

**Bay Area Chamber of Commerce  
Board of Directors  
December 3, 2008  
Red Lion Hotel-7am**

**Board Members present:** Ken Croes, KCBYTV; Pam deJong, HOLM Services; Eric Farm, Menasha Forest Products; Matt LeDoux, Fishermen's Wharf; Crystal Shoji, Shoji Planning LLC; Margery Whitmer, Betty Kay Charters; Joanie Johnson, Sincerely Yours Antique Mall; Sherry Yarbrough, Umpqua Bank; Jenny Bream, Gunnell Insurance; Mel Campbell, Campbell Vacation Apts; Lucinda DiNovo, The Mill Casino; Brandy Thompson, Cardinal Services; Chris Davis, Davis Oil; Jim Hough, Hough MacAdams & Wartnik; Karl Bender, 3 B's Nursery.

**Others Present:** Patti Denton, Ambassadors; Dick Leshley, Yellow Cab Taxi; Ron Optiz, South Coast Development Council; Matt Jarvis, Jarvis Communication; Joyce Jansen, City of Coos Bay; Timm Slater, Bay Area Chamber; Pam Cottrell, Bay Area Chamber.

President Ken Croes called the meeting to order. Minutes were approved. Introductions were made around the table.

**President's Report-** Ken reports that on November 14<sup>th</sup> he participated in a handshake marketing campaign at Pony Village Mall with eight other Chamber members. Current and new members were visited. Current members were very happy to see us. Ken announced that this is his last board meeting as President. He has enjoyed this past year. A Chamber update will be presented to both Coos Bay and North Bend cities. We are about to elect new officers for next year's board. Our new president will be Sherry Yarbrough from Umpqua Bank; Nominated for President elect is Lucinda DiNovo from The Mill Casino/Hotel.; Vice President/ Government Affairs & Economic Development Eric Farm from Menasha; Vice President/Tourism & Membership Matt LeDoux from Fishermen's Wharf; Secretary Joanie Johnson from Sincerely Yours Antique Mall; Treasurer Jim Hough, Hough, MacAdam & Warntnik. Ken asked for any other nominations from the floor. No other nominations. Pam deJong moved that nominations be accepted, Chrystal second the motion. The nominations were voted and approved by the board.

**Executive Directors Report-** Timm reports that Economic Forum is a week from Friday. We have 26 sponsors this year, versus 32 from last year. Speakers are confirmed. Arrangements have been made with The Mill. Those of you who are setting up tables you may come at 5:30 AM to set up. The registrations were mailed on November 12<sup>th</sup>. The cost will be the same as last year. IBO alternatives, with the financial changes at The Mill and the cost of the meal we are considering a new location. We had a group meeting to talk about some options. At this time the committee is looking into The Mill, Red Lion, Pony Village, Southwestern Oregon Community College, Autumn House and the Egyptian Theater. We have been exploring those options. A packet of three or four alternatives will be sent to the membership to get their input. A decision will be made the first of the year. We are looking for the guidance from the membership on where this event should be held. This program is too important to let disappear. So please be looking for this information the Monday after Economic Outlook Forum. The 2009 Celebration Awards Banquet theme was picked by Sherry, Starry Starry Night. The date is January 31<sup>st</sup> at The Mill Casino. The price was raised by \$1, the cost will be \$38 per person. The meal will be plated and served versus a buffet. Entertainment will be Barb Lusch. She is a jazz singer. She will be doing jazzy show tunes. We have planned a power point presentation that will showcase Chamber events from the past year. January 17<sup>th</sup>, Salmonpeople will be performed at Marshfield High School. This is not only a fine performance, but also a fundraising opportunity. We may purchase tickets in bulk at \$6.22 each and sell them for \$10. The Chamber has purchased 100 tickets. These tickets are available at the Chamber office for you to purchase and sell or give as you choose. The idea is that

each board member sells ten tickets. Last item is that we have been sending the board minutes and agenda by e-mail. Some servers perceive mailings that have been sent in bulk as junk mail. So if you have not been receiving your minutes and agenda, please check your junk mail file.

