



**Smithville Chamber of Commerce
Membership Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2019
Smithville United Methodist Church
Sponsored by Platte Valley Bank**

Meeting called to order by President Rick Gath at 11:58 am.

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

Executive Director Carol Noecker led the 2019 Board of Directors in the officer's oath. The 2019 Chamber Board consists of Rick Gath, president; Starla Janes, Vice President; David Cooper, Secretary; Dave Marsh, Treasurer; Dennis Brewer, board member; Pam Davis, board member; Holly Olsen, board member. All agreed to uphold the oath.

President Rick Gath thanked all for the opportunity to serve as president of such a vibrant chamber of commerce. He challenged all chamber members with a call to service, and as a member of the Smithville Chamber he proudly stated "There is no place I would rather be!"

Former President Scott Pearson was thanked and honored for his years of leadership as Chamber President with a gift plaque.

Vice President Starla Janes presented Kelley Stumph with a gift of flowers as a thank you for her years of service as vice president.

Meeting Minutes

As 2018 secretary, Starla Janes presented the December 2018 minutes for approval. Dan Hartman moved that the minutes be approved as presented then Ryan Stein seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Starla Janes then presented 2019 secretary David Cooper with a secretary's notepad of her favorite color (pink).

Treasurer's Report

The December 2018 Treasurer's Report was presented for approval by Treasurer Dave Marsh. He also informed us that beginning in 2019, the Chamber will have to pay real estate taxes on our building as 501C6 entities are no longer tax exempt.

Berry Parks 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, as well as any guests that may be with them.

Member of the Month: Sean Roberts, Courier-Tribune

The Courier-Tribune is the longest running newspaper west of the Mississippi River. Some new changes for them involve an online mobile app and an electronic edition. Sean stressed that they are proud to be a *community* newspaper – focusing on local news and events. They won the General Excellence Award for 2018 out of 200 newspapers in Missouri. They like to partner with local businesses, schools, churches, and other organizations as well as print the Smithville Lake and Clay County informational brochures. A popular feature is *The Best of The Northland* contest which recognizes excellence from businesses and organizations.

Greg Atkins won a special drawing for a one year subscription to the paper.

Next Month's Member of the Month: Dennis Brewer, State Farm Insurance

Program: Sponsored by Platte Valley Bank

Holly Olsen of Platte Valley Banks introduced several employees representing the bank. She thanked Above and Beyond Catering for catering the meal and then donated their time to the Chamber of Commerce for the program.

Executive Director Carol Noecker shared about the new Chamber Website Member Portal.

- MembershipWorks – implemented in Nov. 2018 is new software that will add value to your chamber membership.
- 5 main member benefits – Up to date information, member control, deals and promotions, account management, positive reviews.
- Carol led a tutorial showing how members can log in and obtain password.
- It provides an easy way for members to renew and pay for membership online
- Each member can personalize their account information.
- A "Deals" tab is an option for members to extend special offers
- Carol shared three closing thoughts regarding the new member portal:
 1. I want your business to succeed
 2. I'm happy to make changes for you
 3. You can't mess it up

REPORTS:

Executive Director Report – Carol Noecker

"Volunteer of the Month" - Carol recognized Linda Hill for all the volunteering she does for the chamber and especially for her assistance in setting up for the membership meeting.

Membership renewals need to be turned in right away.

The Community Award Banquet is coming up in April, be thinking of award nominees.

A new benefit to chamber members is a health insurance plan option

City of Smithville Report – Cynthia Wagner

Cynthia shared about the progress of various construction projects around the city.

There will be a public hearing on Jan 28th for a water bill increase proposal.

Letters are being sent out next week for a citizen's survey.

Smithville Public Schools Report – Robert Hedgecorth

An exploratory committee is being formed for student drug testing – there will be an open forum in the spring to discuss.

With the inclement weather days, there will be school on Presidents Day.

Smithville Area Fire Department – Chief Dave Cline

The fire department responded to 1250 incidents in 2018

The department continues to train extensively and has made 2,300 public education contacts.

Dave discussed their 2019 goals as well as their mission statement / ethos which involves looking for opportunities to serve.

Old Business:

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business:

There was no new business to report.

Special Drawings

Sara Albright won the cash drawing.

Table centerpieces were given away through a random drawing.

Special Announcements

Carol Noecker shared that the chamber lost two valued members. Reba Atkins and Cassie Assel have recently passed away.

Special announcements were made by the Chamber members advertising various events and activities happening in the Smithville community in the upcoming weeks.

There being no further business, Rick Gath adjourned the meeting.