

**Board of Directors**  
**Wednesday, February 4, 2004**  
**7:00am - Ramada Inn**

Attending: Dick Leshley & Eileen Ophus, Vice Presidents; Barbara Gunnell, Secretary; Sid Fannick, Raye Gieseke, Marty Giles, Kristin Hoefler, Renee Middleton, Beverly Saukko, Tom Scheideman, Directors; Martin Callery & Rob Schab, Community-at-Large Directors; Shirley Liberante, Executive Director & Connie Davis, Office Manager.

Guests: Deryl Beebe, Ambassadors; Jessica Chavez & Brandy Thompson, Cardinal Employment Services; Porscha Boyd, Marshfield High School Student Representative; Dick Vigue, Northwestern Mutual Life Ins.; Rick Howell, South Coast ESD.

Vice President Dick Leshley called the meeting to order and everyone present introduced themselves and their businesses.

The minutes of the January 7, 2004 meeting were approved as mailed.

Dick Leshley reported on Executive Committee decisions made at their last meeting: agreed to donate \$500 to RSVP for their special projects; agreed to support the Oregon Medical Association tort reform concerning insurance reform. (Shirley said that all Chambers were asked to support this issue by the U.S. Chamber).

Shirley Liberante asked everyone for their input on the recent Awards Banquet. General consensus was that the event was outstanding. She reported that 223 people were in attendance, 23 visitor center volunteers (meals comp) and 8 Leadership Coos participants (\$10 discount). Income for the event was \$6,400 and expenses at \$5,494.28 for a net profit of \$905.72. Shirley said that this is the second year in a row that we have made a \$900 profit. She offered kudos to Dan Smith recipient of the Citizen of the Year award, Rick Howell recipient of the Member of the Year for his efforts in Economic Development & Government Affairs teleconferencing. She said that she visited with Susan Massey, who is running for office, and she told Shirley that she always reads the information that Rick sends out.

Rick Howell reported that for the candidate forums this year, it has been decided to focus on a single question on business activity. Specifically, asking them what they plan to do to help local businesses.

Shirley reported that she is currently working on this year's budget. She said that she is actually making two projections - One that includes the Visitor Center (to be in effect if the Chamber stays in the present location), and one that has the Visitor Center and the Chamber at separate locations. She said that currently the Chamber pays for insurance, taxes, etc., that includes the Visitor Center, in the amount of approximately \$5800 and that the proposed lease for the new Chamber location would cost approximately \$7500 and utilities would be shared among the four entities sharing the office space. She said that the proposed new location is in the Hub Building, on Central, next to Unicom and would be shared by the Chamber, South Coast Development Corp., Oregon Economic Development Dept. and one other, as yet unnamed, entity. She said that everyone got closer to a lease agreement yesterday and that Mike Crow has been working closely with them to come to an agreement that will be good for all. A discussion was held regarding the logistics of relocating and Shirley explained that the Visitor Center would remain in its current location, staffed with a paid Visitor Center Coordinator and volunteers, just like it is now. She said that the phone company has agreed that service will be

continuous, keeping the same phone number, with calls being answered initially at the visitor center and then by a receptionist at the new location. She said that most other Chambers throughout the country are separate from the Visitor Centers so this wouldn't be a new concept and that they have been looking for space across the street from the Visitor Center in order to continue to work closely with them and the city. She said that the city is aware and agrees with the concept and she feels that it is important for the Chamber to be in with other Economic Development agencies.

Marty Giles reported that she spoke to someone at one of the IBO meetings several months ago regarding how schools have changed over the years. She said she then talked to school representatives and that conversation resulted in Blossom Gulch School issuing invitations to 160 groups to tour the school, have lunch, talk to the teachers and see what's happening in schools now. She said that anyone interested should contact the new principal, Mrs. Haliski.

