

Pocahontas County Chamber of Commerce Monthly Meeting
January 15, 2009
Snowshoe Career Center Marlinton

The meeting, held at the Snowshoe Career Center, was called to order by President Malinda Meck at 6:00 p.m. Present were: Jerry Ramos, Gail Hyer, Coby Brown, Sherry Radcliff, Gayle Boyette, Malinda Meck, Sunny Given, Kevin Wingfield, Bill Harold, Nelson Hernandez, John Mutscheller and David Cain.

The **minutes** of the December meeting were approved after a motion to do so by member Boyette and a second by member Radcliff.

Treasurer Cain made a **financial report** and included copies of the most recent bank statement of December 31, 2008 with a balance of \$14,587.82 in the account. Two disbursements were discussed; one for \$12.00 to Malinda Meck for a reimbursement for the Web site and the second to Red Eft, the Web master for 86.35. Member Radcliff made motion, seconded by Member Boyette, the monthly report be accepted as offered, and the two disbursements be paid, passed unanimously.

Member Ramos gave an update on the **business and service awards**. Member Ramos indicated that Pocahontas Woods no longer provided the service of making the plaque from local wood so after discussion, he was given the name of Broughton Sports in Elkins to pursue the plaque for the nominees.

President Meck reported on the **Web site activity** for the month of December. There were 2258 sessions on the site with the index, festival and directory the most trafficked. Discussion followed on placing the payment software Pay Pal onto the Web site for visitors to purchase Chamber T-shirts and other items. After a motion by member Given to pursue the Pay Pal element, and a second by member Ramos, approved unanimously, President Meck indicated she would follow up with applicable fees, minimums, limits and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

Member Hyer informed the group the **staffing committee** could not take any further action until the 501 status for the Chamber was realized. Member Cain indicated he would look into the requirements for the 501 status and report at the next meeting.

The finance committee passed out an **“Income/Expense Comparison”** report comparing the FY 07 with 08. The membership suggested at the next meeting they see a more itemized list of expenses or expense categories so the budget could be more finely tuned. The Board took no action on automatic approval of recurring expenses.

Member Hyer reported the **speaker for the Chamber’s annual dinner** would be Vice President of Lodging for Snowshoe Mountain Resort, Ron Cadrette. Member Ramos said he would send out menus to the president so the food could be decided and ordered.

The **Make It Shine project** was then discussed. President Meck had not heard back from the Durbin Mayor prior to the meeting about the opportunity for Durbin to be a project area. Member Hyer reported her conversation with Hillsboro Mayor indicated the Town of Hillsboro had no germane public property.

Member Hernandez then discussed his conversations with the Marlinton Mayor and Superintendent of the Greenbrier River Trail. Member Hernandez and President Meck will be responsible for completing the required paperwork by the due date of February 23 so the Chamber may qualify with the state for the Make It Shine project along the Greenbrier River and the Greenbrier River Trail. Member Boyette will speak with members of the Elk River Watershed to see if they too might be interested in clean up along the Elk River around Slatyfork. Member Given indicated she would place an item in the Pocahontas Times advertising the event set for April 4.

Member Given distributed a **draft of the new Chamber brochure**. Members were asked to review the copy and make comments, or suggestions.

Member Wingfield reported on the **nominating committee**. He indicated 11 members of the current board were willing to remain on the Board. Discussion followed on the number of members the Bylaws required. He will follow-up on additional suggestions.

Under new business member Hyer made the motion, seconded by member Cain to “**Limit financial assistance** to organized entities, with an accepted business plan whose intent is to be a profitable business;” passed unanimously.

A motion was made by member Boyette and seconded by member Ramos to “**partner with the Snowshoe Career Center** by providing coffee and snacks for upcoming classes at the Career Center on Word and Excel, not to exceed \$200.00;” passed unanimously. Discussion followed on the Chamber supporting classes by the Women’s Business Center in Beckley.

Discussion followed about the recent announcement that Pendleton Community will purchase **Citizens National Bank in Marlinton**. Member Cain made a motion to “move the Chamber’s checking account to Citizens National Bank at Snowshoe on a prudent timetable,” seconded by member Ramos; passed unanimously with member Radcliff abstaining.

Goals for the Chamber’s 2009 calendar were discussed. See following page. Next scheduled meeting is February 19, 2009 at a site to be determined later. Member Radcliff made motion to adjourn at 7:45 p.m., seconded by member Given; passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Hyer, Secretary



Goals for 2009

- I. Marketing
 - A. Develop and distribute quarterly newsletter
 - B. Develop and offer a member Web page
 - C. Offer small business insurance
 - D. Co-sponsor seminars such as ABC's of business

- II. Community Projects
 - A. Rotate meetings throughout the county
 - B. Sponsor horse show or rodeo tied with Autumn Harvest Festival and/or Pioneer Days

- III. Partnerships
 - A. Host a Chamber after hours
 - B. Involve Future Business Leaders and Future Farmers club members in Chamber activities

- IV. Education
 - A. Sponsor a business scholarship for high school seniors

- V. Employment
 - A. Secure the 501 c requirement necessary for hiring employee
 - B. Hire part time or full time employee