



Oregon Community Bank & Trust Building, Lower Level
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Advancing the interests of the Oregon area businesses

OREGON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

September Membership Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 17, 2009; 11:30 AM-1:30 PM

Hosted By: **Oregon Public Library**

Meeting Venue: Susan Ames Room, Oregon Public Library

Lunch catered by the Firefly Coffeehouse

Board Members Present:

- Barb Mulcahy, State Bank of Cross Plains-Oregon
- Erika Weidler, Firefly Coffeehouse

Board Members Absent:

- David Mastos, DLM Financial Solutions
- Jerod Bennett, Keller Williams Realty
- Brett Davis, State of Wisconsin Assembly Rep, 80th District
- Steve Peotter, Oak Bank
- Jason Johns, Tenuta & Johns
- Aaron Ingham, Trachte
- Jeff Groenier, Concepts in Architecture (Jeff arrived at the end of the meeting)

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

Members Present:

- Erin Kaether (Academy of Sound)
- Mike Bauldry (Bauldry Enterprises)
- Dan Sutter (Cable Access)
- Sarah White (Oregon Public Library: Community Book Project)
- Julia Meyers (Oregon Historical Society: Oregon Community Book Project)
- Richard Lornson (Comfort Keepers)
- Kaori Kurihara-Nelson (D-Chai Thai massage)
- Gary Messinger (Dane County TimeBank)
- Myra Mastos (Force of Life Wellness)
- Sandy Ambrosius (Hound Huddle/Best Paws, LLC)
- Kris King (King of the Road)
- William Schneider (LSM Chiropractic)
- Judy Knutson (Oregon Community Bank & Trust)
- Linda Paddock (Oregon Observer)
- Lisa Hustad (Oregon Public Library)
- Susan Santner (Oregon Public Library)
- Chelsea Leachman (Oregon Youth Center)

- Becky Hillary (Oregon Youth Center)
- Sara Hynek (Relay for Life)
- Staci Boudreau (State Bank of Cross Plains-Oregon)

➤ **Call to Order**

Chamber Board Secretary Erika Weidler called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon. She welcomed everybody to the meeting and thanked host Oregon Public Library. Welcome, especially, to new member Kris King of King of the Road.

➤ **Golf outing: Thanks to Sponsors, Donors, Golfers and Guests**

Executive Director Marechiel Santos-Lang thanked everyone's support for the Golf Outing. The chamber's annual golf outing was held on Tuesday, September 15. While other chambers have seen a decline in golf outing participation, we were excited to have a 25% increase in participation over last year with 84 golfers! A successful fund-raising event such as this helps the chamber help its members, 80% of which are small businesses.

➤ **Around the Table**

- Kris King, King of the Road **new member*

Kris has been a carpenter for 10 years, but the slowing economy has forced her to look toward other opportunities. She currently offers transportation services to those who need them, and is looking to add parcel delivery and process serving to her list of service offerings. She is also considering working with realtors to get houses ready to put on the market, etc. She is excited about working with the chamber to put together her very first promotional flier. She's very pleased with the flier that the chamber has designed/produced for her.

- Barb Mulcahy, State Bank of Cross Plains-Oregon

On October 29, the State Bank of Cross Plains-Oregon will host a Brunch and Learn regarding marketing small business through social media, especially Twitter. It will be held at 7:30 AM and includes breakfast. Everyone is welcome to attend.

- Staci Boudreau, State Bank of Cross Plains-Oregon

The bank is currently offering a "Be True to Your School" promotion, where anyone opening a new checking account gets a free high school sweatshirt. They are also promoting a scratch-off card program worth up to \$10,000 for those opening a new credit card account.

- Chelsea Leachman-Oregon Youth Center

Chelsea is the new Youth Center director, replacing Matthew Klutzke. Becky Hillary (also in attendance) is an Americorp Member. Becky was born and raised in Oregon, and, in fact, helped start the youth center when she was younger. She wants to increase community outreach and awareness about the youth center. They will be hosting a community open house/BBQ on October 2, from 5:30-7:00 PM. They invited everyone to come to their open house.

