

Sauk Rapids Chamber Monthly Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2010 - Meeting Location: C & L Distributing
Meeting Host: Smoke Free Communities
Speaker: Bernie Perryman--Things you may not know about Chamber

Introductions, greeting and name tag presentations by Shelia Tepley, Lamar Outdoor Advertising, Chair and Dr. Jeff Oakland, Pinecone Vision Center, vice chair.

Host presentation: Alisha Baumann from Smoke Free Communities

- Smoke free communities is part of CentraCare Health System
- There are 5600 deaths each year, 1 in 7 are tobacco related
- Smoke free communities has a comprehensive tobacco cessation strategy that is key to helping people quit successfully. Counseling, medications and policy changes help establish a work free workplace or campus.
- 70% of smokers want to quit. 44% try to quit each year. Average smoker quits 6-9 times before being successful
- In 2002, smoking-related medical expenses cost MN \$1.9 billion -equaling almost \$400 for each person on the state and over a billion dollars in lost productivity. Smoking cessation costs a company approximately 50 cents per month per employee, it is cost neutral in 3 years and in 5 years, it is saving money.
- Quitplan is a free program available to all MN residents who are uninsured or underinsured. MN Businesses can sign up for the program as well. Businesses can also sign up for a free HR newsletter to help with ideas, benefits etc. It is called HR E-news.
- web site: www.smokefreecentralmn.org

Speaker Presentation: Bernie Perryman: "Things you may not know about your Chamber."

- Over 1000 business make up the St. Cloud Area Chamber
- 80% of the companies are 10 employees or fewer
- Business Central magazine goes to over 6000 people
- There are 18 board members--currently 9 men and 9 women. They attend board meetings and are ambassadors to the 17 various committees of the Chamber
- Chamber coordinates trips to meet with both state and national representatives. 20 members went to Washington, D.C. in May 2010 to advocate on our behalf.
- We are a 5 star chamber
- St. Cloud Area Chamber and the Rotary club recently co-sponsored the governor's debate
- The engagement of our local business owners, their representatives and volunteers are one of the best in the nation. Many chambers try to emulate what happens here.

Jodi Speicher--Good Shepherd Communities--Chamber board representative –

- The Chamber's Convention & Visitor's Bureau marketing plan was approved at the last meeting
- Mike Wilhelmi, lobbyist, has been hired to help move the civic center bonding bill forward
- The 6th Congressional Debate was well attended with over 800 people.
- The Star Studded Celebration was well attended and attendees made very positive statements about the event

Jill Copeland--Chamber staff--

- There will be upcoming customer service training on Nov.16--cost is \$50
- There will also be a lunchtime learning on improving your accounts receivable
- Icebreakers networking event on Nov. 30th.
- Watch for a meeting with our newly elected officials--hope to schedule the meeting in December.

School Update: Dan Bittman --Superintendent of Schools

- The district was just awarded \$100,000 STEM grant--science, technology, engineering and math
- National Honor Society was recently honored
- The volleyball and football teams won this past week.

Wendy Franzwa--Membership

- Our goal is to sign one new member each month--we did not have new members this month. Reviewed Each One Reach One program
- If you have a business you would like to invite, please invite them to attend or pass the information on to Wendy and she will invite them.

Ross Olson: City Update

- Walgreens wants to build where the current city hall building is--Sauk Rapids is in the process of looking at other locations
- New city hall will hopefully have over 30,000 square feet. The city hopes to build the new building debt free.
- It will take one year to build; completion goal is spring 2012. Offices currently in city hall will be relocated to various locations throughout the city.
- Info will be going out to the residents so people know where to go for services.

Next Monthly meeting will be held: Nov. 18th at C&L Distributing 11:45 to 1:00

Host: Taco Johns

Speaker: Melinda Sanders, Quinlivan & Hughes "The Top 10 HR Errors Businesses Make"

Submitted by Roxanne Ryan, WACOSA