

**OROFINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 2, 2009
PONDEROSA BANQUET ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER

President John Goffinet called the meeting to order at 12:21 p.m. There were 21 members and 2 guests present. Staff included Burnham.

MINUTES

General Membership Meeting minutes are emailed to members.
The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as presented.

GUESTS

Our guest was our program speaker, Christi Chase with the US Census Bureau and Susan Halley, also with the US Census Bureau. The new administrator of Clearwater Health and Rehabilitation, Cole Clark, was introduced.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A nominating committee has been assembled for the four Board of Directors positions that are coming open at the end of the year and has come up with five names for the ballot; Ryan Smathers, Laura Wolverton, Monica Jones (all incumbents) and Dennis Thompson and Kim Hoffman. Elections will take place at the December 16th General Membership meeting.

We welcome new member, Teri Bolling, who is now with Camas Financial. Her new address is 13950 Highway 12 at the location of Carey Realty. Her phone number is 476-7100.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Thanks to all who helped with decorating Heritage Plaza for the Holiday Season.

The Chamber will be starting a new Chamber Cash program, similar to what Orofino Gold was previously. This will be good for local businesses as the cash will be able to be used at member businesses. If you are interested in accepting the cash, Burnham will put your name on the list. Once the cash is accepted, the business turns it back to the Chamber Office for a dollar for dollar check.

IN-DEPTH COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Affairs- The committee is busy finishing the Public Affairs Policy Position Statement.

Public Affairs Committee Chair Dennis Harper updated the membership on the committee. The Committee started in the mid 90's and dealt with the Dworshak Drawdowns. The Chamber Executive Director at the time, James Grunke, was very good at writing well pointed letters. The committee as it exists today provides a bridge between the politics and policies of the legislature with the Chamber. The committee addresses both state and federal issues and has worked on several issues such as education, government accountability, State Hospital North, transportation, OHV trails, fisheries, State Parks and many others. The committee is made up of several different public entities which don't cross the lines of setting policy or taking ideas out of the

meetings, but rather make recommendations to the Chamber Board who have the final say and take action where they see fit based on these recommendations. Chamber members are welcome to come to the committee with concerns and have their issues taken to the Chamber Board.

Promotional- Santa will be at King's December 12th from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. King's will give away a \$20 gift certificate every ½ hour to patrons in the store.

The Promotional Committee will start up Business after Hours again in February.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Christmas Festival- The 7th Annual Christmas Festival begins tomorrow. Many activities will take place during this time, including the passport program where businesses purchased squares on a passport to have patrons bring to their businesses to have stamped. When they are finished gathering the stamps, they turn the card in and are entered in a drawing for \$300 in Chamber Cash and other prizes. The Lighted Parade will take place tomorrow night at 5:30 and several entries are confirmed. Entry forms are available at the Chamber office or the website, www.orofino.com. Our Grand Clauses (the Christmas Festival's version of Grand Marshals) this year are Dennis and Sherry Thompson. Dennis was always a willing participant in the Christmas Festival. He retired earlier this year from Barnett-Thompson Chevrolet which he owned for several years.

4th of July- The 4th of July will feature a fireworks display and band again this year.

EnduroCross – The date has been set for May 22nd, 2010.

Lumberjack Days- The Chamber's Beer Garden was very successful at this year's Lumberjack Days Event.

Golf Tournament – Planning will begin later in 2010 for next year's President's Cup Golf Tournament.

Auction- Heather Leach has resigned as Auction Chair and another person has shown interest in taking the position this year. The Auction Committee will begin meeting early in 2010.

Economic Development- Joe Pippenger, CCED committee chair updated the membership on the program. They have been working on the Dworshak State Park issue, working with the Forest Service, a woody biomass project which would be a cost saving measure for ICIO, expanded marketing, telecommunications, and many other projects.

North Idaho Chamber of Commerce- Orofino Chamber of Commerce representative for the North Idaho Chamber of Commerce is Neal Johnson. Johnson announced that NICC had their annual meeting and he sent information on Dworshak State Park. He hasn't yet heard back from them on this issue.

PROGRAM

Programs- December 16th – Christmas Program and Board Elections

Past-President Ryan Smathers introduced our program speaker, Christi Chase a partnership assistant with the US Census Bureau.

Chase updated the membership on the Census which will begin in April of 2010. The Census consists of ten questions and will take about ten minutes to complete this year. The sole purpose of the Census is to count the people in the United States. No Social Security Numbers or other personal data will be requested. The Bureau goes to extreme measures to protect the information that they gather. Here, in Clearwater County, the Census will be done by enumerators, which are being hired now. The final data gathered from the Census will be sent to the President in April of 2011.

According to Chase, Clearwater County had a 57% mail in rate in 2000 which hurt them in the form of applying for Block Grants because the state receives \$1400 for every form that gets turned back in which is then distributed to the counties based on the numbers of forms that are turned in. The US Census Bureau sees it as very important to get information to the public about returning census forms. Chase gave the membership packets of information on the Census which included sample forms.

Susan Halley, a recruiting assistant for the Census Bureau is conducting a pre employment testing session today at City Council Chambers. The Census is paying \$12.25 per hour and 55 cents a mile for enumerators and this is a great job to do on evenings and weekends.

Media blitzes in January, February and March are planned to make sure that counties and citizens are aware of the financial impact of returning the census.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, President Goffinet adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

John Goffinet, President

ATTESTED:

Heather R. Burnham, Executive Director