

Bremen Area Chamber of Commerce

Minutes of the January 25, 2024 Meeting

The chamber met at noon at the Bremen Community Methodist Church. Those present: Alyssa Barnecut, Cenell Boch, Brenda Carney, Marilyn Boyd, Lydia Coakley, David Foltz, Toni Harper, Sue Henwood, Laura Kennedy, Rich Lines, Lynn McCandlish, Rick McCandlish, Dee Mowry, Villy Robinette, Sue Schmitz, Ken Shofter, David Weber, Linda Ward, Heather Yontz and guest Sandra Yerian, and speaker Colin Tripp. President David Foltz welcomed the group and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Linda Ward offered an invocation, and the ladies of the church served lunch.

Following introductions, the minutes of the December meeting were approved on a motion by Dee Mowry, seconded by Ken Stofter. Treasurer Sue Henwood shared thank you letters from the Bremen Food Pantry and from youths whose market animals we purchased at the Fairfield County Junior Fair auction. She reported the following account balances:

Checking:	\$3 259.60
Community fund	4 876.93
CD	12 40565
CD	13 728.60
CD	5 114.71

CD's have earned interest of \$1 040.20 from date of purchase. David Weber moved to approve the report; the motions was seconded by Marilyn Boyd and carried.

In old business, President Foltz presented a recommendation that we continue the same **SOCA** programs as last year: SOCA Benefit Plan (self-funded health plan), Anthem Chamber Saver (fully insured health plan), SOCA Pooled Employer Plan (401K's for small employers), Chamber Energy Program (electric and gas rates for commercial and residential customers) and Legal/ID Shield (legal and restoration services). These were approved on a motion by Dee Mowry and seconded by Heather Yontz.

In new business, the March chamber meeting will be held at the Rushcreek Pub n' Grub. Vice president Cenell Boch is working on a survey for current and potential chamber members, as well as prototypes for rack cards highlighting the Bremen chamber. Website up-dates should be directed to her for sending to *WEB CHICK*. Membership and 664-37 sign plaques rental forms were distributed to those present and will be mailed to others; these are due back by March 1, 2024.

Announcements:

Perry County Senior Expo, March 15 at St. Rose

Hocking county Expo, May 5 at the Logan Event Center

Home and Garden Show, May 3 and 4

Fairhope Celebration of Life and auction, March 21, the *Mill Event Center*

Colin Tripp, marketing director for the Lancaster Campground, reviewed its history and plans for the future. Established with tents for camp meetings in 1878, it had grown to a more permanent area with 100 cottages and a hotel within five years. The Davis Auditorium, built in 1895, housed 15,000 weekly for programs by a variety of speakers; it has undergone a major restoration project and now can hold events for 2,500. In 1918, six people over the summer moved the hotel, plank by plank, to its current location on the grounds. 1950 saw the blacktopping of the roads, thanks to the efforts of the Hilltop ladies. 2021 began a rehabilitation program, focusing on showcasing the Campground as a place to live - there are now 238 cottages as well as RV sites - and an event location welcoming visitors. In addition to the Davis Auditorium, there are two lodges and a cafe that can host a variety of groups, such as band camps, business retreats, showers and weddings. The hotel is slated for rehab, and a new pool closer to the Fair Avenue entrance is planned. There will be a House and Garden Tour June 28 and 29, and a community garden has been proposed; both events will remind the community that the Campground is still a vital part of it.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Schmitz, secretary