- Sarah White, Community Book Project

Sarah has been running 10-session memoir-writing classes in Oregon about three times per year. They are held at the State Bank of Cross Plains-Oregon. She has a new session beginning Wed starting 9/30. The cost to participate is \$38.00. Please call the Oregon Senior Center to get registered.

- Bill Schneider, LSM Chiropractic Clinic

He has been coming to chamber meetings for about 6 months now, and is very excited to see all the new faces at this meeting. LSM Chiropractic is not running any promos per se; they just focus on taking good care of people.

- Gary Messinger, Dane County TimeBank

Gary was to present shortly, so he stuck to a brief introduction letting people know that his family recently moved to Oregon and is happy to be promoting TimeBank in the community.

- Marechiel Santos-Lang, Oregon Area Chamber of Commerce
Marechiel reminded all members to take advantage of free announcements and advertising in the monthly newsletter. Member events and news can also be promoted via the chamber web calendar and weekly E-Alerts. The deadline is every the 20th of the month.
- Myra Mastos, Force of Life Wellness
Myra is an integrative life counselor. She helps busy people learn how to eat healthy again. She will be sponsoring a public viewing of “Two Angry Moms,” a movie about moms who are unhappy with their children’s school lunch program. Anyone who is interested to help her lobby for healthier school lunch menu may contact Myra.
- Susan Santner, Oregon Public Library
The Public Library is starting a knitting club. The hope is that it will be multi-generational in nature, with the old teaching the young. She will also be a “story-telling” guild, a form of art that many people didn’t realize exist. At the story-telling meetings, Susan will be serving up her mean veggie soup! Also, be watching for information on upcoming story times and Monday evening puppet shows.
- Sandy Ambrosius, Hound Huddle/Best Paw, LLC
The Hound Huddle is now offering \$5 off a purchase of \$10 or more. The dogs are enjoying all this lovely weather, and they are seeing about 30 dogs per day. Next month, Sandy expects to be premiering her new business, Best Paws canine sports massage, dog training, sitting.
- Erika Weidler, Firefly Coffeehouse
There are lots of new things going on at the Firefly. They will be expanding, and offering new programs. Erika encourages everyone to monitor their website (www.fireflycoffeehouse.com), or become their friend on Facebook, to follow all the latest Firefly developments. Congratulations to Erika for winning the Longest Drive for Women at the Golf Outing.
- Sara Hynek, Relay for Life
There will be a new event in Oregon this year: the Holiday Home tour, to be held on December 12. The event will be included in the Oregon Holidays community marketing & promotion that the chamber is spearheading. The Holiday Home Tour will be a fundraiser for Relay for Life. They are looking for 3-5 homes to participate. Docents and foods will be provided, and Relay for Life will host a cocktail reception afterwards. Please call 835-3699 for information or to make suggestions of possible homes to be featured.
- Linda Paddock, Oregon Observer
Linda has been the Observer’s Oregon-area sales rep for about a month now, but has been with Unified Newspaper Group for a number of years. Each year, they publish a special newspaper section, which this year they are calling *Oregon Focus*. It features areas of recent community growth and significant events of past year. It will publish on October 8th this year, and advertising is available.
- Erin Kaether, Academy of Sound
They are starting to get back in the swing of the school year. There are about 8-10 spots left for the Fall, with a few each in voice, piano and drama (guitar is full). They will be staging a holiday show, but aren’t sure of the particulars yet. You can follow Academy of Sound on Twitter and Facebook, and also on their website: www.academyofsound.org.
- Kaori (Kay) Kurihara-Nelson, D-Chai, Thai Massage Shop
Kay will be offering a new meditation-yoga-massage class that starts October 2 and runs for five sessions. She will also be offering Japanese conversation lessons for children, teens and adults, which are 10 sessions each. Next summer, you can tour Japan with Kaori as your knowledgeable tour guide. For more information on any of these new options, please contact D-Chai at 835-1800.
- Richard Lornson, Comfort Keepers
Next month is National Aging in Place month, with the idea being to facilitate the ability for people to age with respect and in the comfort of their own home. Comfort Keepers is hosting a seminar in Fitchburg on October 14 from 1:00-3:00 PM.

