

**OROFINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 15, 2007
PONDEROSA BANQUET ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER

President Connie Robison called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. There were 25 members present and 2 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 guests were our program speaker, Senator Lee Heinrich and Mayor Pippenger's granddaughter, Taylor Pippenger.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stephanie Deyo with the Clearwater Valley Hospital Foundation announced a fundraiser at King's for Clearwater Valley Hospital and Clinics on Saturday, August 25th from 2-6 p.m. Ten percent of sales during the event will be donated to CVHC. CVHC Foundation is also having their 2nd Annual Golf Scramble on Sunday, August 26th. They have room for three more teams of 4. Cost is \$50 per person.

Judy Howard with the Gorge Group reminded the membership that a telecommunications questionnaire is being circulated in the community and the results will be taken to Verizon to help them understand our needs. The deadline is next Friday and copies are available at the Chamber office or may be picked up at today's meeting.

Jeff Sayre with Senator Craig's office reminded members that the Senator will be here for lunch next Thursday from noon until 1:00 p.m. A no host cold cut buffet will be offered for \$8 and the meeting is open to anyone who wishes to participate.

Maria Ward announced that there will be a resource fair August 21-24 at the Armory in conjunction with the Community Blood Drive.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

There will be a Board of Directors Meeting next Monday at noon at the Ponderosa.

Good Morning Orofino will take place August 28th at 7:00 a.m. at the Ponderosa Banquet Room.

Senator Craig will be here on August 23 for a visit. He will attend a no host lunch meeting here at the Ponderosa from noon to 1:00. Lunch will be a cold cut buffet and the cost will be \$8.00.

We will be having another TIPS Training for those working a shift on the Beer Bus on either Aug. 23, 29, or 30th. The cost is \$25 per person and each shift of the Beer Bus will need to have one person who is TIPS Certified. The time is from 5:15 to 8:15.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Affairs- The committee will meet next Tuesday at 7:00 a.m. and talking about the North South Trail

Promotional- No Report

Special Events- A sign up sheet for the Lumberjack Days Beer Bus was passed around.

Entry forms for the President's Cup have gone out and we are filling up quickly.

Welcome and Membership- We welcome new member Joanne Ryser with America One Finance.

Economic Development –CCED is working diligently on telecommunication issues. Kuykendall has put together a graph of what is available in Clearwater County.

GEM- No Report

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No Report

PROGRAM

Programs- September 5, Howard Weeks with C-PTPA

September 19, Stan Leach, Clearwater County Commissioner

Past-President Christine Laws announced that our scheduled guest speaker, Representative Ken Roberts was unable to attend today's meeting due to a death in the family. Laws introduced our guest speaker, Senator Lee Heinrich, who so graciously offered to step in as a last minute replacement.

Senator Heinrich announced that he and his wife brought their 5th wheel here on Sunday to tour the area and he is in town for a Clerk's Association meeting at which he was a keynote speaker yesterday.

Senator Heinrich provided the membership with an overview of the past legislative session. He is pleased to have been appointed to the Transportation Committee, the Local Government and Tax Committee and as Vice Chair of the Agriculture Committee. He feels that these committees have great importance in this region.

In 2007 the legislature had 846 pieces of legislation presented, 581 bills introduced of which, 369 were passed. The Governor vetoed 7 of those and one veto was overridden.

Senator Heinrich spoke of the Mental Health Court in Clearwater County and recognized the great strides that the program is making. The state has begun to appropriate funds for mental health and substance abuse issues. Some money will reach Clearwater County due to the prison and juvenile probation services.

According to Senator Heinrich, the public school budget was increased by 5.7% which will provide 1.8 billion dollars to education state-wide.

In addition to the committees that he sits on, Senator Heinrich attended a meeting on Timber Receipts. He was also appointed to the Tax Exemption Committee, the Annexation Committee, and the Maintenance and Operations Committee. The Tax Exemption Committee is looking at 100 exemptions and will start making proposals to revise and update exemptions.

Other issues for the upcoming legislative session will be transportation, grocery tax, property tax, education funding and dog fighting. Senator Heinrich encouraged membership to contact him at 208-271-6243 or by email at brelee@frontiernet.net.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, President Robison adjourned the meeting at 12:59 p.m.

Connie Robison, President

ATTESTED:

Heather R. Burnham, Executive Director