

**Metamora Chamber of Commerce
Meeting Minutes – November 8, 2023**

In Attendance:

Kim Smallman, Director	A.J. Schroeder, President
Cathy Mossing, Secretary	Savanah Armstrong, Social Media
Beverly Engler, MAHS	Sandy Slusarski, MAHS
Marianne Gleckler	John Vershum
Ellen Vershum	Cheryl Geer
Nancy Schroeder	Rena Kessler, Village Reporter
Eric Smola, EHS	Jessica Geer, MAVFD

Call to Order – Kim Smallman

Nancy Schroeder motioned to approve the minutes from September 13 meeting; Marianne Glecker seconded the motion; all voted yes

Introductions were made, including the announcement of our newly approved President, A.J. Schroeder from St., Mary's Meats and board member Marianne Gleckler. The board is still searching for a Vice President if anyone is interested!

Old Business

1. Volunteers needed!
 - a. We have not had anyone step forward for the *membership committee*. It's vital that we have a team able to follow-up with renewals in January. Memberships cannot continue to trickle in throughout the year. If you're interested, please contact one of the board members.
 - b. Cheryl Geer is working very hard to promote this program to the high school and trade schools and coordinate the community services. She sure could use some help!
2. The 2024 calendar will be ready soon! Thank you to everyone who submitted their events – it will really personalize this calendar for the community.
3. Chamber thank you cards are now available. Contact Cathy Mossing with requests.
4. Website Update
 - a. All Northern Ohio Area Chamber of Commerce (NOACC) benefit information has been added to the site.
 - b. Please verify your business information and links are correct!

New Business

1. Pary in the Park will be June 7-8-9. Meetings will begin soon!
2. Our 2024 Annual Chamber Meeting will be held Wednesday, January 17 (please note this is the third Wednesday) at the Catholic War Veterans Hall in Assumption.
 - a. All are welcome – members and non-members alike. If you know of anyone you think would benefit from chamber membership, bring them along.
 - b. A full hot meal will be served (thank you Bigs!). Cost will be \$10 per person.
 - c. Rachel from NOACC will be at the meeting to help answer any questions you may have about the benefits offered.
 - d. Michelle from Anthem will also be at the meeting for a Q & A session.

3. The Chamber will once again be sponsoring pictures with Santa at Koelsch Farms. We will have little gifts to give away and need a couple volunteers to man our table. This will be held Saturday, December 9 from 10:00 – 1:00. It's a great set up and a lot of fun. Please contact a board member if you're interested.
4. Business Spotlights will be added to our 2024 agenda beginning with the March meeting. We will ask two businesses each month to present anything they want in regard to their business for 5-10 minutes.

Committee Updates

1. Cheryl Geer – Scholarship Committee
 - a. Met with EHS Counselor and 30 students who were mostly traditional 4-year college students. She received two volunteers.
 - b. Reached out to the ag teacher and has been in touch with 4-county as well

Treasures Report – Kim Smallman provided updated numbers through September 30th. The balance in our account is \$31,805.07. The financial statement will be sent to all members.

Open Forum

1. Cheryl Geer advised that CAST could really use support.
 - a. The need is greater than the donations coming in and prices (as we all know) have increased significantly.
 - b. Letters will be going out to all area businesses regarding donations.
 - c. Hygiene products, Kleenex, cream soups and beans are in great need right now.
 - d. Distribution is the 3rd Wednesday of each month
 - e. Anyone with income under \$29,000 is eligible
2. Kim Smallman opened a discussion on how to improve attendance at our meetings.
 - a. We will be discussing projects to enhance the community in upcoming meetings.
 - b. We want to be sure that the decisions we make benefit all members; not just the few that are attending meetings.
 - c. Bev suggested letting the community know that individuals as well as businesses and organizations are welcome to join. Cathy will work with the Village and their newsletter to help get the word out.
 - d. Members are asked to encourage anyone they know to attend the January annual meeting to learn more about the chamber and its benefits.
3. Some suggestions on events:
 - a. Host a business fair
 - b. Business appreciation dinner
 - c. Drawing at the meeting for cash or chamber bucks
 - d. Hold a community meal – maybe at the firehall. Chamber members will serve and wait at tables. Would be free to anyone in the community as a way to gather together and provide the community with an opportunity to learn about the Chamber.
4. Eric Smola thanked the community for the passing of the school levy. The levy provides a solid foundation for Evergreen Schools for the next five years.
 - a. Veteran's program is Friday, November 10th at 9:00
 - b. There will be a safety drill at the schools on November 17th in conjunction with EMS and the MAVFD.
 - c. Booster Reverse Raffle is November 18th.

- d. Elf the Musical will be November 17-18-19. Breakfast with Buddy and gift-wrapping services are some of the fun things being planned.
5. Cheryl Geer advised the Farmhouse Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service will be November 19th at 6:00.
6. Cheryl Geer commented on Trunk or Treat at the Library. Participation was very low – only two tables were set up. It's very important that businesses support each other's events.
7. Kim Smallman advised the Delta Chamber hosts Winterfest each year. This year, it's December 2 from 3:00 – 6:00. Events include a business fair, kids crafts and a light parade.
8. Jessica Geer reminded everyone that the Feather Party is Tuesday, November 21st. Doors open at 7:00; turkey raffle begins at 7:30. They are mixing things up a bit this year with the baskets and other door prizes.
9. A.J. Schroeder advised that several trees will be taken down by ODOT in the next month or so. ODOT will mulch the branches and leave the wood. Anyone that would like some of the wood is welcome to pick it up.
10. A.J. Schroeder announced that St. Mary's Meats will soon be expanding services and processing white tail deer.
11. A.J. Schroeder asked for recommendations for a live Christmas tree. Several members recommended Salisbury on county road M.

Savannah Armstrong motioned to adjourn the meeting; Bev Engler seconded the motion; all voted yes.

Next Meeting: 2024 Annual Meeting on Wednesday, January 17th at the CWV Hall