

**Bay Area Chamber of Commerce  
Board of Directors  
March 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; Joanie Johnson, Sincerely Yours Antiques; Sam Roth, Century 21 Best Realty; Matt LeDoux, Fishermen's Wharf; Mel Campbell, Campbell's Vacation Apts; Gary Rifkin, Fiddlesticks Gifts; Chris Davis, Carson-Davis Oil; Kyle Zender, Wayne's Color Centre.

**Others present:** Dick Leshley, Yellow Cab; Rob Schab, CB/NB Water Board; Theresa Haga, CCD Business Development Corp; Martin Callery, Port of Coos Bay; Timm Slater, Bay Area Chamber; Pam Cottrell, Bay Area Chamber.

**President report:** Sherry welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Introductions were made around the table. Both January 2009 and February 2009 minutes were approved.

Three new directors will be added to the board the nominees are, Dana Webber, Coos Bay Sterling Savings Bank; Clark Walworth, The World; and Randy Rema, Reese Electric. The nominations were approved and seconded. The vote was unanimous to add the three nominees. Timm will notify them.

**Executive report:** Timm reports that the 2009 Chamber Directory arrived yesterday. Please give us a call and let us know how many you would like to have on hand at your business. The directory is used to promote the Chamber and our members.

2009 Budget- 2008 was a challenging year. The Chamber dropped in membership by 77 members; 41 new members joined the Chamber. This ended with a net lost of 36 members, leaving a total membership of 577 members.

In addition to that the Chamber gave three substantial donations this year. The airport received \$5000, The Ambassadors received \$750 in support of their convention; and a donation of \$750 was given in support of the Lumberjack Competition.

2008 Banquet- In history we have broke even on the cost of the Awards Banquet. That was not the case in 2008 we had a cost of \$2000. The result of that was that the committee approved a guaranteed number of 200 attending and upgraded the dinner by \$10 per plate. This year, 2009, we reconstructed the event, added entertainment. I do believe the event was something that people wanted to come to, and enjoyed themselves.

Economic Outlook Forum- 2007 we netted \$8000. In 2008 our net was \$6000. The reason being less people attended and we had less sponsors for the event.

Visitor Center- Change with our contract with the City of Coos Bay. The Chamber use to receive \$53,000 from the City to cover the cost of running the Visitor Center. The Chamber no longer receives that money from the City. The City pays all of the Visitor Center expenses. The Chamber still processes the payroll and benefits. These costs are billed to the City each month for reimbursement.

We have been working with Clare Gove CPA, in the future Accounting reports will be generated from Quick Books. The old report we have been receiving is confusing to read. Our hope is to simplify this report.

We are looking at \$20,000 in new membership and events. Revenue of \$14000 to be added with fund raising events. We are currently working with the Mill and Sandfest. A thought we will be pursuing is to raffle an ATV at the Sand Fest event.

Another way to cut cost is sending the Chamber newsletter by e-mail versus mailing. The Chamber could save \$6600 annually.

Our largest expense is staff. We are going to keep cost the same as last year and reevaluate at the end of the year. A modest increase for staff is planned, keeping the executive salary the same.

Our plan is to add 10 new members per quarter. This formula would create 40 new members per year at \$200 for an increase of \$8000 in revenue. The plan is to continue our handshake marketing. Adjust and reevaluate in six months. The budget is a work in progress. We will adjust membership to \$8000. We are looking for sponsorships to host IBO this year.

Discussion that fund raisers need to carry out our mission. The Chamber needs to promote business not events. Look at seminars and education. Looking for ideas on Fund raising, promote our mission and make money. The Chamber's strength is its members who get involved.

Timm will rework the budget and contingency plan. He will send an e-mail to the Board asking for fund raiser ideas.

Watson Ranch Golf was Coos County Club. We might look at a BACC golf tournament for the future. Ask for business sponsorship in advance.

You will receive a monthly budget report from Quick Books, the presentation will include monthly figures and year to date figures.

A note will be sent to membership, in the next newsletter, asking about receiving the Newsletter only through e-mail.

