

Bremen Area Chamber of Commerce

Minutes of the January 26, 2023 meeting

President David Foltz welcomed members and invited them to join him in the pledge of allegiance. Pastor Linda Ward gave the invocation, and the ladies of Bremen U.M. church served lunch. The following members were present: Cenell Boch, Julie Bolyard, Marilyn Boyd, Brenda Carney, David Foltz, Sue Henwood, Rich Lines, Lynn McCandlish, Rick McCandlish, Dee Mowry, Sue Schmitz, Linda Ward, David Weber. Denise Wingard, Tim Byers, Ken Shofter, Jonett Haberfield, Alyssa Barnecut, and speaker Will Roberts.

David opened the first meeting of 2023 by introducing the officers. The secretary gave a summary of the December 12, 2022 meeting of the executive board; it was approved on a motion by Dee Mowry, seconded by David Weber. The treasurer reported the following:

checking account \$ 6 326.35

community fund 6 887.42 (thanks to the **Rushcreek Pub & Grub, Fairfield County Sheriff's Office and Friendly Bremen Banking Center** for their donations)

CD's totaling 25 145.94

Gene's Signs is joining the chamber. He will prepare 3 new plaques and remove or cover inactive ones for the 664/37 sign to offset his membership fee. New plaques will be for **Lines Auto Repair, Rushcreek Pub & Grub, and David Foltz Auctioneer** and will run February to February. There are still three spots available on the sign; see Sue Henwood if interested. Sue also reminded us that chamber membership now runs from March to March and 2023 fees are now due.

David Weber moved to increase luncheon fees from \$8 to \$10, with the entire amount going to the hosting church; it was seconded by Dee Mowry and carried.

Speaker Will Roberts, representing the Southern Ohio Chamber Alliance or SOCA, gave a brief history of the group; in 1993, it grew out of the need for small businesses - sole proprietors or 2 to 50 employees - to be able to offer health care coverage and other perks to retain employees. Pooling needs allows members to save 25 to 30% over single business coverage. Now there are 120 chambers and thousands of people covered by its programs. In additions to

medical benefit plans, there are retirement services (which are scheduled to be mandated in 2024), Legal and Identity Shields, BWC Group Ratings, and more.

Announcements:

Jonett Haberfield of the Visitors' Bureau asked businesses to participate in the survey they are doing on the need for hotel rooms in the county.

David Weber reported that the Perry County Homeless Coalition is endeavoring to count the number of unsheltered people through a gathering at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in New Lexington on February 2.

The next meeting will be February 23 at Bremen UMC; Mark Morgan will be the speaker.

Dee Mowry moved to adjourn at 1:10 p.m., this was seconded by Ken Shofter, and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Schmitz, secretary