

Bay Area Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors

May 7, 2008

Red Lion Hotel- 7am

Board Members present: Ken Croes, KCBY; Joanie Johnson, Sincerely Yours! Antiques; Gary Rifkin, Fiddlesticks; Crystal Shoji, Shoji Planning; Sam Roth, Century 21Best Realty; Mel Campbell, Campbell's Vacation Apts; Pam deJong, HOLM; Margery Whitmer, Betty Kay Charters; Rob Schab, Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board; Jim Hough, Hough, MacAdam & Wartnik CPA; Brandy Thompson, Cardinal Services; Chris Davis, Carson-Davis Oil Co.; Jenny Bream, Brian Bream Screw Machines; Sherry Yarbrough, Umpqua Bank; Matt LeDoux, Fishermen's Wharf;

Others Present: Timm Slater, Bay Area Chamber of Commerce; Ron Opitz, South Coast Business Development; Theresa Haga, CCD Business Development Corp; Judith Hansen, Southwestern Community College; Martin Callery, Oregon International Port; Patty Denton, Bay Area Ambassadors; Jan Willis, City of North Bend; Cindi Miller, K DOCK & Coos Bay Downtown Association; Pam Cottrell, Bay Area Chamber of Commerce.

President Ken Croes called the meeting to order. Introductions were made around the table. Minutes were asked to be approved. Joanie asked for a correction to the minutes. Last month's minutes, under Downtown Association, Sara Crawford has been hired to coordinate Farmers Market and Blackberry Arts Festival. Sara will only be coordinating the Farmers Market. Also, the kites that were ordered, Kiwanis had nothing to do with the kites that were ordered, only the Chamber. The Kiwanis may sponsor a kite fest later on. Margery Whitmer also had a correction that in last month's minutes, under Tourism, states the Tour route is done, I don't think that it is done but very close to being done. The minutes were approved

President's Report- Ken reports, my primary activity has been to help the Ambassadors with additional support for the upcoming statewide Greeters and Ambassadors Convention we will be hosting in the Bay Area in October. We made a second presentation to the North Bend/Coos Bay Visitor and Convention Bureau last month. They decided to table the vote on our proposal. Their stand is that their mission is to promote the area to bring visitors to the area. We are asking for help on some items that will be implemented after the visitors are already here. The Bureau doesn't want to set a precedent for all manner of conventions that request support. However, the difference we believe is the sole purpose of the Ambassadors convention is to provide an opportunity for the hosting area to promote itself, while the visiting Ambassadors are here. They are not here to attend seminars on how to be better Ambassadors. They are here to have a goodtime. We think the Visitors and Convention Bureau will have a great opportunity to participate with us, making it clear to these visitors that we are open to tourism and business expansion. Since my presentation at the last meeting, I have been meeting with the committee members individually, to reiterate the unique opportunity that maybe this convention will provide. You might be happy to hear that I have not been to any City Council meetings. Nor have I written them any letters. In fact, Jan Willis and I had a great visit. I also had a chance to visit with councilor Mark Dailey about the convention, the Chamber and other local issues. It was a very pleasant visit. I also enjoyed helping emcee at the Chamber IBO's. The crowds have been larger this year probably because of the increase of Governmental Affairs presentations. Thank you to Timm and the staff around me, for providing the good programs. Even with the state of bad economics locally and nationally, I remain optimistic on our future. I just have to make sure not to spend so much time watching a door close that I overlook the other doors that are opening.

One of our goals, set at our goal setting session last Fall, was to have Chairs meet once or twice a year. I was to organize it. I have no vision for this at all. I propose that we not do this. We get together every month, and we share the things we are working on. I don't see a reason to have another meeting, unless

someone can think of a really great reason to have it. Does anyone have any comments, pro or con? Joanie agreed with Ken. It was decided not to have the meetings.

