

**Board of Directors**  
**May 4, 2005**  
**Red Lion Hotel – 7:00am**

Members present: Dick Leshley, President; Jenny Bream, President-Elect; Johanna Dillard, Vice President. Directors: Bonnie Barron, Bay Area Hospital; Ken Croes, KCBY-TV; Marty Giles, Wavecrest Discoveries; Sam Roth, Century 21 Best Realty; Timm Slater, Weyerhaeuser Company; Greg Stevens, The World; Brandy Thompson, Cardinal Employment Services; Sherry Yarbrough, Umpqua Bank; Shirley Liberante, Executive Director; Connie Davis, Office Manager. Ex-Officio city representative: Scott McClure, City of Coos Bay. Guests: Daniel Sisneros, Marshfield High Student Representative; Christine Coles, Coos Bay Downtown Association; Rick Howell, South Coast ESD.

President Leshley called the meeting to order and everyone present introduced themselves and their businesses.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the minutes of the April 6, 2005 meeting as mailed.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

**Marshfield High** – School representative Daniel Sisneros reported that Spring Fling will be held Monday through Friday of next week. He said that an assembly will be held on Monday and the following activities are planned for the week: circle game, jump rope contest, staff tug of war, student tug of war, fashion show, powder puff football for girls, sumo suits, music by KMHS, scooter obstacle course, watermelon eating contest, barbeque lunch, rock wall, car stereo contest, drive-in movie, bingo, pie throwing contest, ice cream and a band will play. Dan said that the students are really looking forward to this fun week.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Leshley welcomed Sam Roth, of Century 21 Best Realty, our newest board member. Dick said that the Tall Ships have brought a lot of visitors to the area and that the summer season is going to be a busy one with the Lumberjack Festival in June and the Rails Northwest train that will be arriving in July.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Summer Schedule Changes** – Shirley reported that at the end of May the IBO Lunch Forums and the Business After Hours will stop for the summer and will resume again in September. She said that ACS is the program for today's IBO and that they currently employ 570 people and are planning to hire 30 more. She said that next week will be the Chalkboard Project and the week after that CEDCO will be speaking about their plans for the Weyerhaeuser property.

**Lumberjack Festival** – She stated that this will be the 5<sup>th</sup> year for the festival and it is still drawing "around the world" competition – every year gets better and better – and KCBY and KDCQ will be broadcasting from the event. She said that in order to offer free admission to everyone that they rely on sponsorships from local businesses and are still \$3,000 short of their goal of \$13,000. She asked that anyone wishing to help sponsor the event call her.

**Tall Ships** – Shirley said that the tall ships are drawing a lot of people to the community and will be staying until May 8<sup>th</sup>. She said plans are to continue to bring in more tall ships and that Chamber office assistant, Sarah Baker, has started to work on this already. Greg Stevens suggested that it would be a great tourist-draw to have a resident tall ship here in our area. He said that he would be willing to work on a committee to research this possibility.

**Rails Northwest** – Shirley reported that this group consists of 500 people traveling from Seattle/Portland/Salem in 13 vintage passenger rail cars. She said that they have 6 hotels booked and 5 Laidlaw buses contracted already. She said that their trip is estimated to take about 13 hours and that work is already underway to put together packets featuring economic development information, to introduce the group to our area, (that they can read prior to their

arrival). The train is expected to arrive at approximately 7:00pm on Saturday, July 23 and the entire community is invited to welcome them.

Shirley said that Hank Hickox has offered to pay for 2 economic development representatives to go on the train to speak to the visitors and answer questions. Representatives from the Ambassadors may be aboard the buses to answer question and talk about our area. She said that a “really big welcome” is planned and Rob Schab is checking to see if the Lab Band is available to play that evening when they arrive.

**New Members** – Shirley reported that new members joining in May are Desktop Specialties Unlimited, offering bookkeeping and small business assistance services; Fishermen’s Wharf on the dock in Charleston, offering fresh fish, seafood cocktails and gift items; The Quiet Circle, teaching horseback riding to disabled people.

#### **OTHER OFFICERS & COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Tourism** – Marty Giles reported that the next meeting (May 19, 7:30am at the Red Lion). will feature information on the Governor’s Conference on Tourism, workshops, training people and how to help that happen and updates on the local Visitor Centers, hours they are open, etc. She said that this month is National Historical Preservation Month and the Marshfield Sun Museum will be open every Saturday in May from 1:00-4:00pm.

**Economic Development** – Shirley reported that Adam Zimmerman and Tom Scheideman are the new co-chairs of the committee and they have a lot of great ideas regarding bringing in new speakers. She said that the last meeting was packed and started with an “around the table” so everyone could share information. She said that the meeting is held the last Monday of every month at noon at the Red Lion (with the exception of May, since that day is Memorial Day). May’s meeting will be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**IBO Business Forums** – Greg Stevens said that his name keeps showing up for IBO, but he has not been involved for awhile and Shirley has been lining up the speakers for the meetings. Dick said that beginning in September we need a couple more people to assist at the Wednesday meetings. Shirley said that Ken Croes and Kathryn Jackson have volunteered to help and mentioned that IBO is going into its’ 5<sup>th</sup> year.