**Leadership Coos-** Pam reminded the board that the waiting list is being compiled for next year's participants. If you have not attended or know of someone who has not attended Leadership Coos, please ask them to contact Pam at the Chamber to be added to 2009-2010 Leadership Coos waiting list.

**Tourism-**Mel reports that Preserve America is a Federal program. Anne Donnelly at the Historic Museum is taking the initiative on this. They do have a web site [www.preserveamerica.gov](http://www.preserveamerica.gov). This needs to be done by city. We are looking at community signs and public acknowledgement.

Joanie added that this program was initiated by Laura Bush. It would be important to get the City council involved and the Chamber play a supportive role. For more information on preserve America please visit their web site.

**Forestry & Fisheries-** Eric reminds everyone that the next meeting is March 20<sup>th</sup>, 7am at the Red Lion. Doug McGuyer will talk to us about silviculture. I will start working on getting our Hot Issues together from the retreat 2009.

**Economic Development-** Pam reports that the deadline is approaching for new business challenge. Timm added that Joyce presented the Coos Bay Plan with information outlining the incubator and Urban Renewal project at the last committee meeting.

**IBO-** Dick announced no IBO today. We are looking to fill two slots on the IBO committee for the 09/10 year.

**Transportation-** Martin reports that Transportation will not be meeting tomorrow. There is too much flux to be able to discuss what is going on.

Sam reports that last month Kevin Stufflebean spoke to the group. The opposition did not show up. Kevin took a look at timber revenue and looked out for the next 5 years. He chooses to lay some people off from the road department. Plans are to work closely with Douglas County and the state.

Martin added that the former road master was contacted to speak to the transportation committee sharing both sides of the issue. Mr. VanElsburg was not interested.

**Government Affairs-** Timm reports that legislative calls are every other week at 7am on Mondays at Tiogo Hall. The first half of the time is the Republicans, the second half is the Democrats. If you can not show you may still send your questions to Rick Howell. The questions will be asked and written up in the minutes.

The end of April Quarterly IBO will be State Government. Portland has contacted me and is working with a consultant on a statewide program called Crossing the Columbia. This concerns a 4 billion dollar program for a new I-5 bridge across the Columbia, which they would like to make a presentation about. We need more people on Government Affairs committee to be involved. This is an important aspect that the Chamber does is supporting issues and getting involved for our community.

**Four Star Awards-** Sherry reports that we have a few, but not many Four Star Award applications. We have the High Tide Café from last quarter to still present their certificate to.

**Membership-** Timm reminds everyone that March is handshake marketing. We will be talking about how to close the deal. Sign the new members up ask for payment. Possibly bonus with KCBY to be mentioned on the air. Join now and received bonus.

**City of Coos Bay -** Joanie reports that at last night's meeting they discussed the Downtown Virtual Business Incubator . Business can apply for \$7500 to promote their business. We have received four applications. Two of them were approved Dunes Coastal Gift and the Body Art Shop. Katrina Kathleen's is temporarily on hold due to the fact that the Fletcher building they are in is in the process of being brought up to code. Olson Skate Park has been okayed. Fire Department made a request for new equipment.

**Charleston-** Mel thanked everyone for their donations for the Crab Feed. We did very well. It was nice to see many of you out for the first time. The Recall people came and set up in front of the Crab feed and we asked them to leave. Charleston Merchant Association has changed their meeting to the third Tuesday of the month at the Charleston Fire Department at 6pm. Thank you for the contributions from Yellow Cab, we appreciate it.

**Port of Coos Bay-** Martin reports that the Port is moving ahead on the acquisition of the rail line. We got an e-mail from the State that we have about five days to put together an application for federal stimulus funding for non highway funding. Hopefully that will be a source we can use to rebuild some of the line. Sandfest came to us several months ago. They originally planned to move Sandfest to Riley Ranch. They came to us and asked if they could use the Jordon Cove Road and close off the Trans Pacific Parkway that is just north of Horsefall Beach. In the past Weyerhauser has been very staunch about the use of their roadway. This time they approved the use of the road for Sandfest. The vendor fair and will be in that area next to Jordon Cove. So we are all trying to co operate.

Meeting Adjourned