Marty reported that the Tourism Committee looked at their objectives and proceeded to identify topics for their upcoming meetings this year. She said that the next meeting will be on February 19<sup>th</sup> at the Ramada Inn and the topic for discussion will be National Tourism Week, to be held in May. She said that plans are underway to talk to front line staff and residents who will have contact with visitors to the area. She stated that the new "Water Trails" Maps are now available at local Visitor Centers.

Beve Saukko said that she was glad to see such a large number of attendees at the banquet. She called attention to the two picture boards that contained pictures of past awards banquets, thanked Eileen Ophus for filling in for Johanna, and stated that comments she heard indicate that the event was a total success.

Deryl Beebe reported that the Ambassadors group currently has 30 members (including lifetime members). She said that a couple of people have had to drop out of the group, but their companies have sent other representatives to replace them. She said that they are still recruiting new members and discussing whether to allow larger businesses to send more than one person to join Ambassadors. She explained that since there are so many events - ribbon cuttings, openings, Business After Hours, and other events - that having a larger membership will allow the group to be represented at all of the functions and show support in the community. She reported that they are currently doing an inventory on sweatshirts and will probably be ordering more to sell.

Deryl remarked that sometime in the future they would like to hold an Ambassador Convention here locally. She said that it will be held in Gresham in 2004 and Florence in 2005. She explained how groups had to vie for the position by putting on skits, hosting hospitality rooms stocked with information from the area they represent, giving gifts baskets promoting their area, etc. She said that convention members vote for locations of upcoming conventions and asked the Chamber's support in trying to get a convention, expected to bring approximately 230 people, to the Bay Area sometime in the future. Dick Leshley asked her to make up a list of what would be involved in hosting a convention locally so that the Executive Committee can consider it. Deryl said that the group generally takes three large baskets, filled with donated items from the area, to be raffled off at the convention. This year they plan to start gathering items now for the September event and are interested in gift certificates for lodging, dining, tours and other items of interest to encourage people to visit our area.

Porscha Boyd, Marshfield High Student Representative, reported that in response to several incidents at the school, the Dean of Students hosted a "Request for Respect" assembly that was very well received by the students. She said that the dance competition, comprised of seven teams, performed a dance exhibition; MHS received a strong report on the OED state report card; the drama club is putting on a play called "Pillow Talk"; she reported on the basketball, bowling and wrestling teams.

Martin Callery reported that he, Jon Richards, Rick Howell and Jim Howard were planning to speak on the impact of the defeat of Measure 30. He said that the next Economic Development meeting will be Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Ramada Inn. The group will hear from board members of the newly formed Airport District speaking on the transition and their agenda.

Martin stated that a joint January/February meeting was held by the Transportation Committee and said that four representatives are on the steering committee from this area: himself, John Whitty and representatives

from the cities. They will be providing input on local/regional plans in the three-county area and prioritizing projects. He said that discussions will focus on the highway 38 and 42 corridors and highway 101 in between. He stated that the process of looking at State transportation improvement plans will begin soon. Martin stated that the last legislature passed HB2041 for \$100 million for freight mobility projects, then they started subtracting for state certified sites, infrastructure gaps, etc. and ended up with \$40 million. He said that they came up with 216 projects estimated to cost approximately \$4.4 billion and that a lot of economic development projects are based on transportation needs. He stated that if either highway 38 or 42 was a four-lane connection, it would really make a difference to our area. He said that the group will only be dealing with highway and bridge issues this time and that rail, marine and air cargo will be next.

Raye Gieseke reported that Mike Gordon will be speaking at the IBO Lunch Forum today regarding successful marketing. Upcoming speakers will be John Stadter telling about Com Span, the new company he started in Roseburg, and their plans to expand here. The 18<sup>th</sup> will feature Associated Oregon Industries and the 25<sup>th</sup> will feature Nextel wireless who plans to move a portion of their business here. Shirley said that they have offered to loan the Chamber and one other local business some equipment to try their wireless service.

