



## ORWELL-GV CHAMBER MEETING

Sept. 21<sup>th</sup> 2012 7:30 am

[www.orwellgv-chamber.com](http://www.orwellgv-chamber.com)

The Sept. Chamber meeting was called to order by Nancy Reider and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by an opening prayer. There were no minutes from the August meeting which became a part of the Grand Valley Festival. Members congregated by the festival Chamber booth and had a good time with all of the activities. There are many events coming up for your Chamber please read and determine how you can be involved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Kevin passed out the Festival information showing a balance in that account of \$7,168.26 with one outstanding bill for which we are waiting on an invoice. Anticipated loss from this year's festival is around \$1000.00. The regular Chamber savings and checking account balances were \$11,750.07 in Checking, and \$2,479.57 in Savings. Motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Ed Sutliff, seconded by Carole Stormer-Vaux, motion passed.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Festival Committee** – Gary Hunter reported that a follow up meeting of the Festival Committee was held and continued work needs to be done to get more vendors at the festival. Although there were both positive and negative comments given the focus was on trying to improve what we are doing within the framework of the resources available. At this point in time no mechanical ride company is available who is credible. Possible changes were also brought up and are being looked into. Some better guidelines need to be established as well. Other comments were made as well from those in attendance one comment coming from Mr. Nettis who stated that he has been familiar with the Concord festival and he was extremely impressed with the flow of our weekend and the activities in comparison to what goes on there. Sometimes we are too close to the event to make an objective evaluation of what we do. We should be proud of what we do and build on what we have, not dwell on what we have not. Food for thought

**Farmer's Market** - The farmer's Market has ended for the summer. They were present at the Music in the Park events and set up a few other times in town as well. The vendors have decreased in availability therefore it is no longer opening.

**Journey Through Ashtabula** – Kevin reported Middlefield Bank will again chair this event. The date is Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> at St. Mary Hall from 5:30 to 7:30. See the attached flyer, print it out as your reminder and watch for the following email. Paper copies of registration and/or emails will be sent out to all Chamber members. The signs need some repair work done and will be put up the first part of Oct. Nancy Reider will also be contacting other businesses to invite them in and hopefully gain some new Chamber members. Gwen Beinnas also will help as the St. Mary liaison. Plan on attending this event, shaking hands, meeting new people and possibly new clients.

**Membership** – There was discussion about sending out membership invoices and Kevin stated that that did happen last year between Christmas and New Years. It was determined that was too late and with the change in the Constitution that **DUES NEED TO BE PAID BY JAN. 1<sup>st</sup>** the invoices need to be mailed out by Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> and Kevin felt that was possible. We look for all members to do their part and stay actively involved in their local Chamber.

**Nominating Committee** – It is getting to be that time of year again when people need to step up and participate in this chamber. Rosalyn Baum, a new Chamber member, volunteered to help by contacting members to see who may be willing to hold an Office for next year. She will be using the Chamber membership list from the website, [www.orwellgv-chamber.com](http://www.orwellgv-chamber.com) as her work list. A slate of Officers needs to be presented at the Nov. meeting with additional names which can be added then or at the Dec. meeting and a vote to be taken at the Dec. meeting. Plan on attending to vote and consider holding an office to help us move forward.

NOACC – Orwell Chamber continues to be involved in NOACC and as a business owner you should check out that website to see how you may benefit from these services. Nancy Reider has continued to attend events when possible and the latest activities were a part of the last email that was sent to all members. GV Chamber received a \$24.00 check as our portion of a member who uses the Workman's Comp benefit through NOACC.

Christmas Party – The GV Chamber has held a December dinner banquet in the past for our members and their employees. This year we are looking for a larger venue and we are encouraging businesses to use this as a company-wide business Christmas dinner get together. A new venue and other options are being explored by Diana Ristimaki, our newly appointed Events Coordinator, and Gwen Beinnas who has agreed to help with this event. Watch for more details to come.

Village Comments: Other than positive comments about the festival, Mr. Nettis was so very proud of the Kennimetal Corporate Leaders from all of the Americans coming to Orwell for their meeting. This was a nice visit and well appreciated on both ends. There is still work to be done in Orwell as can be seen by the wheelchair accessible cross walks which have been put in. He also mentions the new business on the corner as showing new life in the Village. Also, the First Responders of Orwell are establishing an Auxiliary which will be hosting an Ethnic Crock Pot cook-off. The event will be Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> at the Fire Hall. Anyone interested should call 437-8398 for more details.

New Business: Mr. Hunter stated that we need additional envelopes with the Chamber return label printed on the envelope and ask that Chamber approve this purchase. Diana Ristimaki seconded that motion which passed unanimously. Mr. Nettis stated that Kraftmaid is stating that they would like to be more involved in the community and are looking for Community Activities. Pat Hunter stated that the Ashtabula County Visitors Bureau has their grants which are available and was wondering if the Chamber was still interested in applying for this grant. It is up to \$1000.00 for events which encourage overnight visitors into our communities. It was suggested that Diane Geil be contacted because she may have the application on line and be able to tweak it for this upcoming year. Applications are due Nov.30<sup>th</sup>. The Village of Orwell has also stated they are going to apply for this grant. There was discussion that because you can only get the grant every other year we should stagger the applications so that we can get one each year instead of two in the same year. Further discussion will be held.

President Nancy Reider appointed Diana Ristimaki to be the Event Coordinator for the Chamber. Mrs. Ristimaki has contacted the Ruritans to see if the Chamber can be of assistance during the Halloween Party for Trick or treat on Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 6 PM. The Ruritan's asked for \$200.00 to help pay for supplies needed. Pat Hunter made the motion to provide \$200.00 for the Ruritan's Halloween Party, Jack Nettis, seconded the motion, motion carried. The Chamber also received a Thank you note from Austin and Ashley Limestoll for our donation to the summer camps which they attended. The meeting ended with Business sharing and hearing more from Rosalyn Baum our newest member, an American Family Insurance Agent working for the Kay Holland Agency.

ATTENDANCE: Ed Sutliff – Western Reserve Drafting, Carole Stormer-Vaux, Re/Max Innovations, Vicki Intihar – Huntington Bank, Rosalyn Baum – American Family Insurance, the Kay Holland Agency, Pat & Gary Hunter – Conversation Station, Diana Ristimaki, Kevin Mitchell – Middlefield Bank, Jack Nettis - Orwell Village, Nancy Reider – Who?What?When?Where?