

**Bay Area Chamber of Commerce  
Board of Directors  
January 7, 2009**

**Board Members present:** Sherry Yarbrough, Umpqua Bank; Karl Bender, 3 B's Nursery; Ken Croes, KCBY; Eric Farm, Menasha/Campbell Group; Crystal Shoji, Shoji Planning; Pam de Jong, HOLM; Chris Davis, Davis Oil; Lucinda DiNovo, The Mill Casino Hotel; Joanie Johnson, Sincerely Yours, Antique; Margery Whitmer, Betty Kay Charters; Mel Campbell's, Campbell Vacation Apts; Jessica Randel, The Human Bean; Pam Plummer, Umpqua Bank; Matt LeDoux, Fishermen's Wharf.

**Others Present:** Dick Leshley, Yellow Cab Taxi; Ron Opitz, South Coast Development Council; Rob Schab, Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board; Martin Callery, Oregon International Port of Coos Bay; Theresa Haga, CCD Business Development Corp; Joyce Jansen, City of Coos Bay; Chris Christoffer, Sterling Savings Bank; Jan Willis, City of North Bend; Timm Slater, Bay Area Chamber of Commerce; Pam Cottrell, Bay Area Chamber.

President Sherry Yarbrough called the meeting to order. Minutes were approved. Introductions were made around the table.

**President's Report-**Sherry announced that the Annual Award Banquet will be Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup> at the Mill/Casino. Special entertainment has been planned. She hopes to see everyone there. There are three openings on the 2009 Chamber Board. Travis Burgher is no longer on the board, Eric and Matt are now officers. This leaves openings for three new board members. Please contact the Chamber if you know of someone you think would be a good addition to the board.

**Executive Directors Report-** Timm reports that the Economic Outlook Forum was held on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Things went well. Attendance was down about 50 people from last year's count. Also sponsorship was down by five from last year. The Chamber made a profit of \$6000 versus \$8000 profit from last year. We have been looking at alternative locations to hold the IBO luncheons. I emailed the members three alternatives and have received 64 responses. The Mill Casino received 10 votes; Red Lion received 34 votes and Pony Village Mall received 20 votes. We are scheduled at The Mill through January. We anticipate a seamless transition. The 2009 Directory we plan to have out by the end of the month. It is smaller this year, 56 pages versus 64 pages last year. Less advertisers this year. Our plan is to distribute the new Directory at the Awards Banquet.

It has been brought to my attention that Elite Publication has been contacting businesses to sell advertising in a Chamber Directory. This directory is for Bandon. The Bay Area Chamber does not endorse this directory.

We have 35 tickets left for the Salmonpeople. Peter Donaldson will speak at our next IBO. Tickets may be purchased at the Chamber office. They are \$10 each; this should be a great show.

**Treasurer Report-** Timm reports in Jim's absence that the Chamber has money. Revenue is down. Membership is down. We expect a decent year.

**Economic Development-** Chris reports that the committee meets on Monday January 23<sup>rd</sup>. We plan to have speakers talking about economic development followed by open discussion.

Projects coming up include the- New Business Challenge. This program is for a new business in operation for less than six months. To date we have 13-14 thousand dollars in in-kind donations. Businesses like Hough, MacAdam and Wartnik, Umpqua Bank and Sterling Savings Bank have donated services. Pony Village has office space availability. We are interested in finding an attorney to donate time. Applications are available from Arlene Soto at the Business Development Center. There are

criteria for applicants to follow. The new business is required to write a business plan. This challenge has been set up to help new business succeed.

**IBO-** Dick reports that there are two spots open in May for IBO speakers. We are looking for two more people to join our committee. We would like to encourage more businesses to share how they make money, what is going on in the community, and less non profit speakers. We want to hear from business.

**Transportation-** Martin reports that there is no meeting tomorrow. Oregon Legislation starts, there is no earmark money and no updates.

**Government Affairs-** Timm reports the quarterly government IBO will be the end of this month. The Coos County Commissioners are scheduled to speak. Rick Howell is working on the Legislation session biweekly phone conferences with our legislators.

**Four Star Awards-** Joanie reports that eight response cards have been received. We plan to present 4<sup>th</sup> quarter awards at IBO to these businesses.

**Membership-** Timm reports that the Board goals have been send out. A meeting is planned for April 1<sup>st</sup> to look at the goals. We plan to continue our "Handshake marketing" and will have staff making membership calls.

Pam Plummer said that the Ambassadors would like to help with membership.

