

Pocahontas County Chamber of Commerce Monthly Meeting  
May 15, 2008  
Snowshoe Career Center, Marlinton

The meeting was called to order by President Malinda Meck at 6:00 p.m. Present were: Kevin Wingfield, Malinda Meck, Helen Woolridge, Gail Hyer, Bill Harold, David Cain, Nelson Hernandez, Gayle Boyette, and Sunny Given.

The meeting was opened with a presentation by Frontier Communications staffers Kim Allen and John Mutscheller. They detailed the Reward Program for Business High Speed Internet the Chamber is participating in. Copies of the Rewards Program flyer were distributed to the members to approach new and existing members with the information on savings, and that the remainder (400 copies or so) will be stored at County Disposal by Meck.

Minutes from the April meeting were reviewed and having no objections were accepted.

David Cain provided the treasurer's report and a list of outstanding disbursements. Both were approved. Mr. Cain brought to the attention of the Board that the previous year's audit had not been completed and that he would feel better if his records were audited. After some discussion, Sunny Given made the motion, seconded by Helen Woolridge, passed unanimously, that whatever discrepancies in the accounting previous to Mr. Cain's becoming treasurer be ignored and that we begin anew with the 2007/08 records. President Meck reminded the group that an audit by a certified public accountant or an independent accountant should be performed annually. The group agreed and will schedule one before the end of the fiscal year of 08.

Mr. Cain passed around a list of delinquent members and asked that each person sign up to call or otherwise contact a few of the listed persons and inquire why they had not paid and did they still want to participate in the Chamber. Members should contact Mr. Cain with names of person who will be sending checks soon, or other information that he might need.

At this point the President deviated from the agenda and introduced Mr. Doug Bernier. He asked the Chamber to furnish money for advertising the local Farmer's Market through the rest of the year. Discussion followed about our goal being to help/teach how to be a better business not so much to support financially. After discussion, Ms. Woolridge made a motion, seconded by Gayle Boyette and passed with one dissenting vote that for this year the Chamber would pay directly to the Pocahontas Times a cost of no more than \$300.00 to cover ads announcing the Farmer's Market in Marlinton. Several members pointed out that next year they would like to see a matching grant for such payments rather than an outright subsidy.

Continuing with old business – Service Award Nomination form was handed out and President Meck said it would be included on the Chamber's Web site.

President Meck gave a report on the Web site traffic which consisted of: March hits = 3316 compared to April hits at 14, 136. After the stats were provided, there was general discussion centered on there being only one Chamber contact person to furnish information and changes to the Webmaster. Gayle Boyette made the motion, seconded by Kevin, passed unanimously that Helen Woolridge be

the person who is responsible for furnishing the Webmaster with Chamber site updates, changes, omissions, etc.

It was agreed by the Board that David Cain would still be in charge of the membership and in keeping track of members who were delinquent in dues.

Gayle Boyette read a letter she prepared to request the Career Center staff answer a dedicated Chamber phone line at the Center. Members added a comment or two and then David Cain made a motion, seconded by Helen Woolridge, passed unanimously, that the letter be sent to Work Force West Virginia.

The 2008 goals and mission discussion was put off until the next meeting.

Under new business –

There was lengthy discussion about the Open House slated for June 6 at the Snowshoe Career Center. A committee of Kevin Wingfield, Gayle Boyette, and Malinda Meck will set up the final details of the Open House with assistance from Career Center staffer Coby Brown. David Cain made a motion, seconded by Nelson Hernandez, passed unanimously, that no more than one thousand dollars will be spent by the Chamber on the food, drink, etc required for the Open House. President Meck will send out a letter soliciting assistance with the Open House.

There followed a lengthy discussion of when dues were due, and what formula were to be used for half year participation. Sunny Given made the motion, seconded by Gayle Boyette, passed unanimously that Red Eft be credited for one year to include membership to March 2009. It was agreed upon based on extenuation circumstances, Main Street Music overpaid and was refunded \$37.50 by the treasurer at the meeting.

Nelson Hernandez made a motion, seconded by Bill Harold, passed unanimously that next month's speaker be Donna Seebert from Mountain Hospice Care. Sherry will make contact with Ms. Seebert.

Gail Hyer suggested the Chamber assist with an upcoming Freedom Fest Motorcycle Parade in Marlinton on July 17. The group agreed that Nelson Hernandez would be the Chamber member participating in the work team developing the final parade plans.

The next Board meeting will be June 19 at the Career Center

Motion to adjourn made by Bill Harold, seconded by Helen Woolridge and unanimously agreed. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Gail Hyer