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Promoting Oregon's Businesses & Community

OREGON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Membership Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 19, 2009; 11:30AM-1:05PM

State Bank of Cross Plains-Oregon
744 North Main Street, Oregon

Lunch Sponsor:



Board Members Present:

- Brett Davis (State Assembly Representative)
- David Mastos (DLM Financial Solutions)
- Erika Weidler (Firefly Coffeehouse)
- Jerod Bennett (Keller Williams)
- Steve Peotter (Oak Bank)
- Barb Mulcahy (State Bank of Cross Plains)
- Aaron Ingham (Trachte, Inc.)

Board Members Absent:

- Jason Johns (Tenuta & Johns)
- Lisa Kersten (Unified Newspaper Group)

Staff Present: Marechiel Santos-Lang (Executive Director), Kristin McGuine (Member Services Manager)

Members Present:

- Sara Hynek (American Cancer Society/Relay for Life)
- Ashley Evangelist (Capital Newspapers)
- Kate Bradley (Capital Newspapers)
- Dale Jewell (ClickSmart Computers)
- Kaori Kurihara-Nelson (D-Chai Thai Massage LLC)
- Lori Miller (Group Health Cooperative-S Central Wisc)
- Sandy Ambrosius (Hound Huddle)
- Dr. Mark McCann (Luedtke-Storm-Mackey Chiropractic)
- Ann Mathias (M&I Bank)
- Pete Curtis (Madison Brush Works, Inc.)
- Judy Knutson (Oregon Community Bank & Trust)
- Tammy Mandarino (Oregon Family Dental)
- Andy Weiland (Oregon School District)
- Paul Lynch (PLH & Associates)
- Ginny Damman (Restaino Realtors)
- Staci Boudreau (State Bank of Cross Plains)
- Tom Laufenberg (State Bank of Cross Plains)
- Nate Miller (State Bank of Cross Plains)
- Jodie Poe (Stoughton Hospital)

- **Welcome.** President Brett Davis called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon, welcoming all members in attendance and thanking both lunch caterer, JL Richards, and lunch sponsor, State Bank of Cross Plains-Oregon. Marechiel kicked the meeting off welcoming new member Madison Brush Works and awarding owner Pete Curtis his membership plaque.
- **Around the Table:** Members introduced themselves and shared with fellow members information about their business including news, changes, promotions, sales and events.
 - **Dr. Mark McCann, Luedtke-Storm-Mackey Chiropractic Clinic**, has been in the business almost 20 years.
 - **Sara Hynek, Relay for Life**, is looking to put more Oregon in the Oregon-Stoughton-McFarland Relay for Life, scheduled for June 19, 2009.
 - **Steve Peotter, Oak Bank**, reminded everyone not to believe all the rumors in the news about banks in crisis.
 - **Nate Miller, State Bank of Cross Plains**, has about 8 years in banking.
 - **Staci Boudreau**, branch manager at **State Bank of Cross Plains-Oregon**, has been in banking 18 years.
 - **Jerod Bennett, Keller Williams**, has been working out of his home for his realty business for about the past 6 years.
 - **Todd Berry, Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance**, is today's-speaker.
 - **Andy Weiland, Oregon School District**, is looking to build more education options to meet needs of all students. The school district is waiting to see how the economic stimulus money materializes.
 - **Cathy Grender-Welcome Neighbor**, began welcome work in mid-January, and things are going great—she is enjoying meeting new residents, etc.
 - **Tom Laufenberg, State Bank of Cross Plains VP**, welcomes everyone here today.
 - **Tammy Mandarino, Oregon Family Dental**, marks over 2 years in practice in Oregon, and her practice continues to grow. She is thrilled to be filling more file cabinets with patient records. She continues to welcome more patients.
 - **Barb Mulcahy, State Bank of Cross Plains**, thanks everyone for coming, and reiterates that, although banks have been in the news a lot recently, community banks remain strong throughout this period.
 - **Lori Miller, Group Health Cooperative of South Central Wisconsin**, represents the HMO that sponsors the healthcare plan available through the Oregon Area Chamber of Commerce. Let her know if you are interested in insurance for your employees—or see Dave Mastos, who is a certified agent for this ChamberCare plan. Lori also brought catalog of classes offered by GHC, as a follow-up to last month's meeting featuring GHC Chief of Complementary Medicine, Dr. Nancy Selfridge.
 - **Doug Smyth, Cousins Subs**, appreciates Oregon's business and increasing calls for party platters. As a gesture of thanks, he encouraged everyone to take \$5 Off coupons.
 - **Brett Davis, State Assembly Representative**, encouraged everyone to feel free to contact him at any time, regarding Chamber or State business. Even if you would just like a state capitol tour ... Brett also noted that he is on a number of committees, including Financial Institutions, Rural Affairs, Renewable Energy, and Education.
 - **Sandy Ambrosius, Hound Huddle**, runs a doggy daycare, including training, grooming, and tons of retail.
 - **Erika Weidler, Firefly Coffeehouse**, is excited about springtime melting away the snow and revealing the new downtown. She and husband Mike will be attending Coffee Fest in Chicago this weekend and hopes to come back with more ideas for the shop.
 - **Dale Jewell, ClickSmart**, offers computer and network support for small business, and is accepting new clients.
 - **Dave Mastos, DLM Financial Solutions**, is a financial advisor who helps people achieve their definition of retirement by maximizing use of their money.
 - **Ginny Damman, Restaino Realty**, points out that they opened a new office last summer and is looking for people to stop in at any time.
 - **Kristin McGuine, Oregon Area Chamber of Commerce**, encourages members to let her know if they ever have questions about member benefits, changes in their contact information, or to get news included in the monthly newsletter.