Ken suggests that Chamber members make presentations at merchant groups and service groups and pass out applications.

**Leadership Coos-** Pam reports that January session is Health and Human Services. It is a full day of speakers and presentations. We are going to be meeting at the CHEC building this month. She invites the board to have people you know that have not participated in this program to call and ask to be placed on the waiting list. This is a valuable Chamber program and we would like to see it continue to grow.

**Tourism-** Margery reports that their next meeting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at the Red Lion at 7:30 am. Carol Ventgen from the Coos Bay Library will speak at the next meeting. Her topic will be, Ways that libraries relate to tourism.

**Ambassadors-** Pam Plummer reports that at their first board meeting they will be talking about the Ambassadors goals and membership. We look forward to working with the Chamber on Four Star Awards and increasing membership. We had two Ribbon Cuttings last month, Reese Electric and Elizabeth's Alterations.

**Forestry and Fisheries-** Eric reports that it has been a slow month, not much to report. The committee will be meeting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month at the Red Lion at 7:00 AM. WOPR is working on a final revised plan. Logging is ½ -1/3 of what it use to be. The Governor did not support this plan. It has taken three years to get things going. We hope for a seamless transition.

The Lumberjack competition has been replaced with a fishing derby. It is our plan to support and work with the existing derby this year. Next year we hope to get more involved in the planning opening the derby to both professional and amateur participants.

Karl reports that the Pacific Chum Salmon plan was approved by Bill Bradbury. Copy of the synopsis is available. This is important to our eco system and restoring the creeks along Cape Arago.. The goal is to streamline the process with DEQ and State lands department. We plan to have one oversight committee.

**City of Coos Bay** – Joyce reports that the council meeting was last night. Looking at two projects. Design for the fire Station is moving along, as is the design for the Visitor Center new building. Recognition was made to Becky Soules. She has taken on the Pioneer Cemetery project. Coordinating the project and researching and documenting the history.

**North Bend-** Jan reports that on Thursday in Bandon she will be taking part of an exercise to be Tsunami ready by April 2009.

We are very active in saving the Senior Center. Looking at ways to bring revenue in. Planning more activities for the Seniors.

We were presented with a clean audit. Our new Financial Director Matt Zook is very capable. We have started our fiscal year budget plan for 09-10.

Phase II of the swimming pool is coming along. Bids will be coming in the end of the month to remove the bubble, Construct a new entry and change colors and tiles. This project is due to be finished the end of May.

The library roof is completed along with a new heat pump. There are \$2300 of other repairs to be done to the library.

**Charleston-** Mel reports that the Port has provided new restrooms and showers. Charleston is not a city, we have no paid employees. What we get accomplished is done with volunteers. Our largest fund raiser is coming up. Our annual Crab Feed will be February 14<sup>th</sup> at the old Charleston school. Promotion committee has helped promote Celebrate Oregon 150 Birthday.

**Port of Coos Bay-** Martin reports that the Port is moving forward on the Railroad engineer Services and coordination of 6-8 firms interested. One will be on the team to rebuild bridges and tunnels.

In November the Port along with SORC looked at the proposal for Marine Reserve at Cape Arago. Port opposed the plan due to the social impact to our area.

Cost of the railroad was contested in a filing sent to STB. Our next move is the Federal Court System. Report filed with FERC, misrepresentation by company. Now we need BLM clearance, the railroad crosses BLM property.

Small wind project was presented by Mary Gedry and Ric Morrison. The Port has three test sites on the North Spit. We looked at wind and weather conditions for one year. The site does not have the height for wind. North spit is not windy enough. The Port is looking at alternative energy for Charleston.

**South Coast Development Council-** Ron reports he is working with Greg Aldridge at CEDCO. Progress needs to happen.

**CCD-**Theresa reports that CCD is very busy getting ready for end of the year and audit.

**North Bend Downtown Association-** Jan reports that Shorebank is responsible for some urban renewal money. One building downtown has used the money for a new façade.

**Coos Bay Downtown Association-** Joyce reports things are going well in Coos Bay. Goals for 2009 are in planning. We are planning some upcoming events to take place. I will get the dates out for the general meetings. We plan to participate in 150 Birthday clean up projects.

Timm reminds everyone the deadline for your nominations for Business and Citizen of the Year is January 16<sup>th</sup>.

It was asked if it would be possible to release a PSA on the 20 foot drop at Horsefall Beach.

**Adjourn**