Executive Director's Report- Timm reports, I have two items. The first one is a report on the Drug Free Work Place. Some of you may remember that we e-mailed a survey to all of our members, after we had put together a working committee of five business people. Of the 538 surveys to businesses, organizations or individuals, we got a response of 32. With those with less than 100 employees, 15 said the Chamber should be involved in this initiative and 4 said we shouldn't. However only 4 said they would be interested in trainings or seminars on implementing the Drug Free Work place program, which is the key to having the program. The 7 employers with over 100 employees that responded said the Chamber should be involved in this initiative by a margin of 4 to 3. In their case, none would use any trainings or seminars. The comments paint a somewhat different picture. I believe what it says is that drugs and substance abuse are a serious problem for our area and demands the community's focus and action. Our challenge is to define what that action might be and how to sustain it to some degree of success. Conversely, I think the survey shows that the Drug Free Work Place program is not that vehicle. The hallmark of that program is trainings and seminars to enable you to implement a program in your business. But only 13% of those that responded indicated any interest in using that training. So the bottom line, as I see it, is that we should pass on this program, and work at defining some way or aspect of the drug issue that we could engage the Chamber in. Dick Leshley and I with four others worked on this. If you have any ideas or approaches to try to deal with this issue,

Please let me know. We do believe this is a serious item for our community.

Judith added some food for thought. Each of the schools has a number of programs, drug free kinds of programs that we signed on for. Some of the funding from the County money brings in Drug free seminars and programs. I think that money is gone, so maybe teaming up with some other resources that exist, might be the best approach. There are a lot of things that we are doing, but there doesn't seem to be a central focus for the activity.

Ken shared that there was a presenter that covered HR issues with drugs in the workplace at IBO in the past. It was very well attended. Maybe we could round up a presentation based on business issues and drug use.

Gary shared a personal experience with a past employee. The point was to support the need for training to recognize drug use. Maybe an idea would be to use an IBO forum to talk about recognizing drug use symptoms.

Timm shared that we did have an IBO forum from SCINT this year. If any of you have a passion for researching and finding a direction, let me know. It is your passion and involvement that will make a difference, whether it is Tourism, Economic Development, or Anti Drug use.

Second issue that I would like to bring forth, something for the Board to think about and we can bring to light at another meeting is the process of taking positions for the Chamber. I have done some research on what other Chambers have done or are doing. It is kind of all over the board. Medford is one of the largest Chamber in the state. They have a separate Political Action Committee. The Eugene Chamber of Commerce has endorsed a Mayor Candidate. There are some that do quite a bit while there are others that have done nothing so far as taking of positions. In our By Laws, there are two references. One concerns the Board. The Board has the governing and policy making responsibility for the Chamber. The Board of Directors controls the Chamber, its properties, are responsible for its finances and direct its affairs. Then there are committees. No Committee shall take or make public any formal action or make public any resolution or in any way commit the Chamber on a question of policy, resources or support without first receiving approval from the Board of Directors. The Committee must bring their ideas to the Board. The Board must endorse it before the committee can move ahead.

In the past year, the Chamber has written a letter concerning the Marine Reserves that went to the Governor, talking about the process and the issues that we are involved in. It was approved by the

Board and about three months later the Governor responded. For the BLM Resource Management Plan Revisions, we sent a letter which was approved by the Board and supported Alternative 2, using some of the land to grow timber creating revenue while the rest of the land is devoted to other resource uses. Then in November a letter of support for the Air Traffic Control Tower was approved by the Board that was written and used in a grant process. The money was granted to build the tower. These are basically what we have done. The base line being we are not a political action committee, but as a business organization with 600 – 700 members we should take positions important to the community. It has been brought up to poll the members to see what they want. In the past we have at times done that. In most cases the Board works the issue. You are the elected representatives, based on the best information you have, you make the call with due diligence.

Jan asked How does the Chamber Board fill its open positions? Timm answered, we ask the Board for nominations. We get that hand full of people, then, we ask those folks if they are interested in serving on the Board. From those who are interested in serving on the Board, the members elect the persons to fill the position. The Board recruits, but does not advertise open positions.

Crystal clarified with Timm, that if a Board member is approached and asked for the Board's stand on an issue, that the Board member or committee could respond within the Board's guidelines.

Timm agreed that if a stand has been made, then Board members and committees can report the Chamber's stand on the issue. The Chamber is to promote and reflect business and should stay with business issues and not political issues. If at some point the Chamber decides to take a political stand, then a committee would be put into action to address that item.

Treasurer's Report- Jim reports as of March 31, 2008 the Chambers financial statements showed a profit of \$153,000.00. Most of that is cash.

Forestry & Fisheries- Rob reports the 8th Annual Lumberjack Competition will be held at The Mill Casino June 28th. Things are coming together well. As you all know the timber industry has been hit hard. So donations that have been received in the past are low. This has always been a joint effort of the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce and Douglas Timber Operators. DTO headquarters is in Roseburg, the event is held here in our community. There is a real value to our community to back this event. If you have a donation you would like to make to this competition, please do so. Our next meeting is May 14th.

