

**OROFINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2007
PONDEROSA BANQUET ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER

President Connie Robison called the meeting to order at 12:19 p.m. There were 16 members 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 program speaker was Diane Hairston with the Clearwater Business Committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Keith Hanson, President of the North Idaho Chamber of Commerce announced that the NICC Fall Tour will take place October 11 and 12 in Bonner's Ferry.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

Big thanks to all who participated in the Beer Garden either by taking a shift, helping to set up or take down, or by being a loyal patron.

The President's Cup is coming up the 29th and 30th of this month. We have a full field. If you business is interested in sponsoring a hole or has any promotional items for the gift bags, please contact the Chamber Office.

In today's Lewiston Tribune, there was an article that Clearwater County will get telecom upgrades from Verizon prompted by the Hospital's complaint with the PUC. The construction of the upgrades will start sometime in April, May or June of 2008.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Affairs- No Report.

Promotional- The Christmas Festival is coming up and will take place on November 30 and December 1 this year. The Little Elf Shop is in need of donations and especially need donation items for men and boys.

We have been given word that the Caboose at the entrance to town is going to be moved.

Special Events- President Robison thanked all volunteers who helped make the Chamber's Beer Garden a success at this year's Lumberjack Days.

Burnham announced that although bills are still coming in on the Beer Garden, we grossed almost \$3000 more this year than last on the event.

There was discussion on the fate of the Beer Bus and whether we should continue to use it. The Board of Directors will discuss it at their next meeting.

The President's Cup Golf Tournament is full with 30 teams. Drawing tickets for the booze basket are available for purchase after the meeting.

Welcome and Membership- We welcome two new members, Wild Rooster Ranch, Deniece Osterberg and Dugger Plumbing, Jeff and Jocelyn Dugger.

Economic Development –CCED is working diligently on telecommunication issues. Their office sent letters to the legislators regarding telecommunications issues in Clearwater County. They have also been working with the North Central Telecom. Working group and will be meeting with Verizon at a meeting on the 26th of September and is hoping to get some answers.

GEM- No Report

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Robison encouraged the members present to encourage other Chamber members to show up for our meetings.

PROGRAM

Programs- October 3, Alex Irby – North South Trail

October 17, Don Gardner – Fire and Emergency Services

Vice-President Ryan Smathers introduced our program speaker Diane Hairston with the Clearwater Business Committee (CBC). Hairston works at the Department of Labor and lives in Peck with her husband Andy.

Hairston began her presentation by informing the membership about the local Department of Labor. Their office helps the job seeker to find and obtain employment. They also administer unemployment benefits and assist and facilitate a strong business community. One way that the Department of Labor reaches out to the business community is through the Clearwater Business Committee.

The main focus of the CBC is to provide business seminars to employers. These are also used as a vehicle to educate businesses about the role of the Department of Labor. The seminars have covered a broad range of topics including controlling unemployment costs, using tools to network employer to employee, and information on new legislation such as the minimum wage increase. According to Hairston, the seminars also allow businesses to network with one another. The cost for the seminars is \$5 per participant.

Hairston announced that there is an upcoming seminar scheduled for October 11 on drug use prevention in the workplace. The committee has also planned a December seminar on Business Security which will address topics such as identity theft.

The CBC now has 5 active members and would like to have 10 and would also like to reach out to outlying areas. The committee meets one Thursday a month from 7:30 to 8:00 a.m. and during this time they determine the topics for upcoming seminars.

Hairston encouraged the membership to attend the seminars and also consider joining the Clearwater Business Committee.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, President Robison adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

Connie Robison, President

ATTESTED:

Heather R. Burnham, Executive Director