



**Smithville Chamber of Commerce  
Membership Meeting Minutes  
February 13, 2019  
Smithville United Methodist Church  
Sponsored by Smithville Chamber of Commerce**

Meeting called to order by Vice President Starla Janes at 12:00 pm.

The invocation given by Rev. Rebecca Mulford was followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Meeting Minutes**

The January 2019 minutes were presented for approval.

Pete Browning moved that the minutes be approved as presented, Dan Hartman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report**

The January 2019 treasurer's report was presented for approval by Treasurer Dave Marsh.

Scott Pearson moved that the treasurer's report be approved as presented, Paul Dexter seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Member Introductions**

Chamber members introduced themselves and the business or organization they represent. All guests in attendance were also introduced and welcomed.

**Member of the Month: Dennis Brewer – State Farm Insurance.**

Dennis wanted to challenge us all to choose "courage over comfort". As a business owner with State Farm, he has himself recently chosen courage over comfort in order to make positive

changes in his business. He made the decision to incorporate his business which has proven to be a long, arduous process. Another recent change for him has been location. After 10 years in his old office, he chose to move his business to the Major Mall on the south edge of town. Decisions like these required Dennis getting out of his comfort zone in order to propel his business forward.

Dennis encouraged chamber members to avoid complacency as well. He noted that the Chamber of Commerce board is looking into giving our building a facelift. These changes could make our building more appealing and fit in better with the new look of downtown Smithville. This would be an opportunity for us to avoid complacency as a Chamber of Commerce.

#### **Police Department: Officers Burchette and Prindable**

Officers Burchette and Prindable informed the chamber about the upcoming Junior Police Academy. This is a week long academy held in the third week of July for students interested in police work and criminal justice. They would like to have 15-20 students participate in the program. They are asking for financial consideration from businesses and the community as their goal is for kids to be able to attend free of charge.

#### **Program: Sponsored by Smithville Chamber of Commerce**

Kelly Busch presented information about the Chamber's Welcome Program. She visits new residents in Smithville to share information about the Chamber and the program members. Any member can add advertising and promotional items that are given to new household residents. She usually visits about 20 households per month, making visits every other Saturday. The cost is \$2 per household visited for a business but only \$25 per year for a non-profit organization.

Executive Director Carol Noecker discussed a few of the lesser known benefits of being a chamber member.

- Shredding service – all members are allowed to bring 1 box per month to the chamber office shredding bin.
- Bulk mail permit – available if needing to send 200 or more pieces of mail.
- Ribbon Cuttings – for new businesses or existing businesses with changes to announce.

Carol announced details regarding the upcoming Chamber Awards Banquet. It will be held on Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at the Paradise Point Golf Clubhouse. The theme this year is "Putting on the Ritz". Casi Joy will be the featured entertainment. Tickets can be purchased for \$30 each while table sponsorships are also available. Carol recognized the 2018 award winners and mentioned that nominations are currently being taken online, through the mail, or in person.

## **REPORTS:**

### **Executive Director Report – Carol Noecker**

“Volunteer of the Month” - Carol recognized Johnnie Viebrock for providing an extra special experience for many during Candyland Christmas. Johnny brought his horse and carriage downtown for both nights of Candyland Christmas even though the weather was not pleasant. He gave free carriage rides, displaying his giving attitude and Christmas spirit.

The 2019 member directories have been printed, they are available at the Chamber office.

There are three new members to welcome: Show Me Logos, Missouri Farm Bureau Insurance – Zane Myers Agency, and Emmanuel Baptist Church.

### **City of Smithville Report – Nickie Lee**

Assistant City Administrator Nickie Lee shared construction updates, projects are still on track. She thanked the citizens of Smithville for the number of citizen surveys turned in, there were over 500 responses. The Citizens Strategic Planning Process is another opportunity for citizens to get involved with the city. The intent is to develop a plan for Smithville that is comprehensive and community wide.

### **Smithville Public Schools Report – Todd Schuetz**

There have been a lot of school closings due to inclement weather. The school board will meet to discuss options to make the days up. They can already take one day off as they had an extra school day built into the schedule. The goal is to have June 7<sup>th</sup> as the last day of school.

An open forum will be held March 5<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:30 to discuss random student drug testing. There has been a lot of community input and discussion so please sign up in advance on the school website.

### **Northland Christian Schools – Kris Wheeler**

As the development director, Kris is excited to see the growth phase Northland Christian is in. They are not only adding more students, but also have a 92% retention rate. They are opening a new campus in Platte City as well as partnering with a church in Liberty to host another elementary school and events. They have recently purchased a bus to transport students to activities. Their students have an average ACT score of 24.4 compared to the state average of 20, which puts them among the top schools in the state. Long-time employee and superintendent Richard Rice will be retiring, Danny McCoven will be the new superintendent.

### **Old Business:**

There was no old business to discuss.

### **New Business:**

There was no new business to report.

### **Chili Cook Off Winner**

All chamber board of directors made Chili to provide lunch for the membership meeting. A contest was held that allowed the chamber membership to decide who made the best chili. The winner of the first Annual Chamber Board Chili Cook Off was.....Dennis Brewer with his famous elk meat chili. Congratulations Dennis!

### **Special Drawings**

Bob Foster won the cash drawing.

### **Special Announcements**

Special announcements were made by Chamber members advertising future events and activities in the Smithville community.

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:02 pm.**