

February 2009 Meeting Minutes

The February meeting was called to order at 7:38AM on Wednesday the 18th by Chamber president Marie Stehli.

In attendance:

Joan Sweet, Middlefield Banking Company	Audrey Baran, K&K Meat Shoppe
Donna Hawkins, Mantua Village	Michelle Barnauskas, DMRC
Dorothy Caldwell, Shalersville Township	Wendy Connair, Garden Girls
Virginia Goodell, Goodell Farms	Bob MacClearie, Mantua Masonic Lodge
Joe Iacano, Crestwood Schools	Helen Hazlett, Howard Hanna and Rotary
Jim Prout, Prout & Associates	Marie Stehli, Mantua Township
Christine Pitsinger, The Community Journal	Dayton Hickerson, Grand Promotional Products,
Laurie Blakey, Common Ground Farm & Kennel	Lacey Blakey, Common Ground Farm & Kennel
Ron Lance, Diversified Enterprises	Joann Vance, Middlefield Banking Company
Trudy Capel, Impact Media Solutions	Rosalie Franek, Advanced Rehab, Dave Lasko - Benefits 1 Group
Shirley Schuster, Portage County Regional Airport Board	Becky Newell, Benner Masonry/Advanced Rehab/DMRC
Estelle Brown, the Villager	John Siman, Portage County Airport
Roger Hawkins, Mantua Village Council	Marty Hura, Mantua Village Council
Cheri Mikula, Portage Cty. Mental Health & Recovery	

Introductions were made.

Financial Report: A checking balance of \$7,836.51 and savings balance of \$5,377.22 which is used solely for scholarships was reported by the chamber secretary, Joan Sweet.

Village Update: They have been busy with the potholes. Mayor Donna Hawkins reminded everyone that there will be a meeting on Monday, February 23 at 8AM in the Conference Room at the Fire Department led by Leah Anglin-Walsh, the director of economic development for Ohio.

Shalersville Township Update: Dorothy Caldwell, township clerk reported that they have been busy patching potholes and cleaning up after the snow. The spring clean-up will be on May 7, 8 & 9.

Mantua Township Update: Township clerk, Marie Stehli announced that they are in the process of preparing bid books and that Timber Pointe Trail and Woodhollow will be paved this year.

Crestwood Schools: Superintendent, Joe Iacano expressed concern for the governor's new plan for education. He said they are analyzing the specifics of the plan. Also announced were the Community Health Walks being held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 7-8AM at the Crestwood Intermediate School. On Tuesdays, Advanced Rehab will be on-hand educating the community on different topics.

Scholarship Committee: Committee member, Dorothy Caldwell said that the scholarship applications are now available at the high school, on the chamber's website and in the new office. 2 - \$1,000 scholarships will be given out, preferably one to a boy and one to a girl. The application deadline is April 15 and applicants must have a 3.0 or above GPA.

Membership Committee: Membership chair, Becky Newell reported membership is now at 80+. She is in the process of updating the list to provide an exact member count.

Member Directory: Christine Pitsinger designed and printed a Membership Directory which includes all current paid members in a yellowpage style format. Members' business name, contact person, phone, email/website and address are included in the listing. The brochure also contains chamber of commerce, local government and school information. The directory is available at chamber meetings and at the office.

Variety Show: Helen Hazlett announced that the Rotary sponsored Variety Show will be held on April 4 at 8PM in Hayden Hall. It will be their 5th annual show. There will be a lot of great talent and they are still seeking those interested in performing.

Featured Business: The February Featured Business was Common Ground Farm & Kennel. Owner Laurie Blakey along with daughter, Lacey Blakey explained the services the business provides. They offer dog boarding and have an indoor and outdoor kennel along with a pet corral. Grooming, bathing and shaving is also an important part of their business. They are breeders of standard, miniature and toy poodles. They host "Pony Parties" either at their location or yours. They offer beginner western riding lessons. Common Ground Farm and Kennel is located at 12698 Mantua Center Road in Mantua Township.

Office Update: The office now has a hanging brochure rack for local businesses to display their brochures. Volunteers are needed to fill the time slots for open office hours. Anyone interested should see Becky.

DMRC Update: Michelle Barnauskas will be leading the "Marketing Mantua" workshop on Monday, February 23 at the Fire Department. The workshop will focus on how businesses can market themselves in the down economy. The deadline to register is today, the cost is \$10 per business. There are currently about 30 signed up. The DMRC portion of the chamber website is down. The information was lost during the change from the past to current webmaster. Also planned is an "Art Walk" in downtown Mantua. A planning meeting will be held on Friday at 2PM to set a date and discuss additional details. They will be closing both ends of Prospect during the event. The event will be a fundraiser and a vendor participation fee will be charged. They are

currently looking for artisans.

Marvelous March Market: Dorothy Caldwell announced that the Portage Faith United Methodist Church will host their 1st annual “Marvelous March Market” on Saturday, March 21 from 9AM-3PM. There will be a variety of vendors (craft vendors, Tupperware, etc.). Table rentals are available for \$15. For more information, call Dorothy at 330-274-2152.

Scholarship Golf Outing: Joann Vance said that Graham is willing to help out again this year. She is looking for someone who can go to the local businesses and ask for door prizes, donations and hole sponsorships. She stressed how important the outing is since it is the sole fundraiser for the scholarships. They are still trying to find a place to host it and are considering either Windmill or Ravenswood.

4C’s Thank You: Marie Stehli read a “Thank You” card sent by the 4C’s regarding the “Giving Trees”, the gifts and giftcards collected and given by the chamber. Those who may need help from the 4C’s or know of someone who does should call 211 and they will be put in contact with the 4C’s.

Changes in Worker’s Comp: Dave Lasko of Benefits 1 Group mentioned the recent changes that will be taking place on group ratings. A new change will be the reduction of the maximum group discount from 80% to 77%. He has handouts available with additional information.

NOACC Update: Jim prout announced the next meeting for NOACC which will be held on February 27th. He along with Christine Pitsinger will be attending the meeting.

Guest Speaker: Shirley Schuster, vice president of the 8-member airport board introduced our guest speaker, John Siman, manager of the Portage County Regional Airport. The airport celebrated its grand opening on May 29, 1970 and currently houses 4 businesses: 2 repair/mechanical shops, a hangar rental business and the Portage Flight Center. Life Flight also has a base at the airport. They have onsite living accommodations for the staff of one doctor, nurse and two pilots which are stationed at the airport 24/7. The airport is used by various individuals and organizations. They average 40 take-offs/landings most days, which include both private and military training operations. Siman stressed the convenience of landing/taking of from the airport and how it brings people into the area for meetings and events. They also provide rental car services through a relationship with Enterprise. The airport will host an Open House on June 20. The community is invited to come out and learn about the services at the airport.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 18th, 7:30AM in the Fire Department Conference Room. The Featured Business will be The Garden Girls. The Guest Speaker will be Chris Craycroft of the Portage Parks District.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:33AM was made by Marie Stehli and seconded by Joan Sweet.