

Lebanon Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Atomy, Rebeca Gabel (President)	Lebanon Public Library, Ramona Witte
State Farm, Jessica Zurliene (Vice President)	Legendary Creations, Janet Schmitt
Christ Bros. Asphalt, Carrie Christ (Treasurer)	Lebanon Rotary, Jeff Thornton
City of Lebanon, Cheri Wright (Correspondence)	McKendree University, Michele Erschen
Meridith Funeral Home, Brenda Pehle (Secretary)	O'Fallon Weekly, Nick Miller
APEX Network Physical Therapy, Stacy Schreiber	Regions Bank, Dallas Dixon
Cedar Ridge, Lori Thrutchley	Robin's Nest Antiques, Robin Schultze
Cedars of Lebanon, Nicole Myers	Stephen Jackson Antiques, Steve Jackson
Emerald Mound Grange, Charles Tresser	Tiadaghton House, Holly Lovell
Emerald Mound Grange, Mark Henrichs	Visitor's Center, Joe Zimmerlee
Farmers/Merchants, Shirley Hausman	Volunteer Coordinator, Melissa "Missy" Mitchell
John Wright Realty, John Wright	Whimsey Gifts, Margaret Pearson
Lebanon Advertiser, Susan Meister	Guests:
Lebanon High School, Kaylee Gaines	Scott AFB, Christi Spargur
Lebanon Jr. High School, Kaily Acheson	

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

Invocation was led by Joe Zimmerlee.

Reports:

Lebanon School District #9

- Kailey Acheson from LJHS said rain has interfered with track, there is a school dance May 11th, and graduation is May 19th.
- Kaylee Gaines from LHS reported that Spring sports are playing catch-up around weather, the academic banquet is scheduled for May 7th, and everyone is welcome to attend the Spring Concert on May 14th. Best of all, graduation is May 19th in the gym.

Treasurers Report:

(Handout)

- Checking balance as of 4/25/2018: \$2,213.62
- Money Market balance as of 4/25/2018: \$41,702.07
- With no payout last week, Queen of Hearts is up to \$26,385.
- The stop Sign Project has a balance of \$148.35, there is \$500 in the Square Project, and available funds for the Entrance Project are being researched.
- Doug Johansen will be working on Lebanon signs weather permitting
The Chamber has a \$10,000 credit line (5yr @ 4.25%) available from First Federal for emergency projects that come up.
- Joe added that federal and state taxes have been compiled.

Secretary's Report

- Brenda Pehle will follow Margaret Pearson as recorder for Chamber meeting minutes.
- March meeting minutes were approved.

Visitor's Center

- There is still need of volunteers to work 2-hour shifts at the desk, and this is a great time of year to get to know people in town while volunteering. Betty insists she does not want a party; it was suggested we send a note of appreciation.
- Presently there are 62 Chamber members, down about 20; all members are urged to encourage membership.
- It was noted that 1974 is the Historical Society's last entry on the timeline, and suggested a group get together to bring it up to date and extend the 2000 date mark.

McKendree University—Michele Erschen

- Spring term culminates with May 12th Commencement.
- This evening there is an all student art show reception; the exhibit will be open thru May 10th.
- Graduation at the Kentucky Campus is in June.
- The academic year will resume August 22nd.

City - Cheri Wright

- The TIF district is official with Monday's signing, ahead of the May 1st deadline.
- Brad & Deb's would be down by now if not for a utility pole; demo will follow Ameren's work.
- Parking is being reconfigured on St. Clair Street on the Looking Glass side to remove angled parking and improve two-way traffic.

Merchants

- May Market has 60 booths registered and 10 more promised vendors. New this year, the Bicycle Surgeon in O'Fallon will have 20 bikes to try on for size.

Website

- New Chamber applicants are being added to the Website; merchants are reminded to send flyers to link and promote activities.

Upcoming Events

- Additions to the calendar include:
 - Cedar Ridge: Summerfest, June 23rd, Fall-Fest, October 23rd, and Trunk or Treat, October 26th
 - Cedars of Lebanon is working on food box program, to be delivered 3rd Wednesday of the month to age 60 over
 - Cedars of Lebanon has a taco truck on May 4th, 11am-4pm

Old Business

- Beautification Committee is progressing with Earthtones to lay a serpentine path at the northwest corner of the Square, and line it with benches and shrubs, and talking with McKendree about painting the lower portion of the water tower. Lebanon Advertiser has promised space to show the concept drawing to enable Chamber to initiate request for donations from the community. Improvements will not interfere with the Lions' Christmas tree stand.
- There are several samples of goody bags to consider with the \$200 allowance granted to furnish the bags for distribution to visiting groups.
- Contact Rebeca Gabel to host Business Over Breakfast/Lunch/After Hours

New Business

- Chamber approved meeting time change to 8:30am, beginning with May meeting, the advantages being: reduced traffic, after the start of school, and closer to hours of operation for many shop keepers.
- To answer questions of how Chamber will use Queen of Hearts profits: While no decisions have been made, there are many beautification ideas being floated within committee, among them a trolley at northeast corner, building small depot, and designated space to honor veterans.
- With TIF district officially approved, it was suggested that we look for ways to encourage business and seek franchise interest. City is now working on expansion of the district originally considered, with hope of completing it by Christmas. A table map at City Hall illustrates the mapped district.

Around the Table/Open Discussion

- Cedar Ridge has jumped from a one-star to a five-star quality care center, and is one of just two such facilities in the County.
- Cheri Wright bragged on the McKendree students who helped Matthew Ministries load the truck with community donations, and said the group's sponsor is looking for other projects to connect the students with the community. She also shared a wish to hold a casual and fun community pig roast fundraiser on the brick street September 15th and reminded everyone to come to the Queen of Hearts drawing tonight.
- Christi Spargur from Scott AFB clarified there is no Air Show this summer and has copies of the Centennial celebration publication and information on the Honorary Commanders Program to offer. Christi also announced the Scott AFB Honorary Commanders Program, details will be provided for eligibility.
- Margaret Pearson of Whimsey offers print resources and a lot of knowledge of Lebanon's past, along with other Chamber members.
- Holly Lovell from Tiadaghton House said there will be four artists doing demonstrations on the day of May Market.
- Missy Mitchell – besides planning for Victorian Holidays, she is seeking individuals to participate in a home tour.
- Nick Miller, owner of O'Fallon Weekly news has joined the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce, responding to subscribers in the local area asking for more news and coverage of Lebanon.
- Charles Tresser and Mark Henrichs invite Chamber and community to visit and utilize the Emerald Mound Grange. In 1921, they had a membership of 200. With 20 members today, they want to encourage new members and use of the large auditorium and stage, full kitchen and banquet hall.
- Librarian Ramona Witte is starting to build the foundation for a summer reading group, targeting children entering grades K-5th. Presently she is lining up performers, crafts, food and prizes, and welcomes donation of items or funds.
- Stephen Jackson is expanding into the space at 207 W St. Louis Street while Robin Schultze is opening her Robin's Nest storefront at 217 W St. Louis Street!
- Besides long term and rehabilitation services, Cedar Ridge offers short term services for families and care takers who need respite time.
- Dallas at Region's Bank is hiring two full time workers in Lebanon starting at \$15 an hour. The Bank is also lending funds for business start-up and expansion.
- Robin from Robin's Nest extended thanks for help and support throughout her surgery and recovery.

- Jeff Thornton of Rotary said 527lbs of plastic lids have been collected to be made into friendship benches for the grade school, to honor the memory of Katherine Cook and Jayden.
- Joe Zimmerlee, Visitor's Center, asked about status of Hett program chamber ad; submittals are due next week.
- Shirley Hausman of Farmers and Merchants Bank invites folks to stop in for great rates on rural loans and other financial products.
- Susan Meister said the Advertiser is running spots for graduates, and they have been delighted by the work and contribution of eighth graders with the Heer Family story.
- Jessica Zurliene of State Farm is hiring a full-time sales representative and reported that the insurance company has filed for rate discounts to pass along to customers. The annual Fire Department golf Tourney is May 12 at Governor's Run, and welcomes sign-ups. Additionally, she is forming a non-profit to continue the Back-to-School program she started last year.
- Rebeca Gabel is available to give facials with Atomy's affordable skin care line, on Mondays and Thursdays until she finishes her two courses. An associate, Kyong Jimerson, also gives facials throughout the week at Mascoutah Alterations at 41 Main Street in Mascoutah. Call 618-610-1192 to make sure Kyong is available Tuesday through Saturday.
- Carrie of Christ Asphalt announced there is a working microwave in the kitchen area.
- Looking Glass Playhouse will open production of the Wizard of Oz next week.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:59am.

Next Meeting is May 24th at 8:30am, in lower level of Lebanon Visitor's Center. **Please note time change to 8:30am.**

//signed//
 Brenda Pehle
 Secretary

//signed//
 Rebeca Gabel
 President

Take Note:

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 our e-mail list. Share our Lebanon Chamber Webpage and 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>