

**Bay Area Chamber of Commerce
Board Meeting
January 5, 2011**

Board Members present: Eric Farm, Menasha Forest Products; Lucinda DiNovo, The Mill/Casino; Renee Middleton, U.S. Bank, Pam Plummer, Umpqua Bank, Jessica Randle, The Human Bean; Dana Webber, Sterling Savings Bank; Crystal Shoji, Shoji Planning; Pam de Jong, Star of Hope; Jerry Miller, Star of Hope; Gary Rifkin, Fiddlesticks Gifts; Steve Schneiderman, Marshfield Bargain House; Matt Jarvis, Jarvis Communications; Clark Walworth, The World Newspaper; Erin Johnson, Edward Jones Investments; Chris Davis, Davis Oil; Matt LeDoux, Fishermen's Wharf; Brooke Walton, Sterling Savings Bank; Mark Mattecheck, North Bend Lanes

At Large or Ex-Officio Board Members present: Joe Benetti, Airport District; Martin Callery, Port of Coos Bay, Rodger Craddock, City of Coos Bay; Patty Scott, Southwestern Oregon Community College.

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

Eric called the meeting to order. Introductions were made around the table. Minutes for November 2010 board meeting were approved. Correction in December board minutes, Steve Schneiderman was listed as a board member. He did not become a board member until January 2011. The Correction was noted and minutes approved.

Presidents Report: Eric reports we are going to focus our year on our 2011 objectives. The focus is creating a strong Economy; Promoting the Community; Providing networking opportunities and Representing business Issues.

He welcomed our new board members Erin Johnson, Edward Jones; Steve Scheiderman, Marshfield Bargain House; Clark Walworth, The World Newspaper and Gary Rifkin, Fiddlesticks Gifts, Matt Ledoux, Fishermen's Wharf and Pam de Jong, Star of Hope. Also welcomed where committee chairs, Joanne Moss, Bay Area Mailing Connection, chair of the Membership Committee and Carol Yardley, Care Giving Rentals, President of Ambassadors for 2011.

A general membership meeting will be held on January 20, 2011 at The Mill Casino in the Salmon Room at 7am. This meeting is open to the general membership. We will be outlining the Chamber's goals for 2011 and organizing into teams. Please attend and get involved.

2011 Chamber Awards Banquet will be held January 29, 2011 at the Mill Casino in the Salmon Room. No host social hour will begin at 6pm. Coup D' Bop will be playing. Your nominations for Citizen of the Year and Business of the Year are due this Friday. Please send your nominations to Timm.

The invitations to the Banquet were mailed last week. Please attend this year's big event.

Executive report: Timm reports that the Communications Committee is working on a tag line for the Chamber. This should be no longer than six words long and should reflect who /what we are. Please send your ideas to Crystal.

Economic Outlook Forum was well attended. The evaluations we collected were positive. It seems, having John Mitchell speak toward the end of the event worked well. John is very entertaining, thank you U.S. Bank for sponsoring him. Mr. Mitchell has agreed to speak at our 2011 EOF. We had 28 Business sponsors, same as last year, with 166 attendees down somewhat from the 189 attendees who attended last year..

The Visitor Center Volunteer recognition dinner was hosted and donated by Trish and Joe Benetti on December 16th. Forty two volunteers from the three visitor centers attended. Generous gifts were donated from 36 local businesses. Each volunteer received a gift. Thank you Benetti's for hosting the dinner for the volunteers.

In 2001 IBO became a Chamber event. This event was started by local Independent Business Operators and named accordingly. In 2011 the Chamber renamed this event, to correctly identify the purpose of the lunch, to the Wednesday Business Connection (WBC). Format for the luncheons has been slightly changed. Each month will be sponsored by a Chamber business. This business will give a 10 minute presentation and receive recognition throughout the month. Another addition to the format is the opportunity for a business or organizations to register for a ten minute time slot before the scheduled speaker to give a short presentation.

Today's WBC topic will be Marine Reserves.

The Chamber budget has been reviewed by the Executive Board. A few suggestions/adjustments are being made. The budget will be ready for a vote in February.

Committee Reports

Natural Resources- There are a few projects that are getting off the ground.

