

**Potterville Area Chamber of Businesses
Meeting Minutes
Athena Room**

Meeting Date:
Wednesday, January 7, 2009

Present: Linda Murphy, Terrie Bursley, Don Moore, Rita Joseph, Wanda Darrow, Joni Risner, Laraine Owens, Elizabeth Schalau, Jo Lehman, Ed Jamros, Will Lemanski, Debra Finley, Cheryl Hovath, LuAnn Stachnik, Pastor Becky Morrison, Jim Fox, Melissa Alcala, Jack Horner, Brian Halsey, and guest speaker - Sandra Hosey.

Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m. by Jo Lehman. Ms. Lehman thanked Subway for furnishing lunch.

Secretary Report: The minutes were distributed. Ed Jamros moved and Elizabeth Schalau seconded the approval of the secretary's report. Motion carried.

Treasurer Report: Report was submitted by Elizabeth Schalau. Rita Joseph moved and Jack Horner seconded the approval of the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Election of Officers: Proposed officers for 2009 are Jo Lehman – President, Will Lemanski – Vice President, Elizabeth Schalau – Treasurer, Laraine Owens – Secretary and Rita Joseph – Ambassador. Pastor Becky Morrison made the motion to accept the slate of officers, seconded by Wanda Darrow. Motion carried.

Guest Speaker: Sandra Hosey, area representative for Mr. Donahue of Potterville Public Schools, was the guest speaker. She provided information regarding the exchange student program. Anyone interested in hosting an exchange student can pick up information at the City, or call the school.

Community/Business Reports:

Benton Township – Ms. Ritter was absent, no report given.

Churches – Pastor Becky Morrison indicated that they have had a great Christmas season and will be gearing up for the Easter egg hunt.

City of Potterville – Ms. Darrow indicated that they have recently received a grant to plant trees in the area parks. This is an activity that will involve the youth.

The City currently has a council seat open. If you are interested, please stop by the City and pick up an application.

Ms. Darrow further indicated that the City is compiling data for an upcoming capital project.

Brian Halsey, of the Potterville Parks and Recreation stated that he has had several requests for a baseball field. Mr. Halsey is working toward increasing the revenue for the City while utilizing the parks that are currently available.

Mr. Halsey shared information about the upcoming “Snow Much Fun Softball Tournament” scheduled for January 24 and 25 at Lake Alliance Softball complex. Proceeds will benefit the Eaton County Child Abuse Prevention Council.

Early Childhood Connections – Ms. Risner gave report in Ms. Rucker’s absence. She reported that Mr. Al will be at the CPAC on Saturday, January 9. The workshop (Sparing the rod will not spoil the child) will be held from 9 a.m. until noon. The concert will take place at 6:30 p.m. Advance tickets are available at \$5 each, tickets will be \$8 at the door. The Potterville Advisory Committee will be selling Mr. Al cd’s.

Eaton County Parks – Mr. Patton was absent. No report given.

Eaton County United Way – Ms. Risner reported that she is distributing flyers about the Money Smart 2000 Series. This is a series of seminars geared toward teaching people how to manage money. Call 2-1-1 to register.

There will be three volunteer income tax sites to assist low income people in filing their taxes. To qualify, you must make less than \$40,000 per year. Appointments are available by calling 2-1-1.

Ms. Risner further reported that there were 383 calls made to 2-1-1 during the month of November. The number of calls to this service is ever increasing.

Hayes Green Beach Memorial Hospital – Ms. Owens reported that the New Direction Center is currently getting underway. This is a comprehensive weight management center.

Following the move of the Infusion Center to the Family Birthing Center will be a women’s health resource center. Ms. Owens will share more information as it becomes available.

The HGB Auxiliary will be hosting an event with the Purse Peddler on February 13 from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m. If you are in need of a handmade leather bag or wallet, be sure to stop by.

The annual HealthFest is scheduled for March 7. With the current state of the economy, it is expected that the volumes of people coming in for the free testing will increase.

Masonic Lodge – Mr. Jamros reported that the Potterville Masonic Lodge can now be Googled.

Potterville/Benton Twp. Fire Dept. – Cheryl reported that they have two new board members – Randy Bruce and Judy Locke.

The Fire Department distributed approximately 600 Christmas stockings on Christmas Eve.

Potterville/Benton Twp. Library – Ms. Stachnik thanked everyone for the donations made to the used book sale. They had a very nice turnout.

The library is gearing up for the adult reading program that will begin at the end of January, running through the beginning of March. They are also checking into a story time baby program.

Potterville Pride/DDA – Ms. Joseph reported that they have ordered a bench, to be located outside Joe’s. The Bench was donated by the Will Lemanski family.

They are in need of funding to move forward.

Potterville Schools – Mr. Eis was absent. No report given.

Siren/Eaton Shelter – Ms. Quinlan-Fortino was absent. No report given.

Organizations & Businesses – Subway reported that they will be having the any footlong subs for \$5 promotion, beginning in February.

Ms. Darrow reported that the City is having their own "Biggest Loser", as a healthy beginning to the New Year.

Mr. Lemanski reported that December was a very busy month for him.

21st Century Plastics reported that things are rather slow right now, but will be picking up again in April.

Gizzard Fest: Ms. Lehman reported that the planning meetings for Gizzard Fest are on the third Wednesday at 12 p.m. at Joes. The festival will be held on the second Saturday in June. Ms. Lehman further reported that they have secured the carnival and are increasing their food vendors.

Dues Update: Ms. Schalau reported that dues are due.

Miscellaneous: Ms. Lehman reported on the needy baskets. They were able to cover all of the Pottersville families and a few of the Benton Township families. There were a lot of new families this year, nearly 75% being new. This year the demand was for more than 60 families. Last year there were 48. Ms. Lehman thanked everyone for their donations to the needy baskets and indicated that she would have a full report next month.

Those present discussed the need to assist the food bank. It, like many of the food pantries in the area, is running low. It was suggested that everyone bring a bag of items for the food bank to the next meeting.

Next Meeting: The next Pottersville Chamber meeting is scheduled for February 4 at 12 p.m. in the Athena Room.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.