



Oregon Community Bank & Trust Building
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Promoting Oregon's Businesses & Community

OREGON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

August Membership Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 20, 2009 • 7:30 AM-9:00 AM

OREGON AREA FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT

131 Spring Street; Oregon, WI 53575

Chamber President Brett Davis called the meeting to order at 7:45 AM. He thanked the Oregon Fire/EMS department for hosting us in their space. He also welcomed new chamber members LaCrosse Graphics and King of the Road transportation services.

Board Members Present:

- David Mastos, DLM Financial Services
- Jerod Bennett, Keller Williams Realty
- Barb Mulcahy, State Bank of Cross Plains-Oregon
- Brett Davis, State of Wisconsin Assembly Rep, 80th District

Board Members Absent:

- Erika Weidler, Firefly Coffeeshop
- Steve Peotter, Oak Bank
- Jason Johns, Tenuta & Johns
- Aaron Ingham, Trachte

Staff Present: Kristin McGuine (Member Services Manager)

Members Present:

- Jeff Smith (Alliant Energy)
- Dave Wyttenbach (Bank of Oregon)
- Kermit (Cable Access)
- Richard Lornson (Comfort Keepers)
- Kaori Kurihara-Nelson (D-Chai Thai massage)
- Lori Miller (GHC-SCW)
- Sandy Ambrosius (Hound Huddle)
- Cheryl Baltzell (M&I Bank)
- Captain Tom Eithun (Oregon Area Fire/EMS)
- Chief David Bloom (Oregon Area Fire/EMS)
- Captain Robin Powers (Oregon Area Fire/EMS)
- Linda Paddock (Oregon Observer)
- Susan Santner (Oregon Public Library)
- Sara Hynek (Relay for Life)
- Sally Garbo Wedde (volunteer for Oregon Public Library's Centennial Community Book)

➤ Around the table

- Lori Miller, Group Health Co-operative of South Central Wisconsin
They offer Chamber Care for small employers. Please keep in mind that they also sell individual plans. Many “downsized” families are losing their healthcare coverage, and they welcome the opportunity to work with anyone you know looking for coverage. Dave Mastos is an appointed agent, so you can get in touch with him, or contact us at the office.
- Sandy Ambrosius, Hound Huddle.
The dogs continue having fun-rain or shine. (The employees, maybe not so much.) She announced the launch of her new company, Best Paws, featuring canine sports massage. She plans on registering this new company of hers to the chamber.
- Cheryl Baltzell, M&I Bank
M&I is currently offering free financial investment advice. They will sit down and look at your portfolio with you.
- Dave Wyttenbach, Bank of Oregon
Union Bank & Trust is based in Evansville with branches in various towns. Dave announced that they are now acquiring two Amcore Bank branches: one in New Glarus and one in Belleville.
- Barb Mulcahy, State Bank of Cross Plains
In a promotion effort to support the school district, the State Bank of Cross Plains is giving away a free Oregon high school sweatshirt when you open a checking account.
- Jerod Bennett, Keller Williams Realty
Jerod works with residential homes, foreclosures, new construction, land, and including a small amount of commercial properties.
- Susan Santner, Oregon Public Library
The library has seen a record-breaking summer. Circulation is up 15% this year. Foot traffic and participation in the summer reading programs have also been high. They are celebrating their centennial next year, and will be publishing a Community Book as part of their celebration activities. Any and all businesses interested are welcome to submit their histories.
- Dave Mastos, DLM Financial Solutions
Dave has an independent financial and insurance firm. He finds that he is talking more with people about health insurance now than ever before. Sometimes people need a bridge to carry them between coverage periods. As far as investments go, he is seeing an exodus to “safe money” investments.
- Jeff Smith, Alliant Energy
Jeff works with large commercial accounts in eastern Dane County. He especially works on energy efficiency projects and upgrading facilities.
- Linda Paddock, Oregon Observer
Linda’s been with the Oregon Observer for 4 years, off and on. She is returning to the Oregon market—it’s closer to her home and school district. In addition to regular advertising and special sections, they are excited to be offering their first expo, a Senior Expo targeting persons 55 and over, at the end of October at the Stoughton Health/Fitness Center.
- Sally Garbo Wedde is a volunteer helping with the Oregon Public Library’s Centennial Community Book project. She works at the University and resides in Oregon.

- Sara Hynek, American Cancer Society's Relay for Life
The Relay for Life was held in June, and, combined with other events, made over \$100,000 for the American Cancer Society, when their goal had been \$88,000. They are very excited and grateful for everyone's support!
- Richard Lornson, Comfort Keepers
Comfort Keepers takes care of people in their homes. They are working to build their service to Veterans. Any vet that has served in service for 90 days, including 1 day of active duty, to qualify for up to \$1,600 per month of benefits. Comfort Keepers will be visiting all VFW's to spread the word.
- Brett Davis, State of Wisconsin Assembly Rep, 80th District
Aside from politics as usual, Brett and his wife are expecting a baby! We are taking bets on whether or not the baby will be born by the next membership meeting. ☺

Just a note that Executive Director Marechiel Santos-Lang is currently in the Philippines for her sister's wedding.

