

Meeting Minutes 3-27-09

Sauk Rapids Chamber of Commerce

A division of the St. Cloud Area Chamber

General Membership Meeting

Thursday, March 26, 2009 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.

SPONSOR: Sauk Rapids/Rice High School & WACOSA

At Sauk Rapids/Rice High School Community Room
1835 Osauka Rd NE, Sauk Rapids

Agenda:

1. Welcome - Sauk Rapids Chamber chair, Amanda Carlson, The Good Shepherd Community
2. Networking
 - a. Introductions and new name tags
 - b. Business Spotlight---Professional Restoration –Tim Schmitt



c. 2-minute networking

3. Sponsor Presentation: Roxanne Ryan, WACOSA & Greg Vandal, Sauk Rapids/Rice
Dist. 47

Greg Vandal -90 people from the school went to Fargo to help with the sandbagging. Central MN has needs as well and people should contact Lisa Braun at RSVP as she is part of the local Community Emergency Response Team if they want to help out locally or in Fargo.



The Sauk Rapids Rice High School Culinary Arts class made the lunch for the Chamber meeting. This class has only been offered for 3 years,. This class is going to a national competition in San Diego. This is a huge honor, students can compete for \$15,000 scholarships while there. Students in this class have earned college credit, can earn a certification that they can take to employers for the work they have done. It was a great meal.

Wacosa provides employment services to 475 adults with disabilities, in central MN. They have a first and second shift, currently have 35 cleaning crews at various businesses and approximately 52 individuals working for various companies. One of Wacosa's consumers, Ric Hennek, spoke on how he came to be at Wacosa and the value of work in his life after being assaulted and spending 9 months in a coma. Ric is currently employed by Sears.

4. Speaker Presentation: Barry Kirchoff, Small Business Development Center— *Small Business Survival and Vitality*



There are Small Business Development Centers in all 50 states. MN has 9 regional centers. SBDC is hosted by SCSU. They were the first to bring SBDC to MN, they help people who are considering starting a new small business or who already operate a small business. The good news is MN is 3rd in the nation currently for handing out small business loans. Barry did a presentation called “Small Business Survival and Vitality-10 Action Steps to Consider for Your Small Business During Recessionary Times.”

5. Business Meeting

- a. Executive Committee Report - Amanda Carlson, chair-
 1. Next month’s meeting is Citizen of the Year.
 2. Business After Hours will be hosted by Open Hands Health Services and Bubba’s on May 4th
 3. We are looking for sponsors beginning in October. Sponsors provide lunch and have 15 minutes to do a presentation to the Chamber members.
 4. We are looking for speaker/sponsors for our Business Showcase in August. 10 businesses will have a chance to talk for two minutes each for only \$25 per company. If interested let Amanda or any member of the executive committee know.
 5. We will have members fill out a satisfaction survey in May or June.
- b. Membership Report - Wendy Franzwa, Chamber Membership Sales Specialist-Sauk Rapids Chamber is on track with membership this year. We have added one new member per month. Keep providing leads to Wendy – that’s the most effective way to grow membership!

6. Updates

- a. Sauk Rapids-Rice School District—If you would like to help send the culinary arts class to San Diego, contact Greg regarding donations.
- b. City of Sauk Rapids—Todd Schultz-Downtown is filling up, there is a new Chinese restaurant open, there are some new developments coming as well—one is an assisted living facility possibly, and the second is an apartment building. The city has also received funding for financing on foreclosed properties/fixing up those homes.
- c. Chamber of Commerce-Jodi Speicher discussed the CertifiCheck bankruptcy –information on how to apply for possible reimbursement is located on the web site: select programs, then CertifiChecks.

Mary Weihrauch from Open Hands Health Services will accept CertifiChecks for payment of services.

Card Check legislation –movement has slowed due to outcry-contact your legislators to provide your opinion/feelings for this issue.

7. General Announcements/Testimonials/Thank You

Please contact us:

- for information about the Sauk Rapids Chamber
- to learn how to host a meeting
- to offer speaker or meeting suggestions

Amanda Carlson, The Good Shepherd Community, Sauk Rapids Chamber chair, 252-6525, amandacarlson@goodshepherdcampus.org

Roxanne Ryan, WACOSA, Sauk Rapids Chamber vice chair, 320-290-7055, rryan@wacosa.org

Gail Ivers, Sauk Rapids Chamber staff, 251-2940, ext. 109, givers@StCloudAreaChamber.com

Next Meeting:
Sauk Rapids Citizen of the Year 2009

Thursday, April 23, 2009, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Sauk Rapids/Rice Middle Room, Door 1

901 S 1st St, Sauk Rapids

\$12.00 - Registration required

Promote your business! Bring items to share on the information table.

Have you met with any Sauk Rapids business people who may have an interest in what your local business community is up to? Let Wendy know. wfranzwa@StCloudAreaChamber.com.