

Lebanon Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Atomy, Rebeca Gabel (**President**)
Christ Bros. Asphalt, Carrie Christ (**Treasurer**)
City of Lebanon, Cheri Wright (**Correspondence**)
City of Lebanon Mayor, Rich Wilken
Emerald Mound Grange, Mindy Schiefer
Lebanon Advertiser, Susan Meister
Lebanon Jr. High School, Kaily Acheson
Lebanon Historical Society, Mark Godwin
Lebanon Winter Wonderland, Barb Joy
Lebanon Woman's Club, Pam Martin
Legendary Creations, Janet Schmitt
Lions Club/LMM, Mike Bennett
Looking Glass Playhouse, Len Adams
McKendree University, Michele Erschen

Rocking R Thriftstore, Randy Reibold
State Farm, Jessica Zurliene (**Vice President**)
Tiadaghton House, Holly Lovell
Visitor's Center, Joe Zimmerlee
Volunteer, Melissa "Missy" Mitchell
Whimsey Gifts, Margaret Pearson (**Secretary**)
Al Gerdes, APG Enerprises
John Wright
George Fero, Sr.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am at the Visitor's Center by Rebeca Gabel, President.

Invocation by Joe Zimmerlee

Guest Speakers & Introductions of Guests:

- Mayor Rich Wilken provided an update on the TIF District and coming businesses
- George Fero, Sr. provided information about the bike trail that was disapproved by the City Council. The following advantages for having a bike trail were discussed:
 - o Attract cyclists who spend revenue in town
 - o Increase livability by offering trails for cyclists
 - o National studies show that bike shoppers can generate \$28-50K per year

Reports:

Lebanon School District #9

- Kaylee Gaines from LHS and Kailey Acheson from LJHS provided an update for the school. Track is starting, and the 8th Grade dance will be on May 13th

Treasurers Report:

- Chamber Checking balance: \$2,414.27
- Chamber Money Market \$34,194.96
- Queen of Hearts is up to \$20,922 with about \$5K proceeds for the Chamber; balance is in Money Market account
- Lebanon Woman's Club presented a check for \$400 for the Visitor's Center
- Treasurer's report approved

Secretary's Report

- February meeting minutes were approved.

Visitor's Center

- Betty Willyard has retired as the coordinator for the Visitor's Center volunteers, Missy Mitchell has taken over the role of scheduling volunteers.
- There will be a party for Visitor's Center volunteers in April, to thank Betty for her years of service.
- The Visitor's Center needs additional volunteers, contact Missy Mitchell if anyone would like to volunteer.

Merchants

- Sip & Shop coming up on Apr 5th
- May Market will be on May 5th with over 55 booths signed up

McKendree University—Michele Erschen

- April 7th there will be 100-200 prospective students visiting McKendree University
- Saturday, May 12th Commencement, streets will be closed
- This summer McKendree is hosting Jr. High Band Camp, and Cyber Security Camp, and as IMSA

City (Cheri Wright)

- No further updates after Mayor Wilken's presentation

Website

- Chamber news and minutes are distributed via Constant Contact, please add chamber@lebanonil.us to your contacts to ensure delivery and contact Rebeca Gabel if you need to be added to e-mail distribution list.
- "Like" and share our Lebanon Chamber Facebook Page so that we can get the word out on all events:
 - Lebanon Chamber Webpage: <http://www.lebanonil.us/>
 - Lebanon Chamber Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lebanonilchamberofcommerce?fref=ts>

Upcoming Events

- Queen of Hearts Raffle every Thursday @ Summerfield Lions Club, ticket sales start at 4:30, drawing 7:30pm
- See agenda and Chamber Community Calendar for a list of all upcoming events at <http://lebanonil.us/community-calendar/>
- Send flyers for upcoming events to be added to Community Calendar, Chamber Facebook, and newsletters to rebeca.gabel@gmail.com

Old Business

- John Wright provided an update that the Beautification Committee is working with Earthtones to get some trees for the 4-way intersection to kick off some of the beautification projects. More to come on joint efforts with Lebanon Historical Society for trolley renovation
- Goody/info bags for tour buses; getting quotes, looking for recommendations for competitive prices for plastic bags with Chamber logo and businesses listed on them.
- Hosts for Business Over Breakfast/Lunch/After Hours

New Business

- Chamber meeting time; proposal to start monthly meeting at 8:30 instead of 8:00 am, tabled for April meeting

- Goody/info bags for tour buses was discussed for purchase to give out to tours, \$200 approved for initial purchase.
- Hosts for Business Over Breakfast/Lunch/After Hours; will publish quarterly events but contact Rebeca Gabel if your business would like to schedule/host a special event. Multiple businesses can also partner to co-host if interested.
- Lebanon Woman's Club is hosting City Wide Yard Sale, contact Abby Murphy for more information at 618-558-5174, or Abigail.lynn@gmail.com
- Around the room format—when we go around the room at the end of the meeting please take 30 seconds or so to tell us more about your business, specials, or what you are looking for right now for your business!

Around the Table/Open Discussion

- Margaret Pearson is carrying chocolates at Whimsey Gifts, stop in for a sample or to pick up some gourmet chocolate!
- Holly Lovell from Tiadaghton House invites everyone to stop by and check out the 75+ artists and art, hand-made jewelry, and many other items.
- Randy Reibold of Rocking R Thriftstore has joined the chamber, and has many unique finds to offer. Welcome Randy!
- Al Gerdes, APG Enterprises, announced potential site for selling your products online, contact him for more information at 618-660-7621
- Missy Mitchell highlighted a new parade on Saturday this year for 26th Lebanon Victorian Holiday, more to come for volunteer opportunities and added entertainment for this year
- Pam Martin from Lebanon Woman's Club (LWC) announced they are always looking to welcome new members to the Woman's Club. All of the efforts of LWC go towards supporting Lebanon community charities.
- Mindy Schiefer from Emerald Mound Grange highlighted family friendly activities are hosted at the Grange. See the Community Calendar and Chamber Facebook for upcoming Quarter Auction, BBQ, and more!
- Mike Bennett from Lions Club and LMM:
 - o Mar 24—Lions Club Fundraiser for Kids Vision Camp Jeff "Elvis" Caldwell at JailHouse Rock in Trenton
 - o Apr 3, LMM Donation Drive at City Hall
 - o Apr 14—Lebanon Kids Trivia Night
 - o Apr 28—MS Trivia Night
- Len Adams from Looking Glass Playhouse & Historical Society:
 - o Lebanon Historical Society meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month, 7pm at the Mermaid House
 - o LGP is very close to finalizing the rights to all of the shows for 2018-2019
 - o Apr 14, LGP Trivia Night to raise funds for replacing the stage floor
 - o May show is Wizard of Oz
- Janet Schmitt has tickets for LWC Fundraiser at Legendary Creations
- Carrie Christ provided update on Lebanon entrance sign to the north
- Joe Zimmerlee mentioned potential time change for chamber meetings to begin at 8:30am instead of 8:00am for future meetings, tabled for April meeting
- Brenda Pehle from Meridith Funeral Home announced improvements in progress for the Lebanon location, more to come!

- Farmers and Merchants Bank is offering rural financing (which many people qualify for in Lebanon), and a 1.5% CD Special,

Meeting Adjourned at 9:15 am.

Next Meeting: Apr 26, 2018, in lower level of Lebanon Visitor's Center at 8:00 am.

//signed//
Margaret Pearson
Secretary

//signed//
Rebeca Gabel
President