

Sauk Rapids Chamber Monthly Meeting January 27, 2011

Meeting Location: C & L Distributing Sauk Rapids, MN

Host: Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Central Minn.

Welcome, introductions and new name tags by Chair Shelia Tepley-Lamar Outdoor Advertising and Jeff Oakland, PineCone Vision Center, Sartell, vice chair.

Host Presentation-Jackie Johnson and Shari Wahlin of Big Brothers/ Big Sisters

- Mentor benefits: the “little” brothers and sisters are less likely to commit crimes, lie to parents, or skip school based on surveys.
- Tom Albers, Borgert Products, spoke about being a big brother since the early nineties.
 - Tom spoke about the benefits that he received seeing his little brother grow and become a man. They continue their relationship today. His “little” applied for and received a college scholarship and has graduated college.
 - The commitment that you are asked for is just one day a week—you can be together more if you choose.
- The scholarships that “littles” can apply for cover everything that financial aid does not cover.
- Magic Moments Ball—
 - There will be wine and beer tasting, silent and live auctions
 - Swing dancing
 - Gourmet dinner and appetizers
 - Melinda Tamm and guests demonstrated swing dancing
 - Live auction – several items were auctioned off at the meeting as a demonstration with proceeds to Big Brothers/Big Sisters

Speaker Presentation: John Funk, Midwest Dairy, South of Melrose

- MN Dairy Assoc. represents 11,000 dairy farms
- Self-funded by dairy farms @ 12 cents per bulk weight
- Their goal is to promote dairy products and educate the general public –latest promotion is “Play 60” –this is to encourage 60 minutes of exercise daily and decrease childhood obesity
- MN ranks 6th in the nation in dairy products
- Dairy industry creates 40,000 jobs in the state
- There are 470,000 cows in the state
- The dairy industry adds \$4.6 billion to our economy annually
- Dairy accounts for only 2% of the carbon footprint
- They are promoting a new program –F.A.R.M.—Farmers Assuming Responsible Management-
 - This involves having a third party looking at various areas of individual farms to help insure that best practices are being used for crop and dairy farming-nutrition, newborn calves, animal health, environmental and facilities, movement and transportation, special needs animals—(sick and injured)
- At Funk Dairy in Melrose they have 1100 head of livestock, 6-7 full time employees, 3-4 part time employees. They have someone on staff 22 hours of the day.

Testimonials were given from various businesses to others they have done business with.

Membership—Wendy Franzwa—New members—Alzheimer’s Association & Memory Clinic, Tully Tube, 44 Signs, Hardee’s,

School Update--Dan Bittman -Supertendent of Schools

- Sauk Rapids will be starting all day/every day kindergarten in 2011-2012
- There will be an event at the Performing Arts event for kindergarten registration as well as information about the schools and various programs.

Chamber Update—Jodi Speicher – The Good Shepherd Community

- There was a presentation by the Economic Development Partnership on Environmental Scanning there were some recommendations made based on the findings of that report—watch for more info in the near future.
- Board members were challenged to reach out to members who are struggling and encourage them to retain their membership and to become more active and engaged thereby hoping to increase their business.
- Nominations for board members are now being accepted—see Jodi or Teresa for more info.
- Farm Show –Feb 22-24th –they are looking for volunteers—contact Ginny at the Chamber office for more information.

City Update—Todd Schultz

- The old city hall building is now closed, the police department is sharing space in the fire department, and the city hall staff is sharing space in the public works building.
- Walgreens will be tearing down the old city hall building
- The new city hall will be on 2nd St. by the post office

The next meeting will be:

Feb. 24, 2011 at C & L Distributing -1020 Industrial Dr. S, Sauk Rapids

Host: Retrogreen Energy; Speaker: Heidi Friese-Wellness Programs for Business

MEETING TIME: 11:45

For more information on the Sauk Rapids Chamber, please contact Shelia Tepley—Lamar Outdoor Advertising –Sauk Rapids Chair—253-3000, stepley@lamar.com, Dr. Jeff Oakland-Pinecone Vision Center, Vice chair-258-3915 –joakland@pineconevisioncenter.com or Gail Ivers-chamber staff at 251-2940 ext. 109 – givers@StCloudAreaChamber.com