

**OROFINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 16, 2007  
PONDEROSA BANQUET ROOM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Connie Robison called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. There were 26 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**

Bridgette Kerley introduced Diane Hairston, a new consultant at the Orofino Office of Commerce and Labor. Keith Hanson introduced his son, Brian Hanson as his guest.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Greg Parker with the U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers cleared up some lake information. Snow Pack is at 70%. It is expected to be full in June. Hopefully the cable at the Marina will be finished soon. The permits are in place for the fish nitrification project and the project started Thursday.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Regarding the Auction, special thanks to those who donated and those who participated in other ways, be it serving on the committee, bidding on silent and live auction items, or participating in the games, this event would not be possible without all who participated. The Chamber appreciates the efforts of everyone who took part. I am so pleased to announce that the evening was a huge success thanks to a true community effort. We grossed just over \$30,000 and netted roughly \$23,000 this year which seems to be a record. We still have a few bills coming in, so the actual final numbers are not completely firm yet.

Next Monday, the 21<sup>st</sup> of May, NCITA is sponsoring a Visitor Center Workshop. They have two busses that will tour through the Camas Prairie, Salmon River, and Hells Canyon; the cost for the day is just \$10 and includes lunch, the bus ride, and a jet boat trip. They still have room for more people and this is a great opportunity for any of you who have employees who greet the public in any way. You can let me know if you are interested, but they need to know by Friday morning at the latest.

Last month 4 tourism and 4 relocation packets were sent out.

Last week Burnham attended the Idaho Governor's Conference on Recreation and Tourism in Worley. It was a good conference and she came away with a lot of ideas for marketing, as well as a lot of contacts and felt the networking was quite valuable. If any of you are interested in knowing more, please contact the Chamber Office.

Good Morning Orofino will take place May 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Ponderosa at 7:00 a.m.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Public Affairs-** The announcement from Greg Parker covered the Public Affairs report. The Tribe really stepped up in getting the permits pushed through for the nitrification project.

**Promotional-** Business after Hours will take place tonight at The High Country Inn and Country Catering. They will be featuring a new project that they are working on. President Robison encouraged everyone to attend.

**Special Events-** President Robison extended thanks to the Auction Committee and all who supported the event.

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July committee is planning a Raft Race to take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> with proceeds going towards next year's fireworks. The committee is looking for volunteers and prize donors.

**Welcome and Membership-** No Report

**Economic Development** –CCED submitted their third 3 year proposal for funding. There will be a Biomass meeting the 23<sup>rd</sup> at Big Eddy. The cost is \$20 per person and there will be some good speakers and information sharing. CCED responded to a lead yesterday for a 2000 head goat farm which would support 39 jobs. We are gathering input from the community especially regarding telecommunications for a meeting with Bob Ford on June 12. Members are encouraged to share input.

**GEM-** The committee will meet June 28<sup>th</sup> from noon to 1:00.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

No Report

## **PROGRAM**

**Programs** – June 6, Officer Dodge and the Drug Dog  
June 20<sup>th</sup>, Monica Jones and Lorna Marion, Idaho Commerce and Labor

Vice-President Ryan Smathers introduced our program speaker, Nick Albers to speak about the Back Country Medics. Formed in 1978, the Back Country Medics is the only licensed all volunteer air medical unit in the state of Idaho. The team specializes in access and retrieval of victims. There are several hospitals that they have taken patients to, but St. Joseph's in Lewiston is the primary hospital. However Albers stated that if the situation is grave, they use the nearest hospital.

Albers showed the membership a PowerPoint presentation with pictures from actual trainings as well as actual retrieval situations. The Back Country Medics have done training around the region in various locations. Gale Wilson, owner of Hillcrest Aviation and provider for the Medics, is the director of the team. He has gone out of his way to make things happen for the Back Country Medics.

The Back Country Medics are in the process of changing their licensure status with the state to a hospital to hospital unit. For this change, they have purchased expensive equipment such as a cardiac machine, a ventilator, and a pressure infuser. According to

Albers, the Back Country Medics are funded by a few donations and through flights that they make. Though they fall under the County umbrella, they don't get money from tax dollars, so the cost to the taxpayer is nothing.

Albers listed several of the missions the Medics have been on including missions at Selway Falls, Wilderness Gateway with two fatalities, a Raft Extraction on the North Fork where they used a long line, a Fish and Game lost helicopter, in injured logger on the North Fork, a cardiac arrest patient who they air evacuation at Slate Point, a motorcycle recovery operation on the Lochsa, and Rattlesnake Peak where eight people consumed poisonous mushrooms.

Albers stated that the Back Country Medics consider themselves "your team". They have 17 members including doctors, nurses, and medics and are very choosy about who they accept as a team member as the right personality is essential to their success.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, President Connie Robison adjourned the meeting at 1:07 p.m.

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Connie Robison, President

ATTESTED:

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Heather R. Burnham, Executive Director