**Treasurer Report-** Jim reports that revenues are up and expenses are up. We are within our budget. Things look fine.

**Transportation-** Timm reminds the board that the Transportation committee will meet December 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM. The focus will be a presentation by Jeff on the railroad situation.

**Government Affairs** – Timm reports that legislative calls will start the end of January at SOCC. Rick Howell will coordinate. Our next quarterly presentation will be at IBO the end of January. The Coos County Commissioners are scheduled to do the presentation.

**Four Star Award-** Sherry reports that there are two applications so far for this quarter that ends in December. The forms will be available at IBO. You do not have to have the form to nominate a business for a Four Star Award. You may e-mail the Chamber or me at Umpqua Bank. Please let us know about exceptional customer service you receive. Ken adds that any business that is nominated will be mentioned on KCBY.

**Membership-** Timm reports that Handshake marketing took place on November 14<sup>th</sup>. We visited 21 new prospective members and 18 current members. In our 2009 goals we have a section on membership. The committee will be looking at that the end of March and see how we are doing in reaching our set goal. Once we are done with the upcoming events, Chamber staff will be making new member contacts.

**Leadership Coos-** Pam reports that next Tuesday will be our fourth session for this year. The topic will be Emergency Services. We will visit KCBY, Coast Guard Station, Fire Department. Chuck Walworth from The World Newspaper will speak to the group. The always popular visit from the Coos Bay K-9 unit will finish the day. She reminds the board to please contact her if they know of someone who would be interested in participating in Leadership Coos next year.

**Tourism-** Margery mentioned we have been working with the Visitor and Convention Bureau on the visitor packet. Katherine is looking for volunteers to help staff the booth for the sport shows. These shows take place in Portland, Eugene, Medford and Roseburg. The December tourism meeting will feature the City of Coos Bay and their draft master plan for Urban Renewal. The pedway plan is in the work to connect the waterfront with Coos Bay and North Bend. OPAC rejected, both Cape Arago Marine Reserve Proposals. They will look for a future site for the Marine Reserves. Coos Bay and Charleston was featured in the Via magazine. The volunteers for Coos Bay/ North Bend and Charleston visitor centers will have their appreciation dinner, December 16<sup>th</sup> at Benetti's. The Oregon 150 plan was discussed. Marty will be working with others on that.

**Ambassadors-** Patty reports that this is her last board meeting as President of the Ambassador. Pam Plummer will be the new Ambassador President for 2009. December 10<sup>th</sup>, Business After Hours will be at Evergreen Court from 5-7 pm. Please plan to attend; they always do a wonderful job. December 12<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm Horsin' Around will have their Ribbon Cutting. Thank you to the handshake marketing that took place at Pony Village. The Ambassadors are looking at coordinating efforts to hold more Business After Hours. We are scheduled through 2009 with Business After Hours.

**Forestry & Fisheries-** Eric reports that there will no longer be a Lumberjack Competition. We are looking into piggybacking with the Coos County STEP program in becoming involved with the Salmon Derby event that takes place in the Fall. This is a fund raiser for the Millicoma Fish Hatchery and Morgan Creek Fish Hatchery. A meeting scheduled later this month to see how we might coordinate this event. Matt reports that the Marine Reserves are beat for now. The two that were implemented, were wanted by the local fishermen are at Depoe Bay and Port Orford.

Eric reports that Kathy Wall at the Port has been keeping him informed on the work that the Port is doing concerning the Marine Reserves. He will be sure to keep the board informed on what is going on with this project.

After much discussion on Wave Energy it was decided that board needs facts and data to make decisions. The Chamber will be at meetings and keep us informed. The information will be gathered and reported to you, so you may make an informed decision. Timm will get information to the board on where to write your letters to FERC.

**Economic Development-** Timm reports that Chris needs support in gathering information on the land survey.

Pam deJong reports that the New Business Challenge has received \$11000.00 in In Kind services donations. Our goal is \$30,000 for the business to receive that wins the business plan challenge.

Timm adds that there will be a meeting on December 22<sup>nd</sup> of the Economic Development Committee.

