

Bremen Area Chamber of Commerce

Minutes of the August 24, 2023 meeting

Those present: Alyssa Barnecut, Cenell Boch, Brenda Carney, Lydia Coakley, David Foltz, Toni Harper, Laura Kennedy, Rich Lines, David Maple, Sue Schmitz, Linda Ward, David Weber, Heather Yontz and speaker Jacqueline Walker.

President David Foltz called the meeting to order at noon and led the group in the pledge of allegiance. Pastor Linda Ward gave the invocation. Minutes of the July meeting were approved as emailed on a motion by David Weber, seconded by Toni Harper. The treasurer's report showed the following balances:

checking account	\$3 946.60
community fund	5 889.28
CD (3/6/23)	13 483.38
CD ((3/6/23)	12 184.05
CD (7/6/23)	5 019.14

School supplies for Bremen Elementary have been purchased and will be stored until December. The report was approved on a motion by Rich Lines and seconded by Toni Harper.

In old business, Toni reported that the local portion of the Scarecrow contest will solicit entries in the village water bill mailing. They are hoping for 30 or more entries this year. A representative is needed for the Thurston area, to place signs and build enthusiasm.

New business - Dave set the executive board meeting for September 13 at 9:00 a.m. at BUMC; the next general meeting will be September 28 at Bremen Bethel Presbyterian.

Announcements:

Fairfield County's first Senior Expo will take place at the Fairfield County Fairgrounds on August 25, from 10 to 3

The Perry County Housing Coalition is still in need of items for their October 21 auction at Saint Rose; donations can be brought to the chamber's September meeting for pick-up

"STRIKE OUT BREAST CANCER", October 22, at Tiki Lanes, Lancaster, 10 a.m. or 1 p.m.

Our speaker was Jackie Walker of **Skills USA**. Historically, this was the **VICA** program. In its up-dated form, it deals with some 35,000 teens each year, teaching not the hard skills for sixteen career pathways, but soft skills that can keep them employed. The program seeks to change the current culture and address employers' complaints by providing the "why" you do it, not just what

and how to do. These teens need coping skills; how to deal with errors and fear of failure, conflict resolution, opportunities to compete in a “win” environment.

Skills USA is not educators but industry partners, clarifying expectations and encouraging volunteerism and pride of ownership in their clients and giving them a chance to be seen by employers in a positive light.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Schmitz, secretary