

**Coloma Watervliet Area Chamber of Commerce**  
**Minutes September 11, 2007**  
**Friendly Tavern**

**Board Members Present:** Sandy Kraemer, Tom Gear, Lee Scherwitz, Pat Moody, Ken Sutton and Matt Moser

**Board Members Absent:** Debra Shannon, Charlie Stein and Thelma Evett

**Members Present:** Jennifer Sipla, Sue Moser, Karl Bayer, Terry Bucholtz, Scott Twiss, Lynette Bittner, Dave Scheuer and Chana Kniebes

**Others Present** Bruce Barker West Michigan Tourist Council and Karen Rice Spring Arbor University

**Call to Order and Introductions:** President Kraemer called the meeting to order at 12:10p.m. and members made introductions to the guests that were present.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Scherwitz and supported by Moody to accept the minutes from July 10<sup>th</sup> 2007 as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

A motion was made by Sutton and supported by Moser to accept the minutes of August 14<sup>th</sup> 2007 as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

**Finance Report:** A motion was made Scherwitz and supported by Gear to accept the finance report. All in favor, motion carried.

**Membership Report:** 128 out of the 138 chamber members have renewed and Reliable Disposal is our newest member.

A welcome basket will be delivered to 248 Event District at the Business After Hours on Thursday.

A welcome basket was also delivered in August to the Ramada hotel in Watervliet.

**New Business:**

**West Michigan Tourist Association Membership:** Bruce Barker from the West Michigan Tourist Association (WMTA) gave a brief presentation on the benefits of the chamber joining the WMTA. The cost would be \$225.00 for a full year and will include a 50 word write up on their website as well as being listed in their West Michigan Carefree Travel publication that has 250,000 distributed across the Midwest. After brief discussion a motion was made by Sue Moser and supported by Sipla to try membership for a year in the WTMA. All in favor, motion carried.

**Spring Arbor University:** Karen Rice made a brief presentation about the local opportunities for individuals to earn their Bachelor's Degree in Management and Organization Development locally with one night a week classes starting February 4<sup>th</sup> 2008 There will also be a Master's program in Organization Management beginning November 1<sup>st</sup> 2007. These classes will be held in at two locations with one location possibility being Community Hospital There will be another informational meeting about classes at Community Hospital on Thursday at 2:00. There are still slots that have to be filled to hold the classes but class sizes will be small.

**Old Business:**

**Circus:** Due to the wet grounds of both locations that would have been the site of the circus, the decision was made to cancel the performances. Refunds have been completed from circus ticket sales. All money has been refunded to the businesses that purchased advance children's tickets. A big thank you goes out to Supervisor Hutchins for all his help. Thank you to Jennifer Sipla for chairing the circus committee as well as Chemical Bank for handling the refund of circus money for the first week after the circus was canceled. Kelly Miller Circus was very generous in refunding the money that we had paid to McClaren advertising for the printing of tickets and other promotional items. Should we be approached in two years to once again sponsor the circus it may be a good idea to see if Hartford Chamber would like to join in and have it as a Tri-City event at their fair grounds.

**Shop at Home:** Kniebes reported that the Shop at Home Committee met briefly to discuss how to move forward with the campaign. It was decided that there is not enough time to do the full page ad and collect prizes to do a reward drawing so at this time we would like to do an ad in the Tri-City Record with our members contact information and put them in categories. The committee hopes to hear from Hartford on their decision as they also will be meeting today and possibly meet with their committee to discuss options.

**Website:** Kniebes reported that the website is still a work in progress and if anyone would like to see a sneak preview of the new front page go to the current website of [www.coloma-watervliet.org](http://www.coloma-watervliet.org) and click on the round circle of pictures to take you to the new page.

**Miscellaneous:** Kniebes reported that she received a copy of the Shoreline Visitors Guide and asked if we would like to do a business card size ad again and split the cost with North Berrien Community Development. A motion was made by Moody and supported by Scherwitz to advertise in this valuable marketing piece. All in favor, motion carried.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Sutton and supported by Moody to adjourn the meeting at 12:51 p.m. Motion carried.

**The next regular chamber meeting will be held on October 9th, 2007 12 noon at the Board of Trade**

Respectfully submitted,

Chana Kniebes, Recording Secretary