

**Coloma Watervliet Area Chamber of Commerce
Minutes March 13, 2007
Friendly Tavern**

Members Present: Sandy Kraemer, Thelma Evett, Deb Shannon, Pat Moody, Tom Gear, Richard Martinez, Chip Shaw, Maria DiPrima, Lee Scherwitz, Jennifer Sipla, Deanna Heminger, Matt Moser, Rick Rasmussen, and Chana Kniebes

Call to Order and Introductions: President Kraemer called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Evett and supported by Moody to approve the February 13, 2007 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Kniebes reported that there is \$12,675.35 as of February 28th, 2007 in the chamber checking account and \$3,582.70 in the chamber savings account. Bills paid in the month of February total \$1,003.14. A motion was made by Scherwitz and supported by Shannon to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

New Officer: A motion was made by Heminger and supported by Rasmussen to appoint Tom Gear from Tri-County Computer to the chamber board. Motion carried. Tom will fill the vacancy that was created when Joan Bujack stepped down as vice president and Deb Shannon took her place. President Kraemer thanked Tom for joining the chamber board.

Membership Report: Kniebes reported that there are 125 total chamber members.

Old Business:

Red Arrow Signage: There is still one available spot on the Coloma sign and 8 available spots on the Watervliet side.

Map Project: The map is here! It was delivered on March 5th and so far the response has been positive. It is a very attractive map and easier to handle than the bulky red, white and blue one. Kniebes has delivered it to all the municipal halls and visitor racks and to local advertisers. There are plenty available in the office if anyone needs more for their businesses.

Business Recognition Tribute: The event will take place on March 22, 2007 at the Board of Trade. There will be a cash bar and a charge of \$5.00 at the door for heavy appetizers which begins at 6:00 p.m. There will be a brief program at 7:00 p.m. and Matt Moser will be the MC for the program. Anyone wishing to attend should RSVP to Chana at the chamber office so we can have an accurate count. So far, 44 people have responded to the invite.

Kelly Miller Circus Update: Jennifer Sipla updated the chamber board on the latest information about bringing the circus back to our area. Deer Forest will not be an option as previously thought so the search for a location is still ongoing. Sipla will find out more about possible locations and update the chamber members at the next meeting in April. The committee is really hoping that a location in Watervliet Township could be a possibility. If we pursue Coloma Township as an option, there is a \$100.00 non refundable fee for a permit that would need to be paid.

St. Patrick's Day Parade: The Coloma City lighted St. Patrick's Day Parade will begin at 7:30 p.m. in downtown Coloma.

New Business: Deanna Heminger from Coldwell Banker gave a presentation about the Coloma Carousel Horse. An account is set up at Chemical Bank in Coloma. All donations will go toward the purchase of this hand carved horse that will be part of an actual working carousel on Silver Beach in St. Joseph. Area businesses and schools are encouraged to contribute toward the horse and the donation is tax deductible. So far Washington Elementary School has raised over \$1,236. Evett inquired if Watervliet would also have a horse and Heminger replied that she did not think there was an individual that had taken up the responsibility of raising money for a Watervliet horse. Heminger requested a donation for the chamber for this project and the request was tabled until next month so that chamber minutes could be checked on the donation policy of area events. There have been donations to the Watervliet School Band in the past so there is precedence for donations.

Miscellaneous: Rick Rasmussen announced that he is currently at work on a new book about the Sister Lakes area. Rasmussen has done Paw Paw Lake books in the past and they are beautifully done and interesting books about the area.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Scherwitz and supported by Rasmussen to adjourn the meeting at 12:29 p.m. Motion carried.

The next regular chamber meeting will be held on April 10th, 2007 12 noon at the Board of Trade.

Respectfully submitted,

Chana Kniebes, Recording Secretary