

**Bay Area Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors
February 4, 2009**

Board Members present: Sherry Yarbrough, Umpqua Bank; Ken Croes, KCBY; Eric Farm, Menasha/Campbell Group; Crystal Shoji, Shoji Planning; Pam de Jong, HOLM; Lucinda DiNovo, Mill Casino/Hotel; Joanie Johnson, Sincerely Yours Antiques; Jessica Randle, The Human Bean; Sam Roth, Century 21 Best Realty; Jim Hough, Hough, MacAdam & Wartnik; Matt LeDoux, Fishermen's Wharf; Mark Mattecheck, North Bend Lanes; Mel Campbell, Campbell's Vacation Apts; Gary Rifkin, Fiddlesticks Gifts.

Others present: Chuck Freeman, City of Coos Bay; Jan Willis, City of North Bend; Dick Leshley, Yellow Cab; Pam Plummer, Umpqua Bank; Matt Jarvis, JCI News/KOBI-TV; Timm Slater, Bay Area Chamber; Pam Cottrell, Bay Area Chamber.

President Sherry Yarbrough called the meeting to order. Minutes for January meeting will be read and approved at March meeting. Introductions were made around the table.

President report: Sherry reports that the banquet was changed this year. We had a sit down dinner versus buffet. The presentation was shortened. The business of the Year was The Mill Casino/Hotel; The Citizens of the Year were David and Shirley Bridgham and Ambassador of the Year was Pam Plummer. Please let Timm or I know of any feedback you hear concerning the banquet. This year's theme is "Together we Can". I believe that Together we Can! Achieve greater results...break down barriers...promote positive reinforcement...discover the perfect solution..bring excitement to every day..make an impact in the community..educate one another..help those in need..make a difference. Through teamwork, all things are possible. This is really what the Chamber is about. I hope that we will do that as a community. The silver stress stars with that theme that were handed out at the banquet, I have similar yellow stars to hand out through out this up coming year. The President's message in the newsletter, I plan on talking about working together and what we can do as a community.

Executive Director Report: Timm reports that the banquet committee will be meeting later this week to debrief on the event. We welcome your input. The whole idea is to make it fun, entertaining and more productive.

The 2009 Directory final draft is here and being proofed. We plan to have it ready to distribute by the end of February. It is smaller this year 56 pages verses 64 pages, due to lack of advertising. I do believe it will be a quality product.

IBO adjustment, we asked the membership for their input. We appreciate that input and worked with Lucinda at The Mill. There will be a slight change, we will be meeting at The Mill, although lunch now will be soup, salad, bread and beverage for \$11.50. This will start at today's IBO.

Membership historically was renewed in January. As time went by, this was changed that membership dues renewed on your anniversary date. Never the less January is our biggest renewal month. In these challenging economical times we see businesses that find their membership with the Chamber to be of value. In saying that, we had a net lost of members last year. Membership is the basis of our principal revenue. We would like to see members engaged in the community and chamber programs. Encourage your friends, new members and future members to be invested. Share with them the value you find in being a Chamber member.

We are looking at fund raising opportunities. Our first fund raiser was promoting and selling tickets to the Salmonpeople production. It was a great presentation. We raised about \$600.00. If you know of a

fund raising opportunity, please let us know. The idea is to raise money to be able to reach out and participant in the opportunities in front of us.

There are three Director spots open. If you know of someone you feel would do a good job, let us know. We plan to fill these spots at our March meeting.

Treasurer report: Jim reports the Chamber has a cash balance of about \$95000.00. We are down about \$49000.00 from last year. The reason for that is, as Timm mentioned, we are short in the membership revenue. In addition to that the expenses were a little high then projected.

Membership drive is planned for March.

Copy of the 2009 budget will be available at the March meeting.

Ambassadors report: Pam Plummer reports that the Ambassadors have a ribbon cutting on February 26th for Alison Wasson Photography at Walt's Pour House from 5pm-7pm. You are welcome to come. Business after Hours will be on the 25th. The host is Oregon Coast Community Action. It will be held at SOCC campus. We will let you know the exact location. The other thing we are going to try this year, is visit fellow Ambassadors clubs. Learn from each other and just some interaction with other Ambassador groups around the state.

Forestry & Fisheries: Eric reports not much to report. We meet the 3rd Friday every month.

Economic Development: Timm reports that they meet the last Monday of the month. They are working on getting the New Business Challenge out by the end of the month.

IBO: Dick reports that we will continue meeting at The Mill. We have open spot open for this year, that is May 27th. That is the last program for the season, starting up again in September. What we would like to do is end with an exciting program. We are open for ideas. Please let me know if you have ideas. Let's finish the season with a bang and looking forward for the next session.

Transportation: Sam reports that there will be a meeting tomorrow at noon. Kevin Stufflebean will speak on the county road department issues. Martin was asked by Larry VanElsberg that he would like to speak on the issue. We contacted Kevin so both side could be heard. As it turns out Larry is not available and Kevin will be speaking on why road department was reorganized. If someone else would like to come and represent the other side, that would be fine with me.

Oregon Resources Corporation met with the Coos County Commissioners and SCDC. This was a very productive meeting. One of the issues that came out of the meeting is that the commissioners don't share information with each other. ORC was asked by Commissioner Main to copy each commissioner when e-mailing information.

I think this meeting got communication going. ORC is looking forward to sharing information and getting the project rolling along.

