

The Bay Area Chamber of Commerce
Board Meeting Minutes for June 2, 2004

Members Present: Bonnie Barron, Bay Area Hospital; Ron Opitz, SCDC; Tricia Benetti, The Oregon Connection; Eileen Ophus, CCD Business Development Corporation; John Pundt, BiCoastal Media/Orcoast Traders; Jenny Bream, Brian Bream Screw Machines; Sid Fannick, Business Advisor; Dick Leshley, Yellow Cab; Timm Slater; Weyerhaeuser Timberlands; Tom Scheideman, Weyerhaeuser Paper; Marty Giles, Wavecrest Discovery; Renee Middleton, US Bank; Kristen Hoefer, Black Market Gourmet; Sherry Yarbrough, Umpqua Bank

President John Pundt called the meeting to order at 7:00 am with introductions around the table. The minutes were approved as written on a motion by Dick Leshley, seconded by Sid Fannick; all were in favor.

President Pundt discussed the summer schedules mentioning that some of the committees do not meet in the summer including the IBO weekly luncheon forums and the monthly Business After Hours. Both will resume in September. John continued his report with the need for the Chamber to move forward with POSITIVITY. John asked that the board keep our mission in mind which is to promote the prosperity of Oregon's Bay Area.

Executive Director Liberante expressed her happiness that the move into the Hub offices is well underway. She said that although it will take some time to get everything moved in and back to the daily schedules she is glad for the relationships and partnerships that are coming together inside the building.

She said that the Visitor Center is thriving. The Chamber is happy to be managing the Center for the 24th year and things are looking great over there. With she and Connie's desks gone along with a lot of other strictly Chamber stuff there is much more room for the Center to store brochures, Maps etc and they may be able to move all of the necessities from the Hall building. She said that Cheryl Crockett is a top notch Visitor Center Coordinator and she feels happy to have such a professional person in the position. The Chamber has left the Postage meter there and moved the fax machine to the Hub offices. The interaction will continue to be several times per day with the shared services.

The Chamber is actively involved in the Q Program and has paid ½ the cost for the volunteers of the Coos Bay, North Bend and Charleston Visitor Centers to receive the training as the front line to the Community. The other half of the cost is provided by a grant through Southwestern Community College. 19 volunteers have been trained so far with the goal being 100% of all volunteers. Local trainers include Crystal Shoji and Marty Giles.

Chris Christoffer was not available for the Treasurers Report.

Deryl Beebe, Chair for the Ambassadors this year gave a report about the 25th Anniversary luncheon for the Ambassadors. At least four of the original members were there to tell tales and

enjoy the celebration. Deryl reminded the board that in the early years in the beginning the Ambassadors were the only visible arm of the Chamber.

Marty Giles, Tourism Committee chair said that she is thoroughly enjoying the Q training as a Trainer. She said that the Bandon to Charleston Tour Route was about to get its entrance signage and they are working on a brochure.

Jon Richards reported that the last Economic Development Committee meeting featured Dave Kronsteiner as the new Chair of the Port of Coos Bay Commission. Jon commented on how interesting it was and how he learned a great deal about the Port from what Dave had to say.

Tricia Benetti said that the Promotions bureau was in the process of completing their advertising budget and were looking at various means of advertising that differ from the past.

Dick Leshley and Rick Howell talked about the signage issue and insurance cap issues that would be brought before the next sessions in Salem. The Governmental Affairs Committee will be using the month of October to hold candidates and issues forums at the IBO Luncheons.

Shirley Liberante reported that the Lumberjack Competition will be held on the 26th of July at the Mill Casino and Hotel. The Committee has raised \$13,000 in order to keep this a FREE community event.

Dick Leshley said that the Drugs Don't Work task force would not meet again until Fall.

John Pundt said that Leadership Coos is scheduled to begin another class on September 14th and are now reviewing last years classes and results.

Martin Callery speaking for the Transportation Committee said that the Port is working on the funding for the Rail Bridge project.

Mayor Joe Benetti said that the City of Coos Bay continues to work on the partners to put a water and sewer line to the North Spit. The Mayor said that they are also actively looking for a City Manager to replace interim Manager Chuck Knight.

Martin Callery of the Port of Coos Bay stated that the moorage in Charleston is full of visitors and that they had a very successful Oyster Fest. He also said that the North Bay Marine Park and Airport Business Park were on the Governor's list of available sites.

Ron Opitz of South Coast Development Council has been working on the Airport Terminal Project along with other entities that are vital to the project. He said he is happy to be moved into the Hub building along with the Partnership that includes the Chamber. He feels that the Partnership is essential to the progress of economic development.

Jon Richards commended the Chamber for bringing issues of importance to the forefront for the community to make decisions on.

The meeting ended at 8:30