

**OROFINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 4, 2008
PONDEROSA BANQUET ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER

President Ryan Smathers called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. There were 18 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

All in attendance were members of the Orofino Chamber of Commerce.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No Announcements.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

There will be a board meeting on Monday at noon at the Ponderosa.

Please remember the Public Meeting with Verizon on Friday at 12:30 in conjunction with the Rotary meeting.

The Chamber will have the Beer Garden at the 4th of July Celebration. A sign up sheet is available if you are interested in working a shift. Also, donations to the fireworks show are being accepted at the Chamber office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Affairs- The committee will meet in the next couple weeks on the roadless issue. A House Committee in Congress is pushing hard for no motorized access on Federal land.

Promotional- The committee is in need of a new committee chair.

4th of July- The 4th of July is fast approaching. There will be 38% more fireworks this year for 28% more cost. After the Veteran's Parade, Bird Goodwin will sing the National Anthem and Pam Clift's Mini Maniacs will perform. A band has been located, details will follow. There will be a Merchant's meeting Friday at 7:30 in the Ponderosa Banquet Room. All are welcome, we will discuss the food, the fireworks, the Parade, and the Raft Race.

Welcome and Membership- There will be a welcoming for new member Boyd B's Handyman Service, owner Boyd Brookshier tomorrow morning at 9:00 at the Chamber office. Please attend if you can. Brookshier was in attendance and introduced to the membership.

Economic Development – CCED had a meeting last week in Pierce. The State sent two people. There is a new Mayor and Council in Pierce and they have many new projects in

the works. If anyone knows of someone who wants to relocate their business to the area, please have them visit with Chris Kuykendall.

GEM- No Report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No Report

PROGRAM

Programs- June 18 – Diane Hairston with Clearwater Business Committee

Vice-President Robison introduced our program speaker, Deputy Warden from the Idaho Department of Corrections in Orofino, Eric Maceachern. Maceachern started out with a verbal snapshot of the prison as it is today. ICIO opened in 1984 and houses 541 inmates. With a payroll of \$8 Million, it is estimated that most of the money for the operation remains in the communities between Kamiah and Lewiston, and Maceachern learned in a class once that the money is re-circulated into the community 7 times.

According to Maceachern, the Idaho Correctional Institute-Orofino, ICI-O, houses inmates of all levels of the Idaho prison system and include the work camp, or as we know them, the “red shirts”. The “red shirts” are often seen in the community doing work programs and most recently with the sandbagging efforts. Approximately 241 inmates are currently classified as medium security and another 70 are involved in the community model which means they are set to be released in two to five years and are being taught social and work skills which will help them when they are released.

Maceachern relayed that the state of Idaho currently has 7000 inmates with approximately 1/3 of those being housed out of state. 13,000 are currently on probation and parole. Another interesting fact is that one out of 35 adult males in Idaho are in some way in the system and the prison population is growing faster than the actual population is growing.

The costs of housing inmates, according to Maceachern, are about \$40 per day, but that number is actually closer to \$45 to \$47. There is a growing Hispanic population in the state prisons and gangs are prevalent. The cost of transporting prisoners to be housed out of state is about the same as it is to house them in state, the only difference is that the prison building costs are absent. Inmates with over two years left on their sentences without legal issues, health problems or behavioral issues are most likely to be sent out of state. When they get closer to the two year mark, they are brought back in state to prepare for their release and parole. The return on inmates or recitivism is about 1/3 for a 10 year period. The recitivism rate is tracked on 5, 10 and 20 year blocks.

There is no longer really any industry inside ICI-O aside from the cleaning, laundry and cooking, which is all done by the inmates. The printing facilities were moved to Southern Idaho a few years ago.

There have been talks of building a new facility up north, but they have met resistance. Maceachern stated that there has also been some talk of an expansion in Orofino, which according to member Dennis Thompson, we would like to see as the prison is seen as an important part of the community.

Maceachern stated that ICI-O has legislative tours frequently and encouraged people to come and visit the facility. The new director of ICI-O is interested in keeping the prison here and notes that the “red shirt” program is something that both Liberals and Conservatives agree on as it gives the prisoners skills and also keeps them working and making a contribution to society.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

Ryan Smathers, President

ATTESTED:

Heather R. Burnham, Executive Director