

**Bay Area Chamber of Commerce  
Board Meeting  
September 1, 2010  
The Mill Casino-Saw Blade Room**

**Board Members present:** Lucinda DiNovo, The Mill Casino/Hotel; Eric Farm, Menasha/Campbell Group; Matt Jarvis, Jarvis Communications; Pam de Jong, Star of Hope; Clark Walworth, The World Newspaper Crystal Shoji, Shoji Planning; Randy Rema, Reese Electric; Renee Middleton, US Bank; Sherry Yarbrough, Umpqua Bank.

**At Large or Ex-Officio Board Members present:** Joe Benetti; Airport District; Sandy Messerle, South Coast Development Council; Patty Scott, Southwestern Oregon Community College; Paul Janke, Bay Area Hospital; Theresa Haga, CCD; Rob Schab, Coos Bay/North Bend Water Board; Martin Callery, Oregon International Port of Coos Bay.

**Others present:** Timm Slater, Bay Area Chamber of Commerce; Pam Cottrell, Bay Area Chamber of Commerce. Dick Leshley, Yellow Cab Taxi; Jenny Bream, Ambassadors; Rick Keating, Sterling Savings Bank.

Lucinda called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made around the table.

The minutes from August meeting were approved.

**President's Report-** Lucinda reports that the Chamber fund raiser "Taking Care of Business II" was a success. Our goal was to fill all fourteen lanes at North Bend Lanes. We filled 13 of the 14 lanes. For the second year "Team Honda World" won "Strikers" ( highest score); Ocean Blvd Veterinary Hospital's "Coos Bay Kittens" won "Stinkers" (Lowest score); and Ambassador's "Alley Cats" won "Strutters" (best in show). There was about \$1300 raised for the Chamber and everyone had a good time. Please mark your calendars for next year. This is an annual event, the last Thursday in August.

Update on nominations for the upcoming Chamber Board elections. Ballots will be sent out September, the new board members will take office on December 1, 2010.

We are expecting a special guest speaker Senator Jeff Merkley for the deed hand off to the Historical and Maritime Museum from the City of Coos Bay. Senator Merkley will be on the Waterfront at 9:45 AM. Please come out and show your support.

**Executive Report:** Timm reports that IBO begins September 8<sup>th</sup>. We are looking at using a new format for IBO. Our focus is to end by 1PM. We have sponsors for the first three months, September's sponsor is Oregon International Port of Coos Bay, October sponsor is Yellow Cab and November sponsor is Edward Jones. Speaker for September 8<sup>th</sup> is Tom Rumreich with a presentation on STEP. September 15<sup>th</sup> the speaker will be Chuck Holloway with a Market Update; Martin Callery will be giving an update on the Railroad on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Month will end with Senator Verger on September 29<sup>th</sup> talking about the 2011 legislative session. The month of October will be focused on candidate forums. November will be focused on panels. In December we are looking forward to Nick Furman from the Crab Commission and an update from the Coos Maritime Museum. If you are interested in the sponsorship opportunities please give Timm a call.

Economic Outlook Forum is in planning. We have changed the structure to three updates and 2 Homegrown businesses presentations. We plan to kick off with Guy Tauer and finish with John Mitchell. We are working on some ideas to allow for more networking opportunities and interaction with our sponsors by getting attendees to visit the sponsor's tables.

Chamber planning session will be October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Survey for the planning session will be sent to you today. Please take a few minutes to fill out and return. This information helps us know what you are wanting from your Chamber.

Medford Chamber people will be here on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and will meet with us from 7AM -9AM at The Mill. More information will be available later this week. The Board is invited to come. September 10<sup>th</sup> at the Empire Fire Department will be hosted an event for Veterans in Need.

## **Community Updates**

**Economic Development-** Pam reports that there are no updates at this time. The committee will meet the last Monday of the Month.

**Membership-** Lucinda reports that Monster Bash II will be October 30<sup>th</sup> at 8PM, please mark your calendars. Jessica Randle and Lucinda are working on an additional element to add a murder mystery in front of the Halloween party. Please look for more information to come. I look forward to seeing all of your fabulous costumes. This will be a affordable event.

Our quarterly Membership Reception is in the planning for November, date to come.

**Government Affairs & Business Advocacy-** Eric updates us on ORC Chromite advocacy. Eric met with Nikki Whitty and Bob Main and plans to meet with ORC on Thursday. There has been talk that there will be no more individual meetings and instead consideration for a session for ORC and the county facilitated by our LAT with experts information provided. More news next month.

**Community Cooperation & Communication-** Crystal reports that the committee looked at the Relocation Packet that the Chamber sends out to promote our area. We looked at the Community Profile that the Chamber produces each year. Other than a few suggestions this group thought it was a good idea to use the profile with a letter. The Profile has good information about our area.

We have a sub committee that is looking at the Chamber web site. We are discussing how best to promote the Chamber and who we are.

**Leadership Coos-** Rick reports that Leadership Coos 2010-2011 will start with a full roster of 34 participants this year. Our first session is September 12<sup>th</sup>, focused on our area's History.

