

**Bay Area Chamber of Commerce**  
**Board of Directors**  
**September 3, 2008**  
**Red Lion Hotel-7am**

Board Members present: Ken Croes, KCBY; Mel Campbell, Campbell Vacation Apts/Charleston; Chris Davis, Davis Oil; Pam deJong, HOLM; Eric Farm, Menasha Forest Products; Matt LeDoux, Fishermen's Wharf; Gary Rifkin, Fiddlesticks; Crystal Shoji, Shoji Planning, LLC; Margery Whitmer, Betty Kay Charters; Joanie Johnson, Sincerely Yours Antiques; Jim Hough, Hough, MacAdam & Wartnik; Sherry Yarbrough, Umpqua Bank.

Others present: Dick Leshley, Yellow Cab; Jenny Bream, Gunnell Insurance; Theresa Haga, CCD Business Develop Corp; Ron Opitz, South Coast Development Council; Patti Denton, Prudential Seaboard Properties; Rob Schab, Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board; Garrett Johnson, Menasha; Chuck Freeman, City of Coos Bay; Jan Willis, City of North Bend; Matt Jarvis, JCI/KOBI-TV; Wally Hazen, School Board; Pam Cottrell, Bay Area Chamber of Commerce.

President Ken Croes called the meeting to order. Minutes were approved.

**President's Report-** Ken reports that Timm Slater is on a well deserved vacation. I will cover the areas that we have been working on this month. August has been a busy month. I attended the North Bend City Council and reported on our activities this past quarter. Timm Slater testified on our behalf at the Federal Surface Transportation Board hearing in Eugene. We drafted a letter of petition on the lost of Horizon at the Airport. We held our first planning session for Economic Outlook Forum, which will be December 12<sup>th</sup>. Much of the planning of the event was accomplished. During the meeting we discussed the results from the participants' evaluations from last year's gathering. We also chose candidates for the Home Grown Business portion. Planning for the fall Chamber Quarterly which will be distributed through The World Newspaper is on its way. The Chamber is actively seeking advertising support from the Chamber members. IBO's have been schedule to the year's end. Handshake marketing membership drive is set for September 25<sup>th</sup>. Planning for the fall retreat on October 24<sup>th</sup> continues. The 2009 Chamber Directory is underway with ad solicitation. Planning for the Awards Banquet in January 2009 is in its initial stages. The Statewide Ambassadors and Greeters Association Convention organization is in its final stages. The Chamber's website has been redesigned and is being evaluated before going live. If you would like to see it you may go to [Oregonsbayarea.org/index.htm](http://Oregonsbayarea.org/index.htm). It is parked there for the time being. Take a look and tell us what you think. So that is what has been going on. Ken asked Sherry to update the Board on the Handshake Marketing Membership Drive.

Sherry reports that a date of September 25<sup>th</sup> has been set. We are going to try something a little different this year. We are going to get out and hit the streets. We will gather at about 9am, a meeting place has not been determined as yet. Sherry started a pass around sheet asking board members to sign up if they are interested in participating in the membership drive. We are hoping to have groups of 3 to 4 and hope to cover 4 areas. Timm will set up Coos Bay Area, North Bend area and Pony Village area and Charleston area. If you know of a business that you would like us to visit to become potential members, please add them to the sign up sheet. We are going to have a Chamber Directory with us along with other materials. We are going to stop in to business, say hi and invited them to become part of the Chamber. Give them a little information on what the Chamber can do for them. We also hope to stop by member businesses just to say hi, give encouragement. Just do some face to face visiting. Let these businesses know that we care. This should be a lot of fun and will mean a lot to the businesses that we are actually out there. We will pick up business cards; the group will meet around noon, have lunch, and discuss what took place. Any follow up Pam and Kathy will do and maybe some of us as well and see what questions they have concerning membership and get them signed up for membership. We will take a different approach this year and see what comes from it.

Ken encourages the board to get involved with the membership drive.

**Treasurer Report-** Jim reports that according to the report compiled by Clare Gove CPA, dated July 2008, the Chamber has cash total cash on hand of about \$104,000 as of July 31, 2008. As far as performance through out the year, we seem to be right on track with our budget. Total revenue for the whole is projected at \$350,000. We have collected about \$215,000 through the end of July. So we are pretty much right on at this time.

**Tourism-**Margery reports that the committee has looked at their objectives for 2009. We would like to support the Tuna Classic. We would like to support the Visitor Center remodel and continue efforts on the Charleston to Bandon tour route. The brochures are available at the Visitor Center. The Tall Ships event that we had, we will probably discontinue the reception idea, due to not knowing when the ships may dock due to weather and other deterrents. We would like to continue with gift baskets to the captain and crew and the Boardwalk activities. The Charleston Seafood Festival was successful. We would like to thank the Port and the Charleston Fire Department for their efforts.