- July Minutes
A motion to approve was made by Tom Eithun and second Richard Lornson. Approval passed unanimously.
- Commercial Fire Prevention
Chief David Bloom
The Oregon Area Fire/EMS department is, obviously, in the emergency services business. However, they are also in the public education business. Their goal is to use education to prevent the fire trucks from going out the door. When they are busy, it's not good news.

Department Background

The department is a combination department. It includes both volunteers and paid on-call members, including 6 full time personnel and 6 student interns. There are 65 members. The student interns participate in a 3-year program, serving 24 hours on followed by 48 hours off. They live at the station and attend MATC in fire science.

Fire Inspections

In the state of Wisconsin, the fire department is required by the Department of Commerce to audit businesses two times per year. If they don't, they will lose funding. They get audited to make sure they are doing inspections.

Captain Robin Powers conducts the inspections. He's been with the department 17 years. He says many in attendance have probably seen reports from him. He conducts inspections twice per year, on about 400 inspect able sites (the list is constantly changing). In his inspections, his primary concern is life safety. He is also looking for code issues and possible hazards.

Unless a business or organization has someone on staff to oversee safety issues, business owners don't always think about them with all the day to day operations on their plates.

Captain Powers enforces the NFPA 1 Code. It was developed by fire department and industry professionals, including business professionals. In fact, people like us, in attendance, are able to serve on these committees, if interested. The development of the code is often reactionary. In other words, if there's an incident, code is developed to prevent that situation from happening again in the future.

He tried to keep enforcement fairly friendly. He meets with a representative at the business to go over any violations. The organization is given a written copy of the violations, the applicable code, and how to remedy these infractions. Depending on seriousness, there is a set period of time to remedy the situation and establish re-inspection. If it is a tenant situation, a report is also sent to the building owner. Occasionally, he must pursue state and legal action as a last resort.

How to determine if fire extinguishers are viable.

Chances are they probably don't work. Fire extinguishers must be agitated and checked every year, otherwise the chemicals settle to the bottom and clump (they won't work). You can look up fire protection in the phone book to find services that can re-charge extinguishers, depending on type of extinguisher.

Carbon monoxide detectors

Carbon monoxide rises, so detectors are appropriately placed in the upper areas of the home. Remember that you get what you pay for—cheap ones are not the best. Select a reputable brand. Also remember that there can be high instances of false alarms—they are designed to err on side of caution.

Common violations

Expired Fire extinguishers

Extension cords used as a permanent solution, especially when they are run under carpets, etc. They get hot over time, and should only be used for individual tasks.

Blocked exits.

Always feel free to get in touch with the department if an issue ever comes up:

Captain Robin Powers handles inspections.

Captain Tom Eithun handles public education.

Susan Santner expressed appreciation for Tom Eithun coming out to the Library to do a staff in-service at which all staff got to use a fire extinguisher. She felt this was a very helpful exercise.

➤ Announcements

- Golf Outing: September 15, 2009 from Noon until 7:00 PM
We are trying to get 18 foursomes, and are still short of this. Currently, we are down in foursomes and sponsorships. The outing will be held at the Legend at Bergamont, including a free cocktail hour. Online registration is available for everyone's convenience.
- Oregon Area Business Expo: Thursday, November 19, 2009 from 5:30-8:30 PM
Plan to exhibit—we expect close to 100 exhibitors. Register early because the numbers will drive the venue. This event will include a "Taste of Oregon" component.
- Chamber Hours
Remember that during the month of August, the Chamber office is open by appointment only. From September through December, hours of operation will be Monday-Thursday 10:00 AM-3:00 PM. The office will be closed on Fridays through the end of the year.
- Kay Kaori-Nelson has been in business for almost a year now, offering Thai Massage. She is feeling the need to grow, even though business has been steady. She handed out free 1-hour massage coupons (a \$50 value) to all in attendance, asking that if you like the massage, you spread the word to your friends.

- Adjournment
Meeting adjourned at 8:26 AM (Ahead of schedule!)

The next Membership Meeting:

Thursday, September 17, 2009
Susan Ames Room, Oregon Public Library
256 Brook Street, Oregon, WI 53575
11:30 AM-1:00 PM

The library will do a presentation on their centennial plans, and feature in particular the plans for the Oregon Community Book project.

We look forward to seeing you next meeting--We value your input and participation!

Meeting Minutes taken by Kristin McGuine.