Something that we talked about on our last meeting is that Leadership Coos doesn't have a presence on the Chamber website. Our thought is to have a clearing house of the documents and things we do. The challenge is finding the people and time to create and coordinate this project.

**IBO-** Dick reports that things are moving along.

**Tourism-** Timm reports that we have a new chairperson for Tourism, Deborah Rudd. Be looking for more information.

**Transportation-** Timm reports that we have a new chairperson for Transportation, Bruce Bennett. This committee will meet September 2<sup>nd</sup> at South Coast Business Employment Corporation offices in Bunker Hill.

**Ambassadors-** Jenny reports that the Ambassadors have been busy. This last month, two Ribbon Cuttings, The Oregon Connection's new gift shop at the airport and City of Coos Bay Visitor Center. Business After Hours was hosted at Hwy 101 Harley Davidson. It was well attended. The Ambassadors also had a team at "Taking Care of Business II". It was great fun. The Ambassadors will be attending Convention in Astoria on September 23-26. Donations for the Area Basket are needed. We take this basket to the Convention to be raffled. Our focus is to welcome the winner of the basket to visit our area.

## Community Reports

**Visitor and Convention Bureau** - Lucinda reports that the area is working on a promotion called "Chowder Bounty". The website is showcasing, stay two nights and receives two \$25 gift certificates for Chowder at participating restaurants. This event is to take place October 1 – March 1. More information to come.

**Southwestern Oregon community College**- Patty reports that the College will be hosting a speaker Dr. Rusty Stephens, President of Wilson Community College, from Wilson North Carolina. His topic will be Sustainability. This is open to the community. Flyer will be sent to the Chamber to be e-mailed to Chamber members.

May 1<sup>st</sup> SWOCC will be 50, the first Community College to be chartered. We are working on a book about the history of the college and history of the area. Please look forward to a big community event October 2011. We are looking for alumni to contact us and update their information. More information to come.

**Coos Bay/North Bend Water Board**- Rob reports that the design upgrade for the new plant is on track to complete the design by the end of the year. We are also working on a large project in Charleston. When the new plant comes on line we will be looking at a new way to distribute water to the community.

**CCD Business Development Corp**- Theresa reports that CCD is working on a new intuitive which will be ready in the next few weeks.

The Confederate Tribe has applied for a grant for a revolving fund for the Tribal members.

There is a new business in town. The old Molly's Pizza has new owners and they have been working on remodeling.

Timm reminds that today is the last day to submit your Business Plans for the New Business Challenge.

**Bay Area Hospital**- Paul reports that the Hospital is working with architects on expansion design. We are looking for community input. This has been very energizing and fun.

Next Friday night will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual John Whitty Award. This award is to celebrate people who improve health of the Community. The winner of the award this year is Rudy Juul.

**Port of Coos Bay**- Martin reports we were successful in obtaining \$7.8 million from a program.

We expect to open the rail lines in April. This will be considered Service Level I. The trains run about 10-25 MPH. Which is all that will be allowed in certain areas of the track.

Interim service for American Bridge is being looked into. They have not been able to obtain contracts in the last year to year and a half, due to transportation cost being so high. If we are successful in initiating this interim service for American Bridge, GP and South Port may also be interested.

Connect Oregon dollars will primarily be used on repairs for swing bridges.

We also have an application in for a Title II Construction Grant. We will be looking at the feasibility of a passenger train from Coos Bay to Eugene and a bike path from Coos Bay to Coquille.

**South Coast Development Council**- Sandy reports that SDAT study is completed. We should have a complete report in a couple of weeks. I am hearing a lot of enthusiasm from the community asking what are the next steps. Until we receive that report we don't know what those steps maybe.

SCDC has moved their offices to the new Coos Bay Visitor Center. I have hired an Administrative Assistant, Denise Romano.

We have been working with a large facility that has an interest in locating here. They are looking at expanding their business by one location this year. We are working very closely with them in the hopes they will choose Coos County as their new location.

Sandy reminded the board of the South Coast Employer Council. This group meets monthly. Their purpose is to train, educate and support employers. SCEC hosts a series of BOLI seminars that are very affordable. You will find a schedule of their seminars in the Chamber newsletter.

**Coos County Airport District-** Joe reports that the airport has hired a consultant to help with grant process. We are looking at adding a flight to Salt Lake City with Delta. Also another item we would like to address with the grant is a regional Jet. If we can prove that this would be beneficial there will be no more prop planes.

The Airport has also hired Gordon Gates.

### **Director Updates**

Lucinda invites everyone to attend the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Mill luck Celebration this Saturday and Sunday. Lucinda also attended at RV Jamboree. The Mill made a bid to host the NW regional convention. This would mean over 2000 people in our area for 7 days. I will keep you updated.

Please check out Facebook for some great pictures of “Big Lebowski” and other bowling teams.

Eric reminds everyone that tickets are on sale now for the Salmon Derby which will be held next week. You may purchase a ticket and enter a drawing for \$500.

Dick shares that the Month of October Yellow Cab will be participating in a Fund Raiser to Cure Breast Cancer. The fund raiser will be called “Pink Ride” , a dollar from each fare in October will be donated to Bree’s Upscale Resale.

Meeting broke into Executive session.

Meeting adjourned after Executive session.