Joanie added that the committee would like to work closely with the Downtown Association, so not to duplicate our efforts when the Tall ships come in. We would also like to apply for a grant to help with the cost of developing a bicycle path for the Seven Devils area.

**Forestry & Fisheries-** Eric reports that is has been pretty quiet. He attended the Eugene Rail Hearing. He did a testimony on behalf of Menasha, on how not having rail service effects our forest products. It seemed to be well received. There seemed to be a pro Port/anti CORP attitude from the board. That was pretty encouraging. On a little different note, we have the Salmon Derby coming up on September 27<sup>th</sup>. This event is put on by the Coos River Step and NW Steelhead association. I have tickets if anyone is interested in attending. Our next meeting will be September 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Leadership Coos-** Pam reports that this year's session will start on September 9<sup>th</sup>. We have a full group of 30 participants. If you have not attended this program, or know of someone who may be interested please contact the Chamber. A waiting list is being compiled for next year.

**IBO-** Dick reports that IBO is booked to the end of the year. We hope that on January 7<sup>th</sup> to put together a joint presentation of Coos Bay and North Bend and The Mill on the Boardwalk along the waterfront project. To see what the impact may be. One idea that we have is a presentation on Credit Card merchant fees. If you have ideas or something in particular that you would like to hear or know about, please give me or the Chamber a call and we will see what we can do to make that happen.

**4 Star Awards-** Sherry passed out 4 Star nomination cards. She encourages the board to fill out the cards and nominate businesses that you have received outstanding customerservice from. If you would like to leave some of these in your business, so that your customers may let us know about wonderful service that they receive while visiting your business that would be great. This quarter is July, August and September. In September will be looking at the business that we have received cards on and in October we will be delivering certificates to those businesses with the Ambassadors help. This means a lot to the businesses to be nominated for Customer Service Awards. So please be aware when you are out visiting businesses, notice their customer service. Good customer service brings return business and brings tourist back.

**Ambassadors-** Patti reports the Ambassadors have been very busy. We have had two ribbon cuttings. D's Medi Tan (there was a great article in The World Newspaper about that) and Fiddlesticks. If you have not visited Fiddlesticks lately please do so. It is a great store. Business After Hours had a good turn out. We are getting ready for our convention. We have had a lot of response from people. So people are planning on attending.

**Coos Bay Downtown Association-** Joanie reports that the Blackberry Arts Festival was the largest most successful turn out. Every space was filled; there were a lot of new participants along with returning vendors. Fun Festival is coming up, September 20-21<sup>st</sup>. The Grand Marshall has been picked, but not announced. This person is very deserving of our community support this year. Last Sunday's Farmer

Market was extremely good. On Saturday they are going to crown Teen Idol on the stage in front of City Hall between 3-5 pm. The Downtown Association is going to plan an open mic night, so they can get the public's opinion. The Downtown Association will be contacting the police department. A representative will meet with the police to discuss the panhandling problem in downtown.

**City of Coos Bay-** Chuck reports last night the agency accepted the supplement offer on the Central Dock property. There are a total of eleven and half acres. The Hollering Place kick off happened last week. It was very well attended. The next meeting will be September 22. There is interest from developers, from outside of the area.

**City of North Bend-** Jan reports North Bend is doing fine, really nothing new to report. We will be meeting with engineers to complete the waterfront design. We hope to have the construction cost estimates this month. The land mark commission weighed in rather late. We welcome all input. They have enough information to bring back a preliminary design. The council will take a look at that and determine whether or not they can afford it and whether they like it. Still plan for the Fall of 2009. The North Bend Hotel remodel is coming along.

**Charleston-** Mel reports the Charleston Visitor Center is seeing more bikers than we have every seen before. They are doing the Seven Devils Road, because they have heard about the bicycle route. We can thank the website and promotions. They have done a good job in promoting that. The Port is continuing putting in new restrooms across from the Betty Kay.

Matt adds that Tuna season is underway. It is bringing a lot of people down to the docks. We are seeing people from Eugene, Roseburg and even out of Washington. We have good fish in Charleston.

Mel finishes with Charleston is seeing people come from all around. Fishermen's Wharf is now cooking crabs. If people catch crabs, but do not have a place to cook them, it is nice to know that now they have someplace they can go and have the crabs cooked.