Pam deJong adds that there is a plan to develop wind energy here locally. If this takes place local people will be hired to develop this. This will be an alternative to the Wave Energy project. Ric Morrison is working with Roque River Wind to get this project started. It would mean local business, hiring local workers in developing energy to be used locally not only in homes, but businesses also. Coos/Curry and Bandon Dunes are looking at this.

Dick asked Pam to see if they will make a presentation at IBO in April or May.

**Coos Bay/North Bend Visitor and Convention Bureau** – Ken reports that Deena has agreed to continue being the Chamber representative. Our only request was that she attends the Board meetings. We hope she will be able to attend. Our expectation is that the VCB and the board will be able to benefit from Deena's talents. She is so good at what she does.

**Charleston-** Mel reports that the Charleston Fire Department has their annual Christmas train display up and running. The lights are on at Shore Acres.

Matt adds that crab season has started.

Mel adds that February 14<sup>th</sup> Charleston will host "Give your Sweetheart Crabs."

**South Coast Development Council-** Ron reports that it is very important to look at the glass half full. We are having recession. Keep a positive attitude and look for change in mid 2009.

**Coos Bay Downtown-** Joyce reports there will be a Holiday Open House on December 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. This is to get people to our downtown area. The annual tree lighting was the Friday after Thanks giving. This went very well. Santa arrived by boat at the City Docks. Santa lit the tree then he walked the children and their families to the Egyptian Theatre where they watched the movie "ELF". It was something that families could come out and enjoy and it didn't cost them anything. We have been doing some television ads about coming to Coos Bay area. There are two different ads. One is visit downtown Coos Bay the other is visit the Empire shopping district. We have also added some radio ads. The theme of those ads, there are three of them and we rotate them, Shop local. Our hopes that they will be educational, When I spend my money locally, how far will it go. These ads will run on local stations and reach Reedsport and Bandon.

Timm adds that in a conversation with Clark at The World Newspaper, letters to the Editor are free. This is a great opportunity to reinforce and remind people.

Ken adds that KCBY is having 250 Shop Local buttons produced. They are coming out today and will be available at IBO.

Joyce adds that after the first of the year, the Downtown Association is hosting an open mic with the Mayor. Look for upcoming dates.

**City of Coos Bay-** Joyce reports that we have newly elected City Council. Mayor McKeown is back.

Joanie Johnson was elected for her first term. We are delighted to have her. She is an involved downtown business owner and brings good ideas to the council. John Pundt is the other new guy on the block. He has a business in the Empire area and brings a lot of business experience with him. According

to our Charter, they took oath of office on November 18. We had our meeting last night. The Urban Renewal agency officially adopted the master plan for the Hollering Place Project. Because it is such a big project, it will be awhile before it is marketable. There are some things like rezoning and infrastructure that the City needs to do before we start having it marketed. The agency has asked staff to look into sprucing up the area. I have been working on the virtual incubator program for local businesses, I received money last night. I will be making personal contact with local businesses with a follow up mailing.

Timm asked if the City will be meeting on December 16<sup>th</sup>. The Chamber would like to get on the agenda for that meeting.

Dick reminds the board that today at IBO Coos Bay Toyota will have a representative speak. On December 10<sup>th</sup> Bandon Dunes is scheduled to speak. Then we will start out the New Year on January 7<sup>th</sup> with a nice presentation on the Waterfront pedway and have the opportunity to hear Coos Bay and North Bends vision for the waterfront.

Jenny says farewell to everyone. This is her last board meeting.

Dick reminds everyone that December 4<sup>th</sup> is the Festival of Trees and The Mill Casino come bid on trees.

Timm reminds that North Bend will have their tree lighting at 5:45.

Sherry announced that Umpqua Bank will be purchasing Trees at the Festival of Trees for the needy families. Please let me know if you know of anyone to add to my list to receive a tree.

Karl offered to partner with Umpqua Bank to provide half price live trees for Christmas. Sherry said that Umpqua would purchase the first fifteen trees.

Ken adjourned the meeting.