissioner process. There were 33 people including three from our Chamber, who filed for the open position. From the 33, five were selected to interview. These five candidates were asked selected questions. From those interviewed Cam Parry was selected.

On Friday I will be checking into Bay Area Hospital to have a stage 2 cancerous tumor removed from my left kidney. This will be about a four hour surgery on Friday. I hope to be home by Monday, out of the office for the following week or so.

Team Updates

Transportation- Timm reports that this Thursday we will be touring the bridge at Isthmus Slough. If you would like to tour the bridge, please let Bruce know by today.

WBC- Eric reports that today's speaker is Al Solomon.

Timm adds that South Coast Business Employment Corporation is our sponsor for the month of March. The other topics for the month will be the North Bend Police, Cardinal Services, the Small Business Development Center and we end the month with Bandon Dunes.

Leadership Coos- Pam reports that this month's topic is Business and Industry. We will tour Southport Mill, the Airport and several small businesses at the Small Business Development Center. Lunch is hosted by The Mill at the Mill. We will hear a Real Estate panel discussions during lunch. Next month's topic is Arts and Entertainment and in May this group will graduate. We are compiling a contact list for next year, if you or someone in your business has not experienced Leadership Coos, now is the time to contact me and let me know their contact information. In June/July I will contact the people on this list to fill the 34 positions for Leadership Coos 2011-2012. This is a great program with a lot of good community information .

Ambassadors- Carol reports that the Ambassadors are working with the Membership committee. Right now 10 Ambassadors have signed up to be mentors to new Chamber members.

Legislative Action Team- Al reports that next Thursday we will be going to Salem. As we previous reported there is room for others to join us. We have hired Ken Messerle as a consultant. We are funding his fee with donations. There are about 400 bills in front of the legislation right now. We are sorting out what is important to us. At the last Teleconference I think we were disappointed on the responses we heard. The next teleconference will be March 8th, 7AM at SWOCC. Please attend. If you are not able to attend, send your questions to Timm. Some of the items that may concern us are

- State Debt
- State Owned Banking
- Corporate minimum tax
- C-Corporations
- High Oregon Tax Rate
- Health Care Credits

Eric and I will be keeping an eye on these issues. In April we will have a dedicated Bay Area Chamber of Commerce day where our group will go to Salem for the day.

Look for more information in our newsletter as LAT progresses on these issues.

Natural Resources- Eric reports we meet the 3rd Friday at the Red Lion at 7AM.

Membership- Joanne reports that we are working on a mentorship program. We are asking the board to join us at the Coney Station 5:30 pm on Thursday night. We will outline the program and ask you to sign up to mentor 2-3 new chamber members.

Eric reminds the board that last year we did a great job of recruiting new members, we need to work together to retain them. Please stop by Thursday evening and do your part.

Marketing & Communication- Crystal reports that we are working on a tag line for the Chamber. It is our opinion that "Our Business is to help your business" is not memorable. We are sending our ideas to the Executive Committee to make a decision.

We are looking to design a new website. We ask that you take a look at the website and let us know what you need. Allan Ledesma will be working with us.

Community Reports

Coos Bay/North Bend Visitor & Convention Bureau- Mark reports that we had a booth at the Sportsman Show in Medford last week. Cheryl from the Coos Bay visitor center accompanied Katherine in manning the booth. The event was well attended, although it was noted that there was not a guide service represented at this event.

Our next meeting is scheduled for March 3rd. We plan to proceed with the final selection process on our web site and working on our budget.

Katherine has been working on the 3A tournament, putting packets together for the teams and contacting businesses to sponsor team dinners.

This is going to be a well attended event and good for our community.

South Coast Development Council- Sandy thanked the Chamber for their participation with the SDAT report. Also through the SDAT process we have initiated the environmental part of the report using resources through the Coos Watershed association.

We are also working on sponsorship to bring back Soren Simonsen, who was the key leader in our area, to return in March and work with our committees.

We have applied for an Our Town grant last week. We are hopeful for this grant and will focus on the downtown core.

We have a lot of things happening, but I am under a disclosure agreement and not able to talk about a lot of the items we are working on. The good news is that we are very busy.

We are working on grants that will focus on helping our businesses.

There is a USDA processing facility interested in our area and partnering with Curry County. Our new County Commissioner Cam Parry has been very active in this.

Working on a membership drive of our own , with more to report on later.

Also we are working on a \$15000 grant that would help pay for a consultant. I will be compiling an article for the Chamber newsletter to explain more of this process.

Coos County Airport Council- Joe reports that the Airport Executive Director is completing her first year with us. Her evaluation was positive and we are looking forward to working with her.

We are working with Sandy and partnering with SCDC.

We are working to add two flights to San Francisco and 5 return flights. A committee is working on a noise study for our area.

City of Coos Bay- Rodger reports we are completing the demolition of two downtown buildings and look at recommendations for use of the empty lots.

We are also looking at constructing a multi use pathway to run from SW Blvd to Newmark. We are looking into a 2 million dollar grant for ODOT to complete this project and have staff members studying the area.

We keep you informed of the progress of this project.

Charleston- Matt reports that bridge construction is set to begin. Retail business construction going on and work on the Coast Guard boat station and the new aquarium project is in the process.

Other Business

Joanne reminds that board that two new businesses are coming, please stop in and welcome them.

Portland Bagel will be opening in two weeks on the corner of Broadway and Newmark and a new Craft Shop on Broadway in Coos Bay.

Pam d reminds the board that Zonta has scholarship money available.

Eric that we are completing accountant report , information to follow.

Meeting adjourned.

