

**OROFINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 16, 2008
PONDEROSA BANQUET ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER

President Ryan Smathers called the meeting to order at 12:16 p.m. There were 24 members and one guest present. Staff included Burnham.

MINUTES

The minutes of the general membership meeting are now being emailed to the membership with the meeting reminders. The minutes of the general membership meeting were approved as presented.

GUESTS

Our guest was our program speaker, Jerry Nelsen, Orofino High School Principal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Smathers announced that at the Board of Directors meeting last Monday, he was elected President and Eric Statler was elected Vice-President. He also commented that it was good to have a good turnout for our first General Membership meeting of 2008.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dues invoices have gone out to the membership.

If you have new brochures, please get them to the Chamber office, or let Burnham know and she will come pick them up.

The new Discover Guides are out and copies were distributed to those in attendance. If you would like more for your businesses, let Burnham know. Idaho State maps are also available.

Lori Wright asked Burnham to pass on to you that Orofino has won the bid to host the 2009 Legion A State Tournament in August of 2009. The Chamber supplied a support letter and visitor information for the bid process. This will bring many people into Orofino and be very economically good for the community.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Affairs- The committee met twice in the last week. The Chamber has sent a letter to the Tribe requesting a meeting about gillnetting issues by the end of the month. The committee also discussed trails and the Forest Service Travel Planning comment period. The committee has a meeting with the Forest Service on Thursday evening. The committee began their weekly conference call with our representatives who reported that they are expecting to move quickly through this session and will most likely be throwing out any controversial issues. Also discussed on the conference call was the Sheriff's Bill dealing with ATV licensing that would allow extra money from ATV licenses sold to come back to the County in which the license was sold. Also on yesterday's call, Representative Roberts asked how we feel about Local Option Tax which is presently being utilized in a couple of counties for jails and roads. An informal poll of the membership was conducted to gauge our membership's feelings on having the Local

Option Tax expanded into Clearwater County. Two agreed with the Tax, Three disagreed and the rest in attendance were undecided or felt they needed more information. The membership also indicated that they would not be in favor of an option on fuel.

Promotional- Committee Chair Eric Statler announced that Tanna Zywna has joined the Promotional committee and they will be working on getting a calendar of events and local activities together to have available at the hotels for hotel guests.

Auction- The first 2008 Auction meeting will take place on January 25th at 1:00 p.m. at the Mexican Restaurant.

Welcome and Membership- We welcome Christine Laws as a new individual member of the Chamber.

Economic Development – Chris Kuykendall announced that there will be a CCED meeting next Wednesday the 23rd of January at 6:00 at the Department of Labor in Orofino and encouraged the membership to attend. She passed on the details of her December report to the membership.

GEM- No Report

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Smathers thanked Past President Robison for her excellent service as 2007 Chamber President. He also announced that he and Burnham would be making personal visits to each Chamber member to encourage attendance at the meetings.

PROGRAM

Programs- Vice-President Statler announced that if anyone had program ideas, to please forward those to him. He introduced our program speaker, Jerry Nelsen, Orofino High School Principal.

Principal Nelsen thanked the Chamber for inviting him to speak and updated the membership on the High School Sports division classification change for Orofino High School. He stated that the classification change was determined solely by enrollment. Orofino High School had 359 students as of January 1, 2008. Even though District 171 is down in enrollment, OHS is in a bubble now and their enrollment is up and will remain that way until year after next, when it will most likely be down again.

According to Nelsen, the classification cycle is a two year cycle made up of a count year and a grace year. Next year is a count year. Nelsen stated that he only expects to be in the higher classification for two years. There are six classifications in the state starting with 5A which is for schools with 1279 students and over and ending with 1A Division II for schools with less than 99 students.

Beginning in the Fall of 2008 through 2010, OHS will be the only school in District II to be included in the 3A classification, which means that they will travel north to play Bonners Ferry, Kellogg, Priest River, St. Maries, and Timberlake in what is called the "Intermountain League".

Nelsen stated that this change will hit us in many different areas such as lower gates and fan following being decreased meaning fewer people coming into Orofino for games. Football is limited to eight ballgames to allow for a district playoff at the end of the season as the ninth game allowed in this league. The district will do as many things as possible to minimize the costs associated with farther travel distances such as having three volleyball matches in a single trip and staying the night in gyms in order to play two basketball games in a trip. They will also play both girls and boys games in a single trip to eliminate the need for two separate trips.

Nelsen did petition this year to be allowed to stay in the 2A classification, however, the petition was denied. Every 2A superintendent was able to vote and the petition failed. He did mention that Kamiah and Grangeville voted against keeping us in district 2A. Nelsen stated that they have some great kids right now, both academically and athletically and he thinks that they will rise to the occasion.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, President Smathers adjourned the meeting at 12:55 p.m.

Ryan Smathers, President

ATTESTED:

Heather R. Burnham, Executive Director