- Lisa Hustad, Oregon Public Library, Community Book Project
Lisa will be presenting shortly at today's meeting.
- Julia Meyers, Oregon Area Historical Society
Julia represents the Oregon Historical Society part of the partnership advancing the progress of the Oregon Community Book project.
- Mike Bauldry, Bauldry Enterprises
The Santa season is approaching! If you need Santa to come visit your business, take advantage of the low negotiated rate for chamber members! Mike would like to help promote Oregon by making it more affordable for local businesses to host Santa, rather than having area residents taking their spending dollars to the malls to see Santa.
- Kristin McGuine, Oregon Area Chamber of Commerce
Kristin had 2009 plaque stickers and Chamber Member window decals with her. If anyone needs these, or any other item the chamber can help provide or promote, please contact Kristin.

➤ **Awarding of New Member Plaque.** Chamber Executive Director Marechiel Santos-Lang awarded Kris King of King of the Road her new member plaque.

➤ **August Meeting Minutes**
Richard Lornson motioned to approve the minutes. Susan Santner seconded. Approval passed unanimously.

➤ **Member Development**

First Speaker: Gary Messinger, Dane County TimeBank

A TimeBank is a community of members exchanging time, talent and skills with each other. The Dane County TimeBank is the fastest growing time bank in the country, and second largest. Every hour of your time spent, equals 1 hour of time in your bank, which you can use for an hour of any other member's time. "Time banking" is a great equalizer--an hour of someone's time equals an hour of anyone else's time. The TimeBank is a community-builder, but also can really save you money on services that you need.

As an example, Gary just moved to the area from Madison. His family used time bank hours to get their house ready to sell, and to move, and in exchange, he provides blues harmonica and Native American flute lessons. Other popular exchange options include transportation, cooking, pet care, companionship, nutrition, wellness, etc.

Dane County TimeBank also runs a store of donated and second-hand items where people can use "time dollars" instead of dollars to make purchases. People can reach Dane County TimeBank by E-mailing Gary at: gary@danecountytimebank.org.

Second Speakers: Oregon Centennial Book Committee

The theme of the Community Book is Celebrate the Past • Embrace the Present • Envision the Future. The process of publishing this book will build stronger community by:

- Building stronger partnerships and connections with and among businesses and residents.
- Involving as many people as possible.

Why Bother? History lost if not captured • Connections decay if not nurtured.

The book will be good for businesses: It will enhance the reputation of participating local business. There will be a buzz created through monthly columns in the Oregon Observer. It will be an advertising vehicle with long shelf life.

The book will be good for Oregon as a whole by helping lay the groundwork to achieve a common vision of the future as look to grow sustainably and sensibly.

Project organizers are seeking:

- 1.) Volunteers-tactical, managerial and especially those to act as liaisons for business community.
- 2.) Recommendations that they give these presentations/opportunities in the community to talk the project up.

- 3.) Businesses to host history-collecting events, where people can come and have their stories captured or share personal artifacts (which can then be donated to the Historical Society, should they wish).

To get involved, stop by the community book table at the Business Expo on November 19. Sign up at the library or at the Chamber of office. The project is expected to cost \$25,000.00 and will be funded through grants, fundraising events, donations, ad sales. There will also be copies for sale in the community, with those monies going to support the organizing civic groups.

➤ **Announcements**

- **The Oregon Arts Festival** will be held October 9-11. Please visit and enjoy the festival's various offerings.
- **Oregon Area Business Expo:** Registration is now open for participation to the only business expo organized in the Oregon area. The expo is scheduled for Thursday, November 19, 2009 from 5:30-8:30 PM. Plan to exhibit—we expect close to 100 exhibitors. This event will include a “Taste of Oregon” component.
- **Oregon Holidays:** More information will be available shortly with regards to the Oregon Holidays!
- **Chamber Hours**
Remember that 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.
- **Membership Meeting:** October 15, 2009, Thursday, 11:30AM-1:30PM. **Pizza Pit:** 130 North Main Street, Oregon, WI 53575
- **Karate America Ribbon Cutting Ceremony & New Facility Tour;** Immediately following the October membership meeting: October 15, 2009; 1:30PM. New Location: 787 North Main Street (next to Bill's Food Center).

➤ **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 1:13 PM

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

Meeting Minutes taken by Kristin McGuine.