

Sauk Rapids Chamber Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2009

Host: Habitat For Humanity

Location: C&L Distributing

Welcome, introductions and permanent name badges were handed out by Roxanne Ryan, Wacosa, Sauk Rapids Chamber Chair

60 Second Business Spotlight: Pine Cone Pet Hospital--"Your Other Family Doctor" located in Sartell across from Walgreen's--Walker Brown

Sponsor Presentation--Habitat For Humanity--Bruce Johnson

- Habitat for Humanity was founded in 1976 to focus on poverty housing and the homeless
- There are 1600 affiliates of which St. Cloud is one. The local Habitat For Humanity was founded 20 years ago.
- There is a rigorous application process
- Families/homeowners are required to put in 200 hours of sweat equity
- Families are required to take a home ownership class
- St. Cloud has served 62 families and hopes to add another 8 families this year.

----Shelia Burski -co-presenter

- The theme this year is "More than Just Homes"
- The focus is on building better neighborhoods
- They have found that having a home can help launch a new career, enhance the lives of children, create friendships improve health conditions and transform families
- There are people who have been waiting over two years for a house
- They have placed over 160 children into area homes
- They fundraise between \$35,000 to \$50,000 to rehab a house
- They have grants to purchase 4-5 homes this year
- They are having their 20th Anniversary party on Sat. Feb 6, 2010 at the St. Cloud Civic Center

----Kris Nelson (Custom Accents) is the chair of "Women Build" this year.

- Women Build is the whole month of September
- Kris has been part of it for the last 4 years
- Their goal is to raise \$100,000 this year to build a new home
- To volunteer, contact Habitat for Humanity

Speaker: Perry Beise, Sauk Rapids Chief of Police --"Keeping your Business Safe"

- He has been a police officer for 23 years
- There are 14 officers on the Sauk Rapids Police force
- As a business, do a pre-employment screening--do background checks
- Listen to your gut--if you feel something is wrong, it probably is
- There are a lot of employee related thefts-- if you suspect someone call the police, let them help you figure it out
- Do your due diligence--train people right, and follow up to be sure they are following your procedures--many people do not check ID's or if the info on the check and ID match, they don't even look to see if *you* match the ID
- Don't ask yourself "is this bad enough to call 911?" Just call, they are also trained to be mediators and can help resolve situations. If it's not an emergency, but you are concerned, call the police station at their regular number and they will respond promptly.

- Have a plan for your business in case of an emergency--if there is a gas leak-where do you go? How will you know if everyone is out of the building? If you have your business destroyed by fire, flood, tornado etc. can you access the records you will need? Have a back up plan.

City Update: Chief Perry Beise

School Update: Greg Vandal and school board members --they gave an update on the process for looking for a new superintendent

Membership Update: Wendy Franzwa

Chamber Update: Theresa Bohnen

If you would like more information about the Sauk Rapids Chamber, or want to learn how to host a meeting, or offer a speaker suggestion, please contact--Roxanne Ryan -Wacosa Sauk Rapids Chamber Chair-320-257-5192 or ryan@wacosa.org, Shelia Tepley, Lamar Outdoor Advertising, Sauk Rapids Chamber Vice Chair, --320-253-3000 or stepley@lamar.com or Gail Ivers, Chamber staff-320-251-2940 ext. 109 or givers@stcloudareachamber.com

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 25, 2010

Meeting Location: C & L Distributing

Hosts: ADvanced Media and Retro Green

Speaker: Emergency Chaplin Services