Government Affairs- Timm reports that the first legislator call was Monday at Tioga 105 at SOCC. Rick Howell coordinates this program. The first half an hour is the Republicans, the second half an hour is the Democrats. The next session will be in two weeks on February 15th. You may participant in two ways, attend the sessions or ask to be on Rick's contact list. You will see the questions and the answers to those questions after each session.

Our Quarterly meeting at IBO was last week with the County Commissioners. It went well and they were cordial with each other. Next Government Affairs in the end of April. The focus will be on State Government.

Four Star Awards- Joanie reports that four star awards were awarded at IBO. The recipients were Coos Bay Marine, South Coast Office Supply, Three B's Nursery, Sincerely Yours Antiques, Abby's Pizza, Gunnell Insurance and High Tide Café. Please nominate businesses with excellent service. Nomination cards are available at the Chamber. Contact Sherry or I and we will be happy to pick those up from you. This is a great opportunity to recognize those businesses that are providing wonderful service to their customers.

Leadership Coos- Next Tuesday our topic is Education. We will hear from North Bend School superintendent; Rick Wetherell will represent Kingsview School; Representatives Carol Ventgen and Gary Sharp from Coos County Library District. We will tour Marshfield High School Pirate Radio. Presentations from Alternative Youth activities, SMART program and ASPIRE program. Favorite part of the day is lunch and tour of Oregon Institute of Marine Biology in Charleston and tour of SOCC. We will end the day at SWOYA. We are adding to the waiting list for next year's program. If you have not attended or know of someone who has not attended Leadership Coos, please contact me. This is a great program and we would like to see it continue.

Coos Bay/North Bend Visitor and Convention Bureau- Mark reports that the convention packet is close to completion. VCB received a grant for the packet. Echo Design is designing the packet. It is a beautiful packet. It will have information on all the meeting spaces in the area and other activities. The cover is a picture of Shore Acres. It is tying into the brand of Oregon's Adventure Coast. In the packet will be a thumb drive that can be used to see what we have to offer in this area. We will bring you the final copy of this packet. It will be available to you to send to people you think may benefit from seeing it.

We have been at sportsman's shows all this month. Our convention packet matches our booth, representing this area. Every weekend we will be traveling to these shows and representing this area.

We have travel writers coming to the area. We take care of them while they are visiting in the hopes they will write about our area.

Joint effort with the airport and Helen Bunnell, to purchase tickets, when ridership is low. These tickets are offered to meeting planners to come visit our area. Our idea is to promote in Portland and have people in Portland to come visit our area.

A \$500,000 gift to North Bend High School. We are putting up a video screen at the football field. North Bend High School will be the first High school with instant replay. This will help with state play offs. This will get people coming to the area because of our good facilities for sporting events at both Marshfield and North Bend High Schools.

North Bend Downtown Association- Jan reports we met this week. The waterfront project was shared with those who attended the meeting. If you have not visited Ephiany's, please do. She not only has done a nice job with the inside, but also the improvements made to the outside of the building.

Coos Bay Downtown Association- Chuck reports that general membership meeting is coming up sometime this month.

City of Coos Bay- Chuck reports this Friday at 4pm, we will do our first presentation at The Hair Co, with the first check from the small business fund. The Agency granted her over \$5600 for her moving expenses from the Lockhart building to her new location, advertising and signage. Two more will go before the agency and will be given on the 17th. We had 15 inquiries, which 13 of them are within the district. Each urban renewal district, Empire included, qualifies for up to \$7500 grant money, with the contingency of attending classes at SOCC. Joyce will do an initial interview with the business owner. Then they will meet with Arlene Soto to attend trainings.

We are expanding our WiFi downtown. Looking at adding a timer to block users after 15 minutes of use, they will not be allowed back on for 60 minutes. We are looking at a new revenue source in charging users for the use of WiFi. The Port has been doing this for sometime, in looking at their data we will see if we can follow by using Paypal for long term use.

Fire Station design approval will be asked for at the next council meeting. The Visitor Center design will be looked at. We have learned that the whole building will need to be elevated one foot.

City of North Bend- Jan reports that the city is working on the budget. We had a clean audit. We are getting ready to look at 2009/2010 budget year. The Waterfront project is coming along. We open for bids on the swimming pool next week, hoping that the bids will come in within budget. The project is planned to be finished by May.

Charleston- Mel reports that we may be receiving sidewalks and street lights on Boat Basin Drive. Crab Feed will be February 14th. Hope to see you all there. This is our largest fundraising. We will also be celebrating Oregon's 150 birthday. May 2, 2009 we are planning to welcome back Charley Tuna.

I have a question to ask, How do we stand as a political group?

My second question is what do we know about Governor Kulongoski tax on GPS travel.

I think that we should keep a close eye on these and be aware.

My last comment is let's also keep an eye on the Wave energy projects.

Matt is working with Charleston on computers. Travel magazines are looking at our docks. We should use the computer for cyber advertising, with the idea to have visitors come and visit Charleston.

Jan will contact the North Bend library on the computer for the Charleston visitor center.

Timm offered that with the board's help, we will evaluate the legislative bills that are coming out and get the information to the members.

The Chamber is a member of the US Chamber. They have no connection to local Chambers. US Chamber are huge lobbyist for big business.

Adjourned

Around the water cooler:

Mel is looking for donations to add to the Charleston Crab Feed drawings.

Wine walk is this Friday, downtown Coos Bay.

Yellow cab having February special, \$6.00 Fare for in town cab rides.

KCBY is now HDTV.