

Sauk Rapids Chamber General Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2011
Meeting Location: C & L Distributing-Sauk Rapids, MN
Co-Hosts: Brenny Transportation and Think Tourism USA

Welcome, introductions and permanent name badges were presented by Shelia Tepley, Lamar Outdoor Advertising-Sauk Rapids Chamber Chair and Jen Novak–PineCone Vision Center – Sauk Rapids Chamber Vice Chair.

Announcement: Find us on Face Book-post your specials, promotions, announcements on the Sauk Rapids page.

Co-Host Presentation: Brenny Transportation-Grand Champion Customer Service-your total transportation solution.

- Founded in 1996 by Todd and Joyce Brenny
- They do trucking and warehouse –anything from one pallet to a truckload
- They believe in community involvement and giving back-which charities they donate to are decided on by their employees-they give back through volunteering, monetary, transporting goods/items
- Every year they have a company goal, if the team meets the goal, they send the team to Cancun.
- They were the recipient of the TIA Samaritan Award in 2010.
- Most drivers are company employees-some are contracted. They also do haul oversize loads

Co-Host Presentation: Think Tourism USA-

- Formerly North Star Visitor Guides
- Owners: Gary and Pat Weber
- They publish the visitor guides for St. Cloud and various other communities in MN
- The goal of the visitor guides is to educate, prompt and attract visitors, new residents and new business to the community
- Visitors spend \$350 MILLION in our local area
- They publish 65,000guides for St. Cloud
- Guides are found in hotels, rest areas, tourist attractions, Mall of America, MPLS airport and points of entry into the state
- If you advertise in the visitors guide. You can then link your website to them on face book : Granitecity.com
- The guide is an opportunity to tell your story
- They have a Sauk Rapids page and are open to increasing/enhancing that section
- If you would like guides in your business, please contact them.
- The guides are published Jan 1, and there is still time to get your ad in this year's book.

Speaker: Tara Tollefson –Plaza Park Bank “Facebook Quick Tips-Strategies to Try Today”
See attachment for notes and presentation

Chamber Update: Wendy Franzwa: Our goal is to have one new business join the Sauk Rapids Chamber per month. If you are doing business with someone that you think could benefit from being a member, let Wendy know-send her an email, phone call or jot their name down on a business card and Wendy will invite them.

Chamber board update: Gail Ivers

- Waite Park Business After Hours Sept 29

- 10/5 Lunchtime Learning –Brand Formation -\$15 and it includes lunch
- 10/5-Business After Hours at Bernick's
- Jill Copeland has left the chamber for a position in the cities
- Check the web site for job posting

Sauk Rapids City Update: Todd Schultz

- City Hall is moving forward
- 2nd St. needs to be re-done
- Benton Drive -2nd Ave to Coborn's possible repairs
- Roundabouts on Hiway 10 construction are about finished

School Update: Lisa Braun

- There are 175 new students to the district this year
- There are referendum open meetings coming up—check the Sauk Rapids school district web site for dates, times and info
- The web site also has a direct link to the superintendent if you would like to contact him directly
- The district was awarded a literacy grant called Access
- School year is gearing up—please stop in and visit your local schools

Next Sauk Rapids Chamber meeting will be Oct. 27 at the Sauk Rapids High School and the host is the Sauk Rapids School District.

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