**South Coast Development Council-** Ron reports that we do have an Airline. Horizon has pulled out. The governor's office got deeply involved. Sky West decided to do two flights North. There will be no break in service. Sky West will begin service on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Along with that we had \$713,000 in guaranteed revenue. The Airport District put in \$400,000 and the city of Portland put \$200,000. Portland wants very badly to keep Sky West maintenance facility at PDX. The Airport District put up \$100,000 of promotional. This brought us up to \$600,000. In one day I received \$115,000 in guaranteed income. I would like to thank Yellow Cab and the Chamber who volunteered to contribute \$1000 each in the spirit to what air transportation means to us. It's important to see the community come together that way. By the way that \$750,000 is not cash; it is a pledge that if things go south on ridership, then they have a back up of guaranteed revenue for the first year. We really feel that they will not go into any kind of reserves, because ridership is up. We are going from a 37 passenger plane from Horizon to a 30 passenger plane from SkyWest, so that alone will increase ridership numbers. SkyWest is planning to add a 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> round trip North, along with flights to San Francisco.

Ron introduced Wally Hazen. Wally serves on the Coos Bay School Board and on the State School board. Ron has asked Wally to come this morning and share information on Schools for the Future. Education is a very important part of our economic development.

Wally shared that Schools for the Future will be asking voters to pass a Bond measure. We need to replace two elementary schools, Madison and Eastside. Most of our schools are over 50 years old. The sheer cost of maintaining the structures are too great. We are hereto ask for the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce endorsement to encourage voters to support this Bond measure.

Ron adds when he was going through the issue, by the way this is not only a Coos Bay issue. I have spoken with BJ Hollensteiner, and when North Bend is ready we will support them. Our school system was built over 50 years ago. When we got to looking at some of these buildings the ventilation systems and air conditioning systems were shot. There are some giant maintenance problems. Kids sit in schools with poor ventilation. Kids can not learn in that kind of environment. We need to acknowledge

that the generation before us built a great school system. It is now worn out. It is time for the next generation to step up and provide a new level of education and learning structures.

Wally added that this is the right time, it is our turn to step up. Some years ago we were looking at construction cost of 3.5 million dollars, today those cost are 15 million dollars, the cost two years from now will be 20 million dollars. There is no way to get ahead of the curve.

Pam deJong added that when people look at moving to a new area, they look at the schools. We need good schools to attract new people to the area.

Wally mentioned that when professionals look at the area, they are looking at the schools. If we are going to attract professionals to the area we need good schools.

A survey taken two months ago showed that over 50% of the voters are for this measure. Demographics show support for education with young voters.

We are asking for the Chambers support to encourage the community to support this tax issue. Writing a letter of support would be great.

It was moved and second that the Chamber will write a letter of support.

Ron handed out a long range facility plan report for Schools for the Future. This report has a lot of information about the schools, cost of maintenance, and cost of replacement. The next meeting will be next Wednesday at 6pm.

Ken asked Ron if the report could be changed to a PDF file and e-mailed to everyone.

**CCD-** Theresa has nothing to report at this time.

**North Bend Downtown Association-** Jan reminds everyone that the holiday season is coming. Please spread the word, shopper should shop Coos Bay, North Bend and Charleston before going out of town or on line. We have many good shops that offer some great and unique gifts.

**Coos Bay/North Bend Water Board-** Rob reports that the Water Board has picked an engineering firm to kick off the expansion of the Treatment Plant. This expansion will change the plant from an 8 million gallon per day to 12 million gallon per day plant. This will give us room to grow and some treatment technology improvements. This technology will give us the capability that if manganese was to return to our water system we would be able to treat it at the plant versus manipulating the reservoir as we did this year. The Bond from the two cities is now paid off. We are reserving a revenue stream of about \$460,000, to shift over to start paying the Bond on this \$10 million expansion project. We hope that the cost to customers will be a one time 5% increase. Being able to pay the new Bond with old Bond money will be a good investment.

**Around the water cooler-** Pam deJong invites the board to come see her and Shirley Kitner in "Always Patsy Cline" at the Sprague Theater in Bandon the last week end in September and the first week end of October. We are looking for sponsorships. A \$200 sponsorship would allow you a poster in the lobby of the Theater.

Jenny announced that Brian Bream Screw Machines has been sold. The business will now be known as BBSM, Inc. They will be keeping the initials, but not the name and doing the same job.

Mel wanted to welcome Wally; he is also a Charleston business owner, The Charleston General Store.

Joanie adds thank you Chuck Seafood in Charleston. They canned the Tuna Classic bounty. Over 4000 pounds of fish was added to our food bank.

**Adjourned**