

**Bay Area chamber of commerce
Board of Directors
November 8, 2006
Red Lion Hotel – 7:00 am**

Board members present: Chris Christoffer, Sterling Bank; Barry Hayes, Pony Village Mall; Ken Croes, KCBY-TV; Dick Leshley, Yellow Cab; Bonnie Barron, Bay Area Hospital; Sam Roth, Century 21 Best Realty Inc; Barbara Gunnell, Gunnell Ins. Agency, Inc; Theresa Haga, CCD Business Development Corp; Renee Middleton, US Bank; Jenny Bream, Brian Bream Screw Machines; Martin Callery, International Port of Coos Bay; Lucinda DiNovo, The Mill Casino; Katherine Hoppe, Executive Director Bay Area Chamber of Commerce; Pam Cottrell, Bay Area Chamber of Commerce
Guest present; Rick Howell, South Coast ESD; Chris Cole, Coos Bay Downtown Assoc; Jon Richards, Southwestern Business Development Center.

President Chris Christoffer called the meeting to order and everyone introduced themselves and their businesses.

The minutes of the October meeting were unanimously approved as mailed.

President's Report: IBO luncheons have been meeting every Wednesday, 12 noon, at The Mill Casino's Salmon Room. Encourage you to attend. Goals for 2007 are focused on Customer Service and how the Bay Area is seen through the eyes of others. A form was inserted into the November newsletter asking for nominations for 2007 Business of the Year and Citizen of the Year. Please take time to make a nomination and give recognition to those who have made a difference.

Executive Directors Report: Katherine Hoppe shared that she attended the Salem Chamber Conference. At the conference ideas and concepts were shared on current trends, future of the chamber, how to strengthen the board. She looks forward to sharing what she has learned through the coming year. Katherine also shared that Bay Area Chamber of Commerce competed with other "large" chambers and won an award for our Community Directory and one of our other publications, which she is waiting to find out if it is our area brochure or our brochure for things to do with your kids. Both were entered. Economic Outlook Forum is on track. We have 23 sponsors, the speakers are lined up. Katherine will be meeting with Jon Richards and Lori Capps, talk of increasing number of participants from 240 to 250. 2007 goals were set for the Chamber by board members at the planning retreat last month. Katherine will be reviewing those goals, and setting in motion to achieve the goals set.

Treasurer's Report: Barb Gunnell went over the budget. All items looked in order and the Chamber has money.

Ambassadors: Ambassadors went to Roseburg to the 2006 convention and won the bid to have the 2008 Convention in the Bay Area. Roseburg has been very helpful in sharing information and experience in holding the convention.

Ambassadors will be asking the community for donations to help in giving the expected 250 visiting ambassadors a true Bay Area experience. The estimated cost of the 2008 convention is around \$38000.00.

Tourism: Jenny Bream reviewed the 2007 goals outlined at the retreat. Ideas were shared for "Secret Shoppers" to evaluate customer service at local businesses.

Economic Development: Barry Hayes reported that Judith Hansen is working on, SOCC and Senior High School training for non College bound students to enter a trade. A Curriculum is being created to reach students that chose to enter a trade vs going to college. Next month Ron Opitz will speak. The Economic Development meeting takes place the last Monday of the month, noon at the Red Lion.

IBO: Katherine Hoppe reported that IBO's have been meeting every Wednesday at The Mill Casino at 11:30. There will not be an IBO the week of Thanksgiving. But will start again on November 29th – December 13th. It's a great opportunity to hear some great speakers and network with other business people.

Government Affairs: Rick Howell encourages board members to attend Teleconferences, scheduled to begin the first of the year. Teleconferences give you the opportunity to interact with constituents. There is a workshop planned in December on how this system works. The board will be asked for questions they would like answered by the participants.

Leadership Coos: Pam Cottrell gave a quick overview on the past month. Once again this is the largest group so far at 30 participants. She encouraged all board members if they have not attended Leadership Coos or if they know someone that would like to attend next year's session to contact Pam to be added to the waiting list. The list currently has 22 names for next year's session.

Banquet Committee: Barb Gunnell shared that this years Banquet theme has been chosen and will be "Lucky '07". The banquet will take place on January 27th at the Mill Casino. Sure to be a great time had by all. Please be sure to attend and enjoy the celebration.

Transportation: Martin Callery reports that Mark Leedum from ODOT has been doing scoping to replace Isthmus Slough Bridge. Two committees have been meeting to discuss opening the span vs fixing the existing span. EIS process to look at cost of bridge and corridor eastside to 101. Federal ear mark coming, active with legislator. Next speaker will be Road master, who will be discussing roads that have been rebuilt. ODOT downtown overlay is a two year project. Scoping will begin.

4 Star Awards: This award is to recognize great customer service. When you have someone you believe should receive this award, please email Katherine Hoppe at khoppe@uci.net. Katherine will be delivering awards this Friday at 3:30. All are welcome to attend.

City of North Bend: Jan Willis congratulated Barry Hayes on his new position on the North Bend City Council. Good results for North Bend, the Police Department will receive an upgrade after 30 years. An engineer has been selected in designing the Boardwalk. ODOT is ear marked to begin design by the 1st of the year, a bid on construction to begin November 2008. CEDCO and

Home Depot are moving forward with their plans for Home Depot to open in the area. They have been working with the railroad on a signalized intersection. A building permit by next December, is expected. Pancake Mill is expanding. KFC building on Virginia has been purchased by Tai's Dynasty. The Nissan property across from Pony Village is for sale. Mongolian Grill hopes to open in December. Wayne Shrunck continues to work on the building facades in downtown North Bend. Oregon Downtown report draft should be final in 2 weeks. The report will be shared with the community once completed. Market specialist, have ideas for business development teams and recruiting businesses.

City of Coos Bay

Charleston: Martin Callery reposted that a master plan update for Charleston, hope to finish in late spring. Planning meeting is an on going process, invite everyone's participation. The Charleston merchants are looking forward to holiday shoppers. Port plans to replace docks at the marina.

Coos Bay Downtown Association: Chris Cole reports that the Farmers Market wrapped up for the year on October 18th. Focus is on agriculture. Happy to announce that vendors will be able to accept Food Stamps, WIC and Senior vouchers next season. Holiday lighting is planned for November 26th.

Southwestern Oregon Community College- Jon Richards reported for Judith Hansen who was on a 5 day trip to Asia, visiting SOCC sister colleges. The college is gearing up for a Global focus. The Culinary Arts Institute is looking for a new director. It is hopeful that this position be filled by January. The recreation center is open and free to the public thru December.

CCD Business Development Corporation- Theresa Haga shared some local projects that are taking place, Harley101 is selling. There is a new Dental office being built on S.2nd Street. BNT promotions are coming along on their new office and commercial building. A new Cranberry warehouse is being built in Curry County. Economy in the area is perking along and improving over all.

Adjournment- President Chris Christoffer, asked if any further business needed to be discussed. December 6th board meeting was canceled. Economic Outlook Forum will be held December 8th. The board thanked President Christoffer for his time heading the board. This will be Chris's last meeting. The board will be welcoming New president Jenny Bream. Meeting was adjourned.