- **Ann Mathias, M&I Bank**, notes that they are lending lots of money right now and also offer free financial planning services.
- **Jodi Poe, Stoughton Hospital**, is a physical therapist at their rehab clinic. Urgent care is also available at this new facility—they've been here about a year and it continues to grow.
- **Judy Knutson, Oregon Community Bank & Trust**, notes that their Alpine office is open Sundays 12 noon-4 pm. They also offer free (and she means FREE) business checking.
- **Ashley Evangelist, Capital Newspapers**, is the new rep for the Oregon area.
- **Kate Bradley, Capital Newspapers**, is Ashley's manager.
- **Aaron Ingham, Trachte**, explained that his company makes strong metal buildings that are sent, pre-assembled, around the world. He also notes that his old army company just sent off new batch off to Iraq (Aaron was a sergeant).
- **Kay Kurihara-Nelson, DChai**, offers Thai massage, she distributed her brochure and hopes to see more members soon.

➤ **Approval of January 15, 2009 Membership Meeting Minutes.** Mark McCann is missing from list of attendees. This correction has been made. Erika Weidler moved to approve the minutes; Lori Miller seconded. Approval passed unanimously.

➤ **Annual Dinner Update.** Marechiel reiterated the RSVP deadline of Monday, February 23, 2009, and encouraged everyone to consider buying tables. One highlight for the evening is a ****Diamond Giveaway.**** Tell all your friends! Thanks to early sponsors: Group Health Cooperative, Oak Bank, Bank of Oregon & State Bank of Cross Plains.

➤ **Summer Fest Update.** Summer Fest will run June 25-28, 2009. Mark your calendars! Live entertainment--We already have three bands signed. Festival fun for all ages. Consider promoting your business in the parade!

➤ **Chamber Reminders.**

Membership Renewal: For those who haven't yet renewed, dues are now overdue. Please remit as soon as possible.

Business and Recreation Guide: New target publication date is April 20, 2009.

Kristin McGuine has been promoted and now has a new title to better reflect her service and expertise: Member Service Manager.

➤ **Member Matters.**

Guest Speaker: Todd Berry, President of the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance

For 77 years, the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance has been Wisconsin's primary private, non-partisan source of research and information about Wisconsin state and local government—how it works, taxes and spends. The Wisconsin Taxpayers Association is always accepting funding donations.

Highlights from Mr. Berry's talk:

- The state budget came out a couple days ago.
- Wisconsin per capita incomes haven't grown as much as they have in other states around the nation.
- Wisconsin's monthly job growth lags behind the nation.
- Average Wisconsin wages well below national average.
- Wisconsin's labor force is aging and therefore not expected to be growing.; Unemployment will likely decrease.

- For some time, a booming economy meant plentiful state revenues; Spending kept pace, rather than socking away funds for less prosperous times.
- Now, the state is required by law to pass a balanced budget. Accountants using GAAP principles see a deficit in the billions, but various techniques (issuing highway bonds, claiming tobacco funds, spending \$ now that's budgeted for in following year) used by the state make the budget appear balanced.
- It is difficult to just cut here and there to balance the budget because 80% of state budget is spent on 5 key programs: local government services, UW, education system, Medicaid, and corrections.
- Wisconsin essentially receiving a lot of federal money and will use it to plug short-term holes, hoping for something to replace this funding in future years.
- This mess continues due to decreasing depth of media coverage, focus on short term due to partisanship, different group relying on the state to bail them out, and the debt culture of this country.

***Member Matters** is a Member to Member information/ network/ mini-seminar that will be part of most chamber meeting agendas. At each meeting, we will feature a speaker/ topic sharing information and answering questions relevant to our membership. If you would like to be a presenter or if you have speaker suggestions, please contact the Chamber staff.*

- **Announcement.** Brett Davis announced that next month's membership meeting is March 19, 2009 featuring the topic the "State of Oregon" featuring Village President Steve Staton and Administrator Mike Gracz. The venue of the meeting is A to Z Farm. He looks forward to seeing members at next month's meeting.

➤ **Adjournment.** Meeting adjourned at 1:07 pm.

We value your input and participation. See you next month!

Meeting Minutes taken by Kristin McGuine.