**Tourism/Conventions** – Shirley reported that the Promotions Committee has hired Christy Smith and she will begin by working on coupon books.

**Government Affairs** – Rick Howell reported that plans are to split the Ways & Means committee and the last time legislators had 5 different sessions. He said that the committee currently has 85 participants on the list and people are asked to submit their question by the Friday prior to the monthly meeting so that the legislators have time to prepare their information for the Monday forum. He said that the meeting is “interactive television” in an open-forum format and they encourage questions. He said that legislators have \$150 million left in their budget to disburse and they are looking for citizen input. Dick Leshley said that if anyone has an issue they would like to discuss that the legislators really do listen and Rick said that they encourage calls, letters and e-mails.

Shirley congratulated Rick on the return of his 2 sons from Iraq. Rick explained that they are the only family that has had 2 sons return with 3 purple hearts.

**Forestry/Fisheries** – Timm Slater invited everyone to attend the very informative meetings and take the opportunity to meet some people that are not always in the public eye. (Foresters and loggers). He said that Bob Raggon emcees the programs and a lot of the subject matter deals with history of the area and natural resource issues.

**Membership Development** – Johanna Dillard reported that she and Greg Stevens are getting ready to launch an expanded 4-Star Customer Service Awards program. She said they plan to have Board members and Ambassadors present the awards and pictures will be taken of the

recipients. She said that people really need to be recognized for doing a good job and requested that anyone experiencing great customer service should call or e-mail and let us know. She said that the Pancake Mill and the Y-Marina will be honored this month.

**North Bend Downtown Association** - Johanna stated that the next North Bend Downtown Association meeting will be at Simpson Park and they will be touring the North Bend Visitor Center to see what is available for tourists.

**Drugs Don't Work Task Force** – Dick Leshley reported that he is on the committee dealing with drugs and alcohol. He said that one proposal regarding meth users would be the automatic termination of parental rights for anyone cooking meth in their home.

**Leadership Coos** – Connie Davis reported that this year's class will be graduating next week. She said that the event will be held at the Yacht Club. Shirley Forbes, of the Coastal Center, will be conducting a "Colors" class, Dan LaCoste, District Manager of US Bank will be speaking on Leadership and Volunteerism, Tom Bennett, Internship Coordinator at Southwestern, will be speaking on Team work and Customer service. Dick Leshley and Shirley Liberante will be encouraging the graduates to become more involved in community volunteerism and will also assist with handing out the graduation certificates. Black Market Gourmet will be catering lunch that day and Gordon Gates will be barbecuing oysters for the group.

**City of Coos Bay** – Scott McClure reported that the latest Coos Curry Labor Trends show unemployment dropped from 8.7% to 8.2%; the City is now in its' budget process and even though there has been a 4% increase in property taxes, there has been a 13% increase in employment; tourism revenue is increasing; some project money will be available; the City will be looking to hire a building inspector and until one is on board, North Bend's building inspector will be assisting for small projects and they plan to hire someone from a larger firm for the bigger projects. He said that they hope to hire someone within the next few months; the Ocean Blvd. overlay will begin soon; Home Depot is on hold for the time being due to prevailing wage issues.

**Coos Bay Downtown Association** – Chris Coles reported that the Farmers Market will begin in two weeks (May 18). A Master Gardener will be on hand to answer questions from 9-3, Mark Sturgis will be doing a book signing and there will be lunch-time music. She said that plans are underway for the Blackberry Arts Festival. Dick told her to be sure and ask if they needed any help with the festival.

### **Announcements**

Marty Giles announced that the access to the tide flats at the Portside are almost complete.

Shirley Liberante announced that the video done by SCDC, that will be used to market our area, is finished. She said plans are to burn DVD's and start sending them out for recruitment and she also plans to have it available on the Chamber website.

Greg Stevens announced that a contest will be held in the Fall that will be sponsored by The Mill Casino-Hotel, Bandon Dunes, McKays Price & Pride, Oregon First Community Credit Union, The World and Prudential Seaboard Properties. The question people will be asked to answer will be "Why We Love it Here" and will feature several different categories. He said that there will be large prizes, a full-color free ad in The World and this project will support other local economic development efforts.

Dick Leshley mentioned that Timm Slater is about ready to retire from the military. Timm said that he has spent 32 years in uniform and that he will also be retiring in June from Weyerhaeuser after working there for 34 years.

Jenny Bream stated that the Wine Tasting event in Pony Village Mall last weekend was a huge success. She said that everything was very well-presented, the mall was packed with people and

it was the best sales day for mall businesses. Dick mentioned that he feels like the community is starved for these types of events and that we should be putting our heads together to see if we can come up with more good ideas for additional events.

Ken Croes announced that KCBY is getting ready to broadcast Business Reports beginning Monday at 6:40. He said that the Community Calendar format will be played throughout the day and he encouraged anyone with business-related news, new employees or products should call the station with the information. Greg Stevens suggested that we air our 4-Star Customer Service Awards on this program along with instructions on how other people can be nominated for this award.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business, President Leshley adjourned the meeting.