Matt adds the public comment session for the Marine Reserve proposals has ended. Proposal should be selected in February to recommend to the Port.

Legislative Action- Eric reports that the County did not sign the lease with ORC. This is disappointing. We are waiting to hear if the operation will be moved to Curry County or if ORC will continue working with our County Commissioners.

Timm represented the Chamber at the hearing and did a good job.

This committee will continue to support chromite mining.

Legislative session starts February 1, 2011. We will be calling on the board and general membership to attend the bi-weekly Tele Conference held at SWOCC during the legislative session. We will be speaking with Senator Verger, Representative Roblan, Representative Krieger and Senator Kruse.

Membership Development & Retention- Joanne reports that the committee met yesterday. Our membership stays about 640 members. Last year during the membership drive we gained 90 new members. We are looking at how we can connect with the members better. An idea is to ask board members to contact members and ask their ideas and/or needs. Also invite them to attend WBC. We are working on developing a mentor program to help new members to become comfortable and knowledgeable with the Chamber.

We are working with many ideas. Our next meeting is January 18th, 7AM at Kozy Kitchen in Coos Bay.

Marketing & Communication- Crystal reports that the committee continues to work on a Tag Line. Please send your ideas to Timm. If you are interested on serving on this committee our next meeting will be January 28th at Sozo's. We are working on developing a new website and looking at social media opportunities.

Business Development & Support- Lucinda reports the new name for what was once called Economic Development will now be known at Business Development & Support. This committee will present its goals at our January 20th meeting.

Transportation- Timm reports this committee meets next on January 6th, noon at SCBEC. The topic will be the Railroad, the speaker Martin Callery.

Wednesday Business Connection (WBC)- Timm reports today's topic will be Marine Reserves. The speakers will be Kathy Wall and Jim Pex.

A reminder on the 10 minute opportunity, This is great networking opportunity. We will shorten the open mic time and make this 10 minute opportunity to all members. Please call Timm to schedule your 10 minutes.

Next week's topic will be the Airport, Theresa Cook will be the speaker.

Ambassadors- Carol reports that on January 4, 2011 the new Ambassador's board met. A list of Chamber activities were talked about. We are open to ideas and would like to help with membership retention.

The ambassadors discussed changing Ribbon Cuttings and Grand openings to welcome events. Businesses that are not new may be uncomfortable having a ribbon cutting or grand opening, but may want to showcase an event and have the Ambassadors present.

We would like to keep the exposure going and are looking for ideas. Please send your ideas to Carol Yardley.

Business After Hours was discussed an idea was shared to have a sign up list to assure that at least two board members attend Business After Hours.

Community Reports

Coos Bay/North Bend Visitors & Convention Bureau- Mark reports that the promotion of "Chowder Bounty" is working

VCB is working on the web site. We are looking for a fresh look and media interface capabilities. To date we have received 15 responses on the RFP.

3A Basket Ball Tourney is coming. Let's post posters in our businesses windows and make them welcomed.

City of Coos Bay – Rodger reports that Lockhart building is being demolished. The Old Fire Department is scheduled to come down next.

The city is looking for public input and how best to use these lots.

Bay Area Hospital- Paul reports that on January 29th the hospital partnered with OHSU and will be offering a free head & neck cancer screening. The idea is to raise awareness and solidify a relationship with OHSU.

Port of Coos Bay – Martin reports agreement has been made with railroad on purchase price for the section from the Coos Bay Bridge to Coquille. We are working on funding and working with Railroad consultants. Bid packages are out. It is our hope that local contractors will bid on this work.

Charleston- Matt reports that crab season is open. The weather is beautiful. Come enjoy Charleston.

Coos County Airport District- Joe reports the Airport has seen an increase in traffic over the holidays.

Southwestern Oregon Community College- Patty reports that the college will be 50 years old on May 1, 2011. The college plans a kick off with yearlong events. More information to follow.

A Prefontaine Master Track meet will be hosted April 8 & 9. The age group is 75. We have found that we have a track coach that is a world record holder in the master event. This event will bring people to the area.

Preview on April 16th to promote college and look at the area.

Meeting adjourned to Executive Session

Meeting adjourned after Executive Session.

