COTTER-GASSVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Minutes - August 19, 2014 General Meeting

Meeting was called to order by chamber president Marcia Taylor at 8:01am.

Meeting Sponsor Integrity First Bank’s Jolene McWilliams addressed the members and encouraged anyone interested in wealth management or any banking needs to stop into one of the many bank branches and visit with a representative.

Speaker Natalie Slusser from Gamma House addressed the members with news about Gamma House helping the homeless with transitional housing needs all over the state of Arkansas. The facility is always at full capacity with 20 women and children and there is always a waiting list. They help them with a “Hand Up” by connecting their clients with services in the area. One of their goals is to break the cycle of homelessness. They also provide financial classes to their clients. They run a thrift store on the square in Mountain Home and encourage members to shop and donate there. They are a 501(c)3 and run on donations. They also have fundraisers. Next one is Tuesday August 26th with a Chair Auction dinner at 6pm, tickets are $25.00 and includes dinner served at 6pm with the bidding to follow. See facebook for more details. The other event coming up is Blues and BBQ on October 12th at St. Andrews next to bargain box at 1pm which will include a silent auction. Sleep Out event in November is still in the works but will raise awareness for of homelessness during National Homeless Week.

Speaker Gwen Khayat of the Gassville Branch of the Baxter County Library addressed the membership with news of a very successful open house. They are now working on reducing unneeded items and rotate items quarterly which included books, videos, audio books, and their children’s collection. If there is a specific item you would like they can request it from the main branch in mountain home. They have five new laptops with a printer and copier. You can also bring your own device to print from the library. They have a large tv and can do power point presentations. They have a teen summer story time. They provide a meeting area with a sound proof partician which can hold 10-15 people after hours they can hold more. They are offering to display brochures for the Cotter Gassville Chamber and ask the members to volunteer some time to help at the library. Encourage people to come to enjoy coffee, cookies and checker for seniors. September 19th will be movie night and September 22nd they will have a fundraiser with a night auction.

Jeff Quick with the Food Bank of North Arkansas Food Bank addressed the members with news of the 4th annual Bridge Bash. He also spoke about other programs that the Food Bank of North Central Arkansas has (No Child Hungry, No Senior having to choose between Medicine and Food) he said no one trying to do the right thing should go hungry. Bridge Bash has the Duck Race brought to us by White River Lions Club as well as the Car Show. To date they have 63 vendors. Vendor space is $25.00 for a 10 x 10 space. Food Bank is looking to provide a million and a half meals with this event alone. This year African Dance Troop will be back to perform. Your twenty dollar donation will provide 100 meals so please support. First Security has light bulbs for sale for $5.00 so please pick one up and let’s light the town of Cotter orange. September 2nd they will hold a Prayer event at the Baxter county court house at 7:15am so please come out to show your support.

Cotter Trout Fest - $1,854/Gassville in the Park - $2,191 a difference of $337 will look at both events so see if what works for one works for the other.

White River Canoe Race – In Cotter Thursday July 24th will have final cost at a later date but the event went well and we received a paddle for the City.

Bob Mallard – Book 25 Best Places to Fish for Trout. There was a huge response and was very excited to come here. We had guides donate time and John Holsten, Nathan Buck and Jane Hatchet were instrumental in getting Bob here. Bob is looking for a photo for the cover of the book so if you have one please submit.

Website Update – Brent Critchfield – to date the website has had 7,156 hits. He can see that Facebook page is driving people to the site so we need to make sure that the site stays up to date especially the Calendar of events. Need to incorporate the City of Gassville. The Logo also needs to be updated and need more in depth info on the things to do page.

Brochure and Banner update - $200.00 quote from VisionAmp on the Banner for a 6x3. Quote from VisionAmp and others for. Cathy Rooney made a motion to use VisionAmp for banner for updating. A vote was taken and it was unanimous that the Chamber use VisionAmp. Adjustments needed to incorporate Gassville and minutes and expand over all should be around $400.00. Brent said we should really get two other domain names and those would be $35.00 each. Brochure - Steve Reusch mentioned a 10 best placed to visit/10 best things to do brochure. Elizabeth will try and contact Representative Kelley Linck. Motion to move forward on the web update made by Michelle and Gary Blanck seconded the motion. A vote was taken and it was unanimous to move forward.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies – August 29th Ozark Mountain Trading and Fleur De Lis from 4pm until 6pm. Please come out and support these new businesses. And after hours for River Bend has been discussed but not settled on yet will let the members know when it is scheduled.

Welcome New Members – yes!YOGA’s Melinda Motley

Spring House Update – The Chamber has had a loss on the lease of the Spring House of $2,400.00 to date and is now unusable due to water leak. Vote on still renting the Spring House. It was brought to the Chamber of using the Gassville Public Library, question brought up if we did house the Chamber there would we be able to place a sign to inform people that is where we are housed. Jim Terrell asked if the rent for the second half of the year had been paid and if it had been could we get that amount returned since the facility is not usable. Jane Peitz made a motion not to renew the lease with a second from Jane Hatchet. A motion is made to dissolve the contract with the Cotter Gassville Chamber of Commerce and the City of Cotter due to unforeseen circumstances beyond our control. We also give notice the we will exercise our use of the thirty  (30) day notice to not renew the contract in 2014. We also request that we be reimbursed a prorated amount of the rent that has been paid in full.   A motion is made to dissolve the contract with the Cotter Gassville Chamber of Commerce and the City of Cotter due to unforeseen circumstances beyond our control. We also give notice that we will exercise our use of the thirty (30) day notice to not renew the contract in 2014. We also request that we be reimbursed a prorated amount of the rent that has been paid in full. A vote was taken and was unanimous.

Nomination Committee for 2015 Board Members is needed. Volunteers requested. Please get with Marcia.

September Sponsor needed.

September Speaker – Jeff Quick with Food Bank of North Central Arkansas.

Meeting Adjourned