**Cotter Gassville Chamber of Commerce**

**August 18th, 2015 General Meeting Minutes**

Called to order by President at 8:04 am

Attendees: Jeff Quick, Mary Jo McLean, Jane Hatchet, Gwen Khayat, Debbie Gamble, Jan Pietz, Tanya Bagwell, Bailey Bodenhammer, Kim Crow-Sheaner, Don Sharp, Mayor Jeff Braim, Jane Darr, Debbie Wamock, Angie Fletcher, Schuyler Brower, Mayor Braim, Beth Harmon, Todd Harmon, Steve Reusch, Marcia Taylor

Our speakers today were from the Food Bank of North Central Arkansas: Jeff Quick, director, and Mary Jo McLean, Development Director. Jeff shared that they service a nine county area and shared with us some of the programs currently in place at the Food Bank: No Kid Hungry (Back Packs); Bridge Bash; Move Up to Independence which has several classes at different levels

* a one hour shopping trip to show people how to stretch their dollars;
* Cooking Matters Course – a 6 wks course to teach people how to cook which includes sending food home with them to practice on
* Next Step – an 8 - 10 week Life Skills course
* Ready to Work Course – a rigorous several month course that helps people prepare to get and Keep a job.

This area has a 4,000,000 meal gap, currently the Food Bank is able to provide 2,000,000 of those meals and they are hoping to increase the number this year to 2,500,000 with help from the Bridge Bash, whose goal is to provide 500,000 meals this year.

Bridge Bash will be on Saturday, September 26th at Big Springs Park in Cotter, from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm. Headliner’s will be The Kentucky Headhunters, Black Oak Arkansas, and Tony Melendez, among other entertainers. One of the highlights will be an Auction at noon on Saturday.

First Security Bank is sponsoring a 34 mile Pedal For Hunger Bike Ride, for more information see Tanya Bagwell at First Security.

Superintendent, Don Sharp, announced, there will be a School Board Election on Sept 15th with two of five positions open. There are two applicants for the two year term, Jimmy Morgan and Reed Tucker; and three applicants for the five year term, Luke Walker, Grant Dearmore and David McBee. Please get educated on the candidates and voting will be either at Gassville City Hall or Cotter City Hall depending upon you residence location. Some of the issues are related to changing Testing Requirements and Common Core programs.

Jane Darr covered the July 23rd BSA White River Canoe Race which was a big hit. Marcia notified members about the advertising we are doing in conjunction with the White River Marathon in Bass Pro’s Outdoor Fitness Festival. Jane Hatchet is setting up Chamber Literature and other local literature in an office at the Cotter Trout Lodge.

Steve Reusch announced that his church, Church of the Nazarene on Hwy 62 in Cotter will sponsor a Team Challenge for Women this Sunday and advised that the West Baxter Food Room will be open Thursday (the third Thursday) the 20th from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Jane Hatchet made an announcement about a new article published about Cotter by Fly Fish America for their June/July issue. We are in the process of obtaining a copy and hopefully and electronic copy that we can share. The publication can be found at various fly shops in the area. Their website is [www.flyfishamerica.com](http://www.flyfishamerica.com) and they currently have past issues available on the website but the current issue is not yet available.

Lastly, are our annual dues. They were due by May 31st, 2015 but to date we have only received payment from about 75 of our members and we currently have 135 members. The Board has voted that for those whose dues are not paid by August 31, 2015 we will remove them from the website and roster.

Ended roughly 9:20 a.m.