COTTER-GASSVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Minutes – March 2015 General Meeting

General membership meeting was called to order at 8 a.m. by Chamber President Marcia Taylor. Meeting was held at Warrior Station in Cotter.

Debbie Wamock – Kindness, Inc. don’t let that title fool you if it wasn’t our volunteer coordinator Judy and our wonderful volunteers it would not be the organization that it is and it would not run as smoothly as it does. Kindness, Inc. history a member of Saint Andrews Episcopal Church in Mountain Home wanted to take the flowers from a Thanksgiving service to some of the home bound people in the area. One of the lady’s they took the flowers to commented that it would be nice if someone could take her Christmas shopping for gifts for her family. An idea was formed from that comment. An outreach committee from St. Andrews took that idea and Kindness became a reality. They sent representatives to meet with the home health nurses in the area that conversation validated the concerns the unmet needs of the elderly population and disabled in the area it also confirmed these unmet needs could best be served and supported from within the community. On Nov 8th, 1997 the outreach committee agreed to sponsor the formation of an agency called loves circle, it was used to coordinate the services needed and to find the volunteers to provide them. In May of 1999 after determining that the program was more than one Church could manage the leadership incorporated as an independent agency becoming a 501c3 then in the Spring of 2004 the board changed the name to Kindness, Inc. this was done to avoid confusion to with another nonprofit agency and Judy was getting calls thinking we were an online dating service. Today our volunteers come from many backgrounds and we are always recruiting new volunteers but our greatest need is in Marion County Our office staff works diligently to coordinate the services offered by volunteers to meet the needs and improve the quality of life of all senior citizens and disabled adults. Since we are a nonprofit we receive no state, federal, county or municipal funding we depend on donations along with grants and annual fundraisers which in two weeks Arkansas Gives will be accepting donations. If you go to arkansasgives.org put in your donation and you can choose whichever nonprofit you like. There are matching funds so the more you get through them the more your get as matching funds. Kindsness, Inc. offers door to door services for not only medical appointment and trips to the hairdressers or shopping the little things that help us stay happy in our home some made do shopping for the client; some will spend time with the clients so their main caregiver can have some time off. They also have daily reassurance calls that come in or the volunteer can call them. Handymen are available to do small repairs around the client’s home. They are always in need of new volunteers. If you know of anyone please have them call 425-6475 and they can be a neighbor helping a neighbor. One of her goals was to have someone from each area to be a board member and is looking for someone from Cotter and Gassville if interested please contact her at the office or see her after the meeting. April the 2nd arkansasgives.org minimum is $25.00. Arkansas is a Good Samaritan state which means so long as you are a volunteer the person you are helping they cannot come back suing you. They service Baxter and Marion counties only.

Gary Flippin – Shawnee Tournament - Letters were mailed to all of those who were in it last year letting them know of change of date. I think we are in good shape. Was on the talk of the town earlier and that went well they also talked about other things about to happen Trout Fest and Gassville in Park. Paula is still getting in applications in not as many as last year at this time. He is not sure how changing the date hurt them. Now Shawnee has changed the date again for next year. They applications are still coming in and they are getting everything set up. Starts at 7am and if they are not in by 8am them will have to go to Cotter. Next year Shawnee is looking at changing to catch and release and giving people tape measure and have them take picture with two man teams. Shawnee thinks it will bring more in. This is the biggest fundraiser for the Chamber.

Steve -2015 Trout Festival Update – A lot of things already in place. Kids fishing hole will be there and they have the aquarium coming in this year. Look for emails regarding treat bags for the kids at the fishing hole. KTLO will be on hand and we are looking for a $500.00 sponsor for that also advertising on Twin Lakes radio for $50.00 and $75.00 spots and that will start 4 or 5 weeks in advance so see Jane for that. Cutthroat Trout will be on hand Friday and Saturday. Parade Co-Chair needed so if you are interested please see us for that. Friday night Kickoff Party we will have a riverside garden party. The Band will be in tuxedos and there will be a chef’s meal by Mershon Cakes for ten dollars for a high class garden party. We could make about a thousand dollars if we could find two sponsors to pay three hundred each to pay for dessert and appetizers which would help put money in the Chambers pocket. This year we are interested in doing a commemorative shirt. Shirts will be long sleeve and will cost $30.00 for kids through large and $35.00 for XXL or XXXL. We have to buy at least 12 of each color. We will order 36 to sell. How many of you would be interested in buying them? Cost is $14.77 a shirt. $530.00 total to purchase the 36 of them. That would make us $550.00 in total. If we run out of the shirt we can take order for anything above that. We can either mail it to them or they could pick up at Gassville in the park. Gary with the car show is very excited and already has 50 people signed up and will have their own food and music. We might have to change parking this year. Tuesday and Warrior is the committee meeting 8:30 am.

Gassville in the Park - Diana Roller was not able to make it but she is on track.

Website – Email about banner on website. We are working with Brent for banner ads and they are $25.00 a month so if your business would like to advertise it will be first come first serve. If we don’t have enough we can promote events. Marcia will let us know when it is fixed as long as all understand that to get the banner you have to be a chamber member as a business. It’s a great way to advertise and a good thing for the chamber.

We are trying to get Regina Ellis at Pietz house to speak at our next meeting. If any of you have any ideas about speakers please let Marcia know.

If you would spread the word in April we are going to do a Fly Fishing class one day a month for 12 months at the Youth Center. Haven’t ironed out all but are speaking to Orvis right now about equipment being donated. It will be a nice well rounded class. Two hours once a month for 12 months after school and in summer the time may change. This Saturday Arkansas Game and Fish is hosting a boating safety class after January 1985 the only way you could run a boat was to have this card Denis Dunderdale will host that 9-4 This fall the alumni association is the 20th anniversary of the Youth Center power point presentation at that time and a fundraiser fish fry for youth center and then a dance.

Easter Sunrise Service at the Cotter Fire Department 7.00 am April 5th.