Timm reported how the event got started to showcase the lumber industry and the benefit to our community. The event has been very well received by the community. It is a family event, in the past over 2000 people have attended. Jan donated \$300 from the City of North Bend; Sherry will check with Umpqua Bank on their donation; Joanie suggested a flyer and donations collected at the event; Jenny & Patti will ask the Ambassadors if they will donate their time as Timers for the events.

Coos Bay/North Bend Water Board- Rob reports that the first budget meeting will be on May 22nd. The new web site is up and has current information. The exciting thing is that we will be able to modify it "In House" and keep current with things that are happening. Please give me any comments on the things you would like to see, or your thoughts on the web site. This is the year we will start Engineering Services upgrades. This will start sometime in late summer or early fall, with the idea of having the design and bidding done in 2009 with construction to begin in 2010/2011.

Coos Bay Downtown Association- Cindi reports we have increased membership. There are a lot of wonderful projects. Next Wednesday, May 14th the Farmers Market will start. Our web site is up. If you have pictures or information, please let us know. Our membership Chairman is Sharon Thompson. If you are interested in joining the Downtown Association or want more information please contact Sharon or myself. We would love to talk with you. Sara Crawford is our Downtown Farmers Market coordinator. Pam Miller from Dawson's will be coordinator for the Blackberry Arts Festival. Fun Festival will take place downtown Coos Bay the third week-end of September. The theme this year is "Come Celebrate 2008". The web site for the Fun Festival will be up in the next 3 weeks. If you have pictures to

share let us know. Carolyn DeMetz is the person to contact about the web page. There will be member to member offers and a member's only page. Another project that we hope to complete in the next few weeks is hanging flower baskets that will line Broadway to the Firemen's memorial and in the Ped way. There are plans for about 60 baskets. The city is going to hire someone part time to water these hangers. You will be able to purchase smaller versions of these baskets from the Copper Goose in Coquille.

City of North Bend- Jan reports that the city is working on their budget. There have been no changes to the budget. The budget will be going to the City Council. The city is very involved in our waterfront. We are working with OPEC out of Eugene on our design. We have identified all of the funding for engineering and construction. We should be under construction in July. The Coos Bay City Council, North Bend City Council and Lakeside will meet with the County Commissioners to discuss the need for more money to fund the District Attorney office and the County Jail. The District Attorney would like to spend more time processing cases verses cite and release. This will be an interesting issue to watch. It will be on the ballot in November.

Charleston- Mel is infuriated with the article written in The World Newspaper on Monday. The article is written on the Oregon Solution Project. The participants are from a major industry, who would like to see a Tourism office in the area. After reading parts of the article, Mel adds that the Merchants Association has been a member of the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce since 1985. She recaps the things that the association has done to promote not only Charleston, but the entire Bay Area. She would like to remind everyone that Charleston has a lovely Information Center. This has been accomplished by small businesses paying dues and doing fund raising. We have taken a drug infested area and opened a beautiful Information Center. There needs to be a correction made by The World. Recognition needs to be given to Charleston and the existing visitor center. There is a difference between the Charleston Visitor Center and the Interpretive Center that is being proposed by the Oregon Solution Project.

Martin explains that the Oregon Solution Project is at its infancy. What they are trying to do is identify and put together this Coastal Living Center or Interpretive Center.

Jan expressed the need to get behind this center coming to the area and the draw something like this would have for our area. We need to get on board and encourage this project.

Mel agreed Charleston is all for an educational Interpretive Center and the people it will bring to the area. She just would like recognition for the efforts made by the Charleston Merchant Association and the Visitor Center.

Crystal points out that there is a misconception as a whole that what business associations do is not as important as what a government agency does. If we want our name out there we need to fight for it. Not be mad but let our presence be known.

Timm encourages Mel to make an appointment with the new editor at The World. Let him know that we are excited for the new interpretive center that is looking at coming to the area, but there has been a misunderstanding that it will not replace the Visitor Center that is already in full operation promoting Charleston and surrounding areas.

Mel sums up that she will fight for the small business and the Merchants Association.

