



MINUTES – February 10, 2010

The Coldwater Area Chamber of Commerce held its annual banquet on Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at 6:00pm at Overdrive.

The meeting was called to order by Mark Obringer, president, with the following trustees present: John Yoder, Greg Homan, Kelli Steinbrunner, Dan Broering, John Gardener, Toni Klosterman, Lisa Niekamp-Urwin, Ken Obringer, Jill Timmerman, and Mandy Wendel. Also present was Eric Thomas, Village Manager. Over 140 people attended the 2010 Coldwater Area Chamber of Commerce banquet and meeting.

The evening began with a cocktail and social hour. At 6:30p.m., Mark Obringer gave a short opening with thank yous to Lisa Niekamp-Urwin for organizing the banquet, Calico Café for donating the desserts, and Romer's Catering and Overdrive for hosting the evening's event. Another thank you went out to Wright State University Lake Campus Organizational Leadership Students Wendi Phillips and Corey Gerlach for their assistance in compiling photos for the scrolling business display shown during the banquet. After concluding his thank yous, Obringer introduced Pastor Brown, who gave the invocation. A dinner was followed by the business meeting.

The business meeting began with president, Mark Obringer, introducing the 2009 trustees; President: Mark Obringer, Vice President: Greg Homan, Secretary: Kelli Steinbrunner, Treasurer: Dan Broering, John Yoder, John Gardner, Randy Kaup, Toni Klosterman, Lisa Niekamp-Urwin, Ken Obringer, Jill Timmerman, and Mandy Wendel. Obringer then continued the meeting by introducing Dan Broering, Chamber Treasurer, who gave the treasury report.

Broering's treasury report provided information on the three biggest sources of revenue for the chamber including: 1) the gift certificate program which brought in nearly \$20,000 this year, 2) dues from members, and 3) aluminum collection which totaled \$1,284.01. Broering also provided information on the Chamber's biggest expenses which include administrative expenses, donations to community organizations and efforts, and public relations. Broering provided a thank you to the Coldwater Village offices and the Coldwater Public Library for assisting with the gift certificate program. The treasury report was accepted with a motion by John Yoder and a second by Gary Bruns.

The meeting continued with Greg Homan, 2010 Chamber president, providing a year in review. In 2009, there were 103 members in the Coldwater Chamber of Commerce, including several new members: Ashley's Boutique, Imperial Tent, Dynamic Federal Credit Union, Romer's Catering, Financial Concepts, Southside Inn, Bargain Hunter Printing, and Mercer Cell. Highlights of the 2009 year include:

- 1) Donated to the installation of the "Welcome to Coldwater Signs" that you see upon entrance to Coldwater
- 2) Invested in upgrades to the downtown speaker system
- 3) Provided annual Christmas activities including the Annual Open House, Santa House, and Santa Coming to Town.
- 4) Donated annual contributions to Arts in Park and Coldwater High School After Prom
- 5) Donated to the "Lincolns for the Library" campaign at Coldwater Public Library
- 6) Sponsored a Chamber scholarship that is provided to a deserving high school senior. Last year's recipient was Joe Thomas.
- 7) Provided annual Community Picnic activities including Lemonade Stand, Side Walk Sales Booth, and parade entry
- 8) Assisted Innergy Fitness with the new Patriot 7K Run
- 9) Offered members a series of 3 training/informational meetings, including technology, tax law changes, and chamber benefits.
- 10) Held the Biannual Business Expo

11) Improved the Chamber Website with assistance from Lisa Niekamp-Urwin of Tomorrow's Technology Today.

Homan then introduced Lisa Niekamp-Urwin, 2010 Chamber Vice President, who discussed the improvements to the Chamber website. Niekamp-Urwin provided information on all of the offerings on the website, including member and trustee listings, information on the gift certificate program, chamber benefits, a photo gallery, and events page. Chamber members are invited to forward information on any events, programs, etc. to Lisa to be added to the events page. The website can be viewed at www.coldwaterchamberofcommerce.com.

At this time, Mary Lavern Stammen was introduced and provided his annual address to the chamber. Upon his completion, the meeting continued with the annual award presentation. Presenting awards for Business of the Year, Community Improvement, Organization of the Year, Citizen of the Year, and Volunteer of the Year were John Yoder, Eric Thomas, and Greg Homan.

Receiving the awards were:

Business of the Year: Three businesses were honored this year as Business of the Year. Central Soft Water received the award for reaching their 50th anniversary and over 90 years in combined service. Accepting the award for Central Soft Water were Les Quinter and Doug Koesters. The Mr. Shoppe, who is celebrating 25 years in business, also received the Business of the Year award. Gary Bruns was on hand to accept this award. Homan Real Estate also celebrated 50 years of business in 2009. Dave and Tom Homan also accepted the 2009 business of the year award.

Community Improvement Award: Schwieterman Pharmacy received this award for the improvements they made when moving into the former IGA building in 2008. Accepting this award were Dale Bertke and Dave McDonough. Co-recipient of the Community Improvement Award was Mercer Health. Mercer Health recently completed a 16,000 square foot expansion. Doug Klosterman, president of the Mercer Health Board of Directors, was present to accept the award.

Organization of the Year: Thanks to our Yanks, a military support organization, was awarded the Organization of the Year for their efforts in raising moneys for our local soldiers serving our country. Bob Rutschilling and Marty Krieg accepted the award and discussed current projects the organization is currently undertaking.

Citizen of the Year: Chuck Meyer was named the 2009 Citizen of the Year for his efforts in expanding and improving the annual Coldwater Community Picnic. These efforts include creating the picnic's website, introducing new events, and increasing local sponsorships.

Volunteer of the Year: Honored for her numerous contributions to the community, including volunteering for the Coldwater Holy Trinity Parish, local 4-H club, Farm Bureau, State of the Heart Hospice, and America Red Cross, was Marge Homan. Marge was on hand to accept the award from Greg Homan.

After the award presentation, Mark Obringer announced the 2010 chamber trustee nominees; Pete Lisi with Coldwater Exempted Village Schools, Troy Steinbrunner with Accutech Films Inc, Jill Timmerman with McDonalds, and Kristi Kahlig with Innergy Fitness. A motion to approve these nominees was made by Ken Obringer and seconded by Dave Homan. The 2010 Trustees Officers were also recognized by Obringer: Greg Homan, President; Lisa Niekamp-Urwin, Vice President; Mandy Wendel, Secretary; and Dan Broering, treasurer.

Greg Homan then recognized the outgoing trustees: Mark Obringer, Kelli Steinbrunner, and John Yoder. Homan provided a brief closing and a motion to adjourn was made by Lisa Niekamp-Urwin with a second by Mandy Wendel.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE MARCH 9, 2010 AT 7:30 A.M. AT THE VILLAGE OFFICE. AS ALWAYS ANYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND.