

Attendees:

Cedar Ridge, Ashley Huels	Lions Club, Susie Stevenson
Christ Bros., Carrie Christ (T)	Paisley Place, Rebeca Gabel
Country Financial, Kailee Conner	Member, AJ Dontigney
Fit 4 All, David Tate (VP)	Member, John Wright
Garden Club, Peg Gerdes	Member, Joe Zimmerlee
Gateway East Trails, George Fero	Robin's Nest, Robin Schultze
Lebanon Ace Hardware, Bill	Rotary, Jeff Thornton
Lebanon Library, Lacey Mesarchik	Tiadaghton House, Holley Lovell

Vice President David Tate called the meeting to order at 8:30am. Robin Schultze offered prayer, which was followed by quick introductions.

Reports:

Secretary's Report

- Minutes were approved (motion John Wright/second Rebeca).

Treasurer's Report

- Queen income from 2018 \$5,500 will be used for Beautification Fund. The final 2023 Queen income of \$7,000.00 will be applied to Maintaining/Operating the Visitors Center. Unless Chamber elects to hold another Queen and there are additional members committed to operate the weekly event, the dishonesty bond will not be renewed. Lions and Vista income have bolstered Chamber funds.
- Bowling Event raised \$1,060.00, thanks to Tiffany Suydam and Hank's Bowl for planning and hosting a fund event!
- Report approved (motion John Wright/second Rebeca).

Visitors' Center

- Georged shared for Marie Fero that the Visitors Center is doing well, thanks to our great volunteers who keep it going for us.

City

- George Fero shared that in the interest of getting City business done, there will be a time limit of 3-5 minutes for speeches. An ordinance for digital billboards and signs establishing height and size limits is being developed. An ordinance is in the works to address inoperable vehicles in yards. The public is always invited and welcome to attend City Council Meetings, public comments and feedback are needed to determine the priorities and actions taken by the City.

McKendree University

- Visit <https://www.mckendree.edu/> for information about upcoming events and the Hett.

Merchants

- Holly and AJ from Merchants Association requested that the brick street lights be on for Witches Night Out on Oct 29th and through the holiday season for more lighting on the street to be discussed under new business.
- Victorian Holiday planning is underway.

Upcoming Events Additions/Changes

- Paisley Place Ribbon Cutting will be Oct 26th at 9:30 after the chamber meeting with Open House until 3:00
- Add Cedar Ridge Fall Fest & Trunk or Treat on Oct 30th from 5-8 pm

Old Business

There was a winner for the Queen of Hearts, and \$19,455 was paid out to the individual.
City Map is in final editing; September print hopeful, with over \$4,400.00 raised.
Chamber Bowling fundraiser was a fun time for all and raised \$1,050.

New Business

- There was a motion to add a Business Trick or Treating event to the calendar of events. After discussion there was interest in adding the event, but due to short notice it was tabled for consideration for next year to allow more time for planning and coordinating with the school district and businesses. (Tabled for next year)

- Nominations for the 2023 Chamber Board of officers will be presented at the October meeting with voting at the November meeting.
- Submit events for 2024 at the October meeting or by the November meeting so that the calendar of events can be approved for next year.
- There was a motion to move \$439.16 from Beautification Fund for use by John Wright for the Square Light Project. (Motion by Rebeca, second Robin, approved)
- A blueprint for the IDOT project for the traffic light at the four-way intersection was presented.
- Request for holiday lights on brick street for Witches Night Out (motion by AJ, second Rebeca, approved)
- Request for lights to be turned on for Witches Night Out and through the holiday season for the following reasons (to be **voted on at October meeting**):
 1. Provides additional lighting for Witches Night Out event for safety purposes.
 2. Adds to the ambience of the event.
 3. Presents a taste of the upcoming Victorian Holiday event to encourage folks back to Lebanon the following month.
 4. Allows the community to see and make repairs before the Holiday season in general.
- Kailee from Country Financial said that she was looking for a W-9 to make a donation to Lebanon Victorian Holiday for her company.
- Ashley Huels announced that Cedar Ridge will be having a guest speaker provide information about the advantages of Medicare and availability of other plans on Oct 10th at 6:30 pm.
 - Cedar Ridge is also hosting a blood drive on Oct 16th from 12-4 and a Fall Fest Trunk or Treat on Oct 30th from 5-8 pm.
- Lacy announced that the Lebanon Public Library has lots of great events on the to share!
- Bill, owner of new Lebanon Ace Hardware announced plans to open soon and that the second building will become a 50 & 4 Event Center available to be rented out for events, more to come.

Around the Room

- Davod Tate announced that Lebanon Elementary School was recognized by Illinois Department of Education Blue Ribbon Award for among schools for increasing their scores in testing.
- Holly announced that the 10-year anniversary party went well with artists demonstrations, over 300 cupcakes, and that The Gasthaus and The Lantern were great to work with for appetizers for their event.
- Robin announced that after much consideration, Robin's Nest will close at the end of her lease by August of 2024. She has loved following her dream and having a business in Lebanon and looks forward to staying active in the community after she closed her shop.
- George Fero
 - Gateway East Trails is already planning for their Tour de Stooges
 - There was an opportunity to receive receive a grant for trails, but IDOT requires a public entity to take control of project and match \$180,000 must be spent by Sep 2026 if it is to happen.
- Susie announced that the Lions Club will have their Candy Days on Oct 13th and 14th at the Casey's 4-way intersection
- John Wright said that the Cornells, Bill Sandretti, John Baily, Rich Wilkins, Al & Peggy Gerdes, and Anthony will be working on decorating the square and hanging 32 large red lanterns for the holiday season with the \$439.16 that was approved to defray costs for decorating the square and intersection.

Meeting adjourned at 9:28am.

The next meeting is scheduled September 28, 2023 at 8:30am.

//signed//

Rebeca Gabel, Acting Secretary

//signed//

David Tate, Vice President

Note: Chamber news and minutes are distributed via Constant Contact. Please add chamber@lebanonil.us to your contacts to ensure delivery. Contact Rebeca Gabel, rebeca.gabel@gmail.com, 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: [www.facebook.com/lebanonchamberof commerce](http://www.facebook.com/lebanonchamberofcommerce)