Port of Coos Bay- Martin reports that there are 3 projects:

We are not the primary for the Jordon Cove project. On the west side of the waterway is a project we call Lockmead. It was a general cargo facility. We were going through the permitting process for that dock structure at the same time Jordon Cove is going through the permitting process for their moorage in that waterway. It is a separate process from the project going on the upper end of the waterway. We pulled our application for that dock. The reason was that National Fisheries and US Fish and Wildlife decided to put in place a ballast water requirement on that facility, which does not apply to any other facility. This would put us at a disadvantage in operating a general cargo facility. In order to keep the

Jordon Cove Project on track, we pulled our application. The Waterway is still going forward. Jordon Cove is still going forward. What we lose is them paying for 85% of the cost of developing our project. So when we come back sometime in the future, we are going to have to go through that permitting process and pay all the cost in building that dock. We have made other Ports and waterways aware of this. We know that the Port of Portland, Port of Vancouver Washington, Port of Tacoma are planning new facilities. When we told them that the National Fisheries and US Fish and Wildlife were putting this ballast water requirement in place, they went ballistic because this is something the EPA and Mereco have jurisdiction over, not these two agencies. The Intermodal Container project has slid about 5 years down the line. The reason being, who has the time? The other exasperating thing to that has to do with the Railroad. I went a hearing in Washington DC, held by the STB. Corp was roasted during that hearing. A lot of other railroads are pushing away from Rail America.

The Port has finished its budget. The Ports Master Plan is on line.

South Coast Development Council - Ron reports that SCDC has been up to some good stuff. We continue to work on a couple of projects. We hope that in a very short amount of time we will be able to announce about 245 new jobs to the Bay Area. I think it is important that we continue to support Oregon Resources. They plan on employing 75 employees. The cost of there project has increase, due to the cost of materials.

As you know SCDC is a clearing house. We operate two pacts, one the Coos Regional Pact. Our area representative met with Senator Smith. We have sent money to support both Senator Smith and Congressman DeFazio.

Another Pact for Schools of the Future, is open to all cities. This particular one was for Coos Bay Schools. Also when we started this quest for a new airport terminal and new flight service, area businesses contributed \$76000 into an account that we are holding for promotion of the new flight service. I am working with Kemper-Lesnik in Chicago, putting together a promotional program for Sky West. \$76000 isn't a lot of money, the airport kicked in another \$35000. The Coos Bay/ North Bend Promotional Bureau is going to tag on to the ad and will putting money into it. The ads in the Sky west magazine will bring a lot of notoriety to the area. Also SCDC will be taking out ads in the magazine for July and August, which is promoting Coos County.

Also, I wanted to add that I had a very positive meeting with the new publisher of the paper. I think he really wants to do a good job. He is coming into a tough environment. We have all known Kathy for a very long time. I certainly support him and hope he does a good job for all of us.

4 Star Awards- Sherry reports that with the help of the Ambassadors, we handed out two 4 Star Awards, one to Les Schwab in North Bend the other to Sapphire Mongolian Grill. We will be do the awards quarterly. Our next awards will be in July. We will be taking applications. We have two nominations, now, Jay Ness Plumbing in North Bend, which is new small business that just started at the Business Development Center and then a 40 year business Elf Nursery Florist. There are no limits on the number of businesses to receive this award. We would be happy to go to ten businesses. It is all about recognizing customer service. That is what brings people back to our area, is how we treat them while they are here. 4 Star nomination post cards are available at the Chamber and downtown businesses.

Ambassadors- Patti reports that the Ambassadors have been very busy. This month we have one new Ribbon Cutting at Coos Job.net. That is a new business at 2005 Union in North Bend. Business After Hours will be May 28th at Scooter Mania, they are next to All State Realty.

Margery would like to remind everyone the Tall Ships will be coming in today. There is a reception for them tonight at the Coos Art Museum.

Joanie reports that the promo kites will be for sale using the permit from the city, but that the other entertainment that was planned will be postponed until June when the other ship comes in. We had Celtic music and kite flying demonstration planned.

Leadership Coos- Pam reminds everyone that 2008 Leadership Coos will graduate on Tuesday May 13th. She asked the board to encourage friends and colleagues who have not experienced this program to contact her at the Chamber. This is a valuable program and we ant to see it continue.

IBO- Timm reports that it will end the end of May for a summer hiatus. Today will be Care Giving Rentals, Carol Yardley will speak. We are starting to book through September. We hope to have DeFazio as our Government Affairs Federal link in September.

Meeting Adjourned