Rick Howell reported that the Government Affairs committee has been soliciting information from committee chairs to be presented to our legislators in the locally based teleconferencing calls and they will be asking what they plan to do for business in the Bay Area. He said that the defeat of Measure 30 will cause a fall-out effect but the Governor does not plan to call a special session. He said that Joanne Verger plans to run for Senator, and that Susan Massey and Arnie Roblan plan to run for Joanne's vacant Representative position. He said that Ken Messerle is still undecided about running for Senator of a different district.

Rob Schab reported on the Lumberjack Festival, saying that plans are moving forward and the pole-climbing event will be moving to the other side of The Mill Casino this year. He said that they have been approached by a group wanting to televise the event on the outdoor channel. Rob said they may not be ready for prime time TV this year, but it is definitely something they are interested in for the future and will be discussing the topic at their next meeting. Shirley stated that she has included separate funding for each committee in the budget and will possibly be putting more in to assist in funding advertising for the Lumberjack Festival.

Shirley reported that the Chamber gained 65 new members last year and we now have a brand new website with drop down selections and a spot on the home page for four new scrolling banner ads that are selling for \$500 each. She said that all four spots have been sold. She said that our webmaster, Holly Tavernier, has done an outstanding job, Connie updates the site on a daily basis and Cheryl, Sarah and Shirley are taking editing classes from Mark Stueve so they can assist with the updating.

Dick Leshley stated that the Drugs Don't Work Task Force will meet on March 9<sup>th</sup> at the Red Lion. He said that he has door stickers for all businesses that have an anti-drug policy in their workplace and encouraged anyone interested to call him at 267-3111 to order stickers. He also said that he'd make sure that some would be available for distribution at the Chamber office.

Connie Davis reported that the Leadership Coos group will meet next week for an Emergency Services and Communications day facilitated by Brad Cook, Kit Rainey, Brandy Thompson and Dudi Wittwer. The group will hear from Coos County Emergency Management Director Dave McDaniel speaking on Bio Terrorism Disaster Planning, Coos County Sheriff Andy Jackson will tell everyone about the County-wide Emergency Response Plan, North Bend Police Chief Steve Sciabelli will share information on police services. Other speakers for the day will be Major Lance Englet, National Guard; Lt. Lauren Felix, U.S. Coast Guard; Tom Corso, Ham Radio Operators; Mike O'Brien of Bicoastal Media, Emergency Broadcasting; Steve Manning, Technical Supervisor for Charter Communications; Troy Woody, Program Director for KCBY-TV will conduct a tour of their facility and Coos Bay Fire Chief Stan Gibson will share information on Coos Bay Fire & Rescue and will inform the group about the station's new thermal imaging camera.

Martin Callery reminded everyone that the Annual Crab Feed will be held in Charleston on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Martin reported that the new Port Commissioners are now in place and their first meeting will be tonight at 7pm in the Port Conference room. He said that the Port has been invited by the Economic Development Division to take part in a trade mission to China. He said that they are talking about seeing if they can set up a trade meeting with ports and other entities.

Martin stated that a team of representatives from our Bay Area has participated in a program with Indonesia and have exchanged visits. He said that they have been offered the opportunity to extend the partnership, have filed an application and two people from here will be traveling to Indonesia to set up future exchange visits. He said that the teams visiting our area in the past have enjoyed it very much and have learned a lot about our culture and local businesses and in the next year and a half more representatives from Indonesia will be visiting here.

Shirley reported that the new maps are here and anyone who advertised can come down to the Chamber and pick up the agreed upon amount. She said that they are good maps and we are required to produce two more maps to fulfill our contract with the company. She said that they will sell for \$3 each to visitors, and Chamber members can purchase them for \$2 each. She also mentioned that a company is selling maps in town, but the Chamber can't distribute their maps, even though they are Chamber members, until the contract expires with the current company.

It was announced that this month's Business After Hours will be at BNT Promotional Products on Feb 25<sup>th</sup>.

Having no further business, Vice President Leshley adjourned the meeting.