



## Monthly Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2020

### St. Helen Chamber of Commerce

- I. Meeting was called to order at 6pm Pledge of Allegiance recited by all in attendance
- II. Roll Call: Jan Waltz, Janet Bawol (exc), Tula Alexander, John Sutter, Kathy Jernigan, Ed Bergeron and Ray Wlosinski. A quorum was present
- III. Additions to the Agenda---None
- IV. Introduction of Guests: Grange Bell/Ogemaw County Voice and Lori Darga/Roscommon Cty. Veterans Affairs.
- V. Approval of November Minutes...a motion was made by John Sutter to accept the minutes as presented and the motion was seconded by Ed Bergeron. Motion passed.
  - a. Correspondence—Kathy had materials regarding a Wine & Liquor Scholarship which normally went to Bev, she will turn it over to 5<sup>th</sup> Street Market in Roscommon.
- VI. Treasurer's report—report covers from 11/25/19 to 1/13/20. Current balance is \$3,561.93 to be filed for audit (A portion of it belongs to the DDA)
- VII. President's Report;
  - a. Grange Bell discussed creating our St. Helen Visitors Guide. He plans on starting mid to late February to solicit for ads in the guide. Vickie to prepare an email to go out to our business members explaining his upcoming visits to their business. Grange hopes to have the finished guide in our hands by Memorial Weekend.
  - b. Ed talked about the possible use of the KCC campus in Roscommon. Tim O'Rourke is leading a group of interested people to possibly use the facilities as a trades academy. The name of the organizing group is Northeast Michigan Trades Education Coalition. So far he has received letters of support from Ogemaw County, Oscoda County, Richfield Twp. DDA, and the EDC; would like to have a presentation before they offer support. They are requesting that the chamber submit a letter of support. Jan and Ray will work on the letter.
  - c. March 21<sup>st</sup> is National Quilt Day. Kathy & Jan are working with Houghton Lake and Higgins-Roscommon chambers, to have a combined event. There will be a raffle, one quilt from each chamber will be raffled off. They will have busses available to take people around the quilt trail and stop somewhere for lunch. More info to follow.
  - d. Lori Varga was in attendance to talk about the Veterans Affairs Office and what they have to offer to veterans and their spouses. She handed out brochures. They have emergency funds available for veterans, transportation to doctor appts.; etc. They have a coffee hour the first Thursday of every month at The Roscommon County Airport from 9am to 10am. and Cross Country Ski Headquarters is offering free skiing to veterans and lots more.  
On May 16<sup>th</sup> they are sponsoring a Veterans Suicide Awareness Walk—more info to follow.
- VIII. Standing Committee reports;
  - a. Membership: Vickie states there are about 50 members (business & indiv.) and she will provide actual numbers to Ed and Kathy tomorrow. They have welcome packets and will visit some of the non-members
  - b. Grants—nothing in the pipeline for the chamber right now, Tula described the “fire drill” she had to go through to get a grant for trail signs and a grader for the township.
  - c. Kathy is looking for ideas for raffles. The license for the upcoming quilt day raffle is being applied for by Roscommon.
  - d. The “Santa comes to St. Helen” event went off very well. A huge THANKS to Ray for all of his decorating help. It was mentioned that our township tree & Christmas lights were not put on early enough...all other communities start much earlier, and board members had heard these comments from community members. It was discussed to move the parade, tree lighting and pics with Santa to the Saturday after Thanksgiving. More discussion at a later meeting.
  - e. Jan and Vickie are working on the Chamber Medallion Hunt---from Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> (unless found before the 9<sup>th</sup>) Clues will be posted daily on our facebook page, webpage, in our office window and in the window at Fultz Ins. Fultz Insurance is sponsoring once again, and has increased the prize money to \$100.00.

- IX. Old Business
  - a. Grange is going to coordinate and organize the Rib Cook Off once again for our Summer Kick Off May 16<sup>th</sup>. He also volunteered to take care of the trophies. Vickie will send him last year's rules, application and flyer for updates, as the time gets closer.
  - b. Kathy presented a list of ideas for the Summer Kick Off, such as: beard & moustache contest, ARK and pet displays, vendors, kids games, etc. Kathy will be sending out letters to some of her contacts.
- X. New Business:
  - a. Vote taken on providing support letter to Northeast Michigan Trades Education Coalition. A motion was made by Ray Wlosinski and seconded by Tula Alexander. Motion passed.
  - b. Ed presented a "Draft Plan" for the 2020 Election Candidates Forum. A Meet & Greet of some type will be done by the chamber but it needs to be discussed further.
  - c. Kathy is proposing a breakfast meeting for all groups, organizations etc. to discuss calendar events, and how the groups can help each other to be more successful.
- XI. John Sutter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:42pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Vickie Smith