

St Helen Chamber of Commerce  
February 4, 2019  
Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance – Meeting was called to order by Pres. Jan Waltz at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call by Sec’y Janet Bawol: Jan Waltz, Ray Wlosinski, Janet Bawol, Kathy Jernigan, Connie Barton, Bev VanMeter and John Sutter. A quorum was met - all present for tonight’s meeting.
3. Additions to the Agenda – Mr. R.D. Snyder requested to speak about the Carvers.
4. Introduction of Guests – Mr. Ed Bergeron, Mr. Grange Bell, Mr. Jim Lyttle, Mr. and Mrs. R D Snyder were present. Mr. John Bawol attended at 6:10 p.m.
5. Approval of November 26, 2018 minutes - Kathy Jernigan made a MOTION to approve the minutes, Ray Wlosinski supported. The minutes were approved with no corrections.
6. Correspondence – Ray presented the Chamber with a plaque for their contributions to Wertz Warriors/Special Olympics.
7. Treasurer’s Report – Kathy reviewed expenses and receipts for December 2018 and January 2019. She reported the excess expenses were a result of the holiday’s events, which the Chamber participated in and distributions to the DDA raffle winners.
  - a. Licensing- Nothing to report.
  - b. Marketing Committee – They continue to work on the county-wide tourist guide. There has been no new target date for completion. All three of the Roscommon County Chambers and the Travel Bureau are participating. Kathy will also apply for monies through the Economic Dev. Committee for a large banner.
8. President’s Report – Jan discussed how she would like the meetings to run – short and informal. Her son recently updated the Chamber website. She also discussed working on expanding the Chamber membership which may include visiting businesses in St. Helen. The Economic Dev. Committee has secured March 4 for the three lake associations to come together to discuss the annual Family Fun Day held each summer. Jan would like to update the Chamber by-laws (Janet disseminated a copy to each board member) and will be developing a committee to work on this project. She would also like to develop an annual budget, so the board and Chamber members have an idea of what expenses the Chamber will incur each year. Kathy will work on this. The Small-Town Rural Development Conference is scheduled for April. This will be discussed further at an upcoming meeting. A form was passed around, for board members to sign up for committee work. The Chamber office has received a “new to us” desk as a donation from the Township. The Medallion Hunt will begin on February 6.
9. Committee Reports
  - a. Membership – Kathy. She complimented Vickie on all of her hard work she does for the Chamber. Members briefly discussed the idea of hosting an Expo. It would be attended by non-profits, etc. The last time the Chamber hosted this type of event, there was low attendance, however.
  - b. Annual Dinner Meeting – Kathy. This annual dinner was held in late October at the Firehouse Restaurant. It is a thank you to the members for their participation. As part of the event is a business meeting and raffles. Proceeds from the raffle went to We Care/We Feed.

- c. Santa Comes to St. Helen – Kathy/Janet. Kathy discussed the Chamber’s participation in this event. Held at the Township hall with Santa/Mrs. Claus, Hot Chocolate, cookies and photo with Santa. Always a big success.  
Janet reviewed the parade which was held prior to the Chamber’s activities. The St. Helen Lake Association hosted the parade this year. There were approximately 15 entries with a sing-a-long and tree lighting. Charlton Heston Academy girl scouts assisted with the sing-a-long and new lights for the tree were provided by Mike Hodnett and other donors from the community.

10. Old Business

- a. Local Visitors Guide – Grange Bell is hoping the guide will be complete by early May 2019.
- b. Circus – John Bawol. The Kelly Miller circus approached Mr. Bawol with the idea of hosting a circus in St. Helen on September 19, 2019. Members discussed this idea. It would be great for the community. There was some hesitation regarding the fact they want to host on a Thursday night. Representatives from the circus insist that Thursday nights have large attendance. Following discussions, the idea was turned down, as this is the same night as the beginning of the Firemen’s Memorial Festival, which is Family Night. John will contact the representatives to advise of the date conflict.
- c. Summer Kick-Off – Kathy/Grange Bell. There will be different judges this year, however, the same vendors have been secured for the event scheduled for May 18. Ideas for new events within the kick-off include: Pet Show, Bubble gum competition, with the pie eating, watermelon eating, corn hole contests and crafters returning. Mr. and Mrs. Snyder attended tonight’s meeting to discuss the Carving Club and their business. They sell some of the items which they make and have created some items for other municipalities and groups including the Veterans groups, St. Helen and Kalkaska. They were invited to participate in the Summer Kick-Off. They will return to an upcoming meeting to further discuss their business.
- d. Credit Card Acquisition – Kathy. The Chamber board voted in January to acquire a credit card for Vickie to use when she is making approved small purchases on the behalf of the Chamber (ink cartridges, envelopes, copy paper, theme decorations, etc.). This would eliminate so many checks being written for chamber purchases. Kathy discussed the documentation which she needed to gather for the bank to approve this card.

11. New Business

- a. Carvers – this was discussed earlier.
- b. Justin Plunkett Veterans Plan – He was invited to tonight’s meeting but did not show.
- c. Ray discussed the idea of the Wertz Warriors coming on Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> for a fundraising event. More information on that later. Most likely, held at the Richfield Twp. Park/Pavilion.

- 12. Items from Audience Members – Ed mentioned the article in the recent Ogemaw County Herald talking about Kirtland Community College leaving St. Helen and West Branch.

- 13. Adjourn – Motion to adjourn by John and Janet. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Bawol, Chamber Secretary