



**Ontario Chamber of Commerce
Meeting Minutes – August 19, 2024
Meeting Held @ Casey Park, Admin Bldg. – 3:30 P.M.**

Donna called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm and asked the group to say the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members: Donna Burolla, President; Sherry Verstraete, Vice President; Jim Switzer, Treasurer; Board of Directors: Sylvia Ryndock; Brian Natale, and Bill Riddell, Community Liaison

Board Members Absent: Jenn Brake, Secretary, and Virginia Molino, Board of Directors

Chamber Members: Christine LoDestro, WCEF & BID Representative; Ray Cedruly, Furnace Mini Storage

Guest: Julie O’Neil, Assistant Branch Manager, Lyons National Bank

Approval of minutes dated July 15, 2024 with amendments - Motion made by Jim Switzer seconded by Sherry Verstraete; all voted in favor.

Correspondence: Email Note from Roger Campbell - Thank you. The luncheon went very well. Had BBQ pork and chicken. Corn on cobb, baked beans, salad, mac salad, Jello Salad with fruit, cake and cupcakes. 26 patrons. For me it is an honor to serve everyone who serves our country and our community.

Thank you Ontario Chamber of Commerce for sponsoring the July, 2024 luncheon (\$120.00)

Letter and flyer received from Wayne County Social Services Dept. regarding Foster Parents program

Membership Outreach:

Christine LoDestro contacted about ten businesses; Jim gave a membership application to Eric Burba, owner of Eastside Soft Wash @ 5838 Lanson Road, Ontario.

Treasurer’s Report – Jim Switzer

Balance Operating Account: \$17, 534.54

Craft Show Account Balance: 632.87

Review Visa account statement (signing): Statement signed by board members.

Motion to accept the Treasurer’s report made by Sherry Verstraete and seconded by Ray Cedruly . All voted in favor.



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Old Business:

- Approval to proceed to apply for tax exemption status under 501c(6) (\$600.00 application fee) and use Lori Furguson Tax Planning & Preparation as a consultant (est. fee of \$250.00). Motion made by Jim Switzer seconded by Brian Natale. All voted in favor.
- Approval of Meal Disbursement Policy. Motion made by Sherry Verstraete, seconded by Sylvia Ryndock. All voted in favor.
- Approval of Entrepreneurial Scholarship Policy submitted by subcommittee. Motion made by Jim Switzer for approval with amendments, Seconded by Sylvia Ryndock. All voted in favor.
- Christine LoDestro – BID Update
 - Main Street Grant – Wayne County will provide a low interest loan for the 25% required investment from property owners;
 - Determination of approval should be received by the end of the year
 - Christmas Tree Lighting – The BID does not want the chamber to use the Masonic Lodge to distribute hot chocolate.
 - The chamber board asked Donna Burolla, President write a letter to Jason Benton, President of the BID stating that we will be using the Masonic Lodge for the hot chocolate distribution and this will be done independently from the BID Tree Lighting program. The Masons have given permission for the chamber to use the lodge with all of the kitchen utensils.
- Banquet Update – raffle collection; registration; others
 - Banquet price will be \$45.00 per person
 - Registration link will be posted on website
 - A Facebook event will be created with link to registration
 - Brian Natale moved to approve the contract between Doze Guyz Entertainment and the Ontario Chamber of Commerce for DJ Services for our banquet on Sept. 26, 2024. Sylvia Ryndock seconded. All in favor.
 - Christine distributed a list of businesses that need follow-up regarding raffle collection items.



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New Business:

- Sylvia Ryndock reviewed a welcome flyer for new chamber members. It was agreed to have the business owner approve the flyer and add a “Join” button with a link to our membership form.
- Proposed: Slate of Officers for two-year terms: Donna Burolla, President; Sherry Verstraete, Vice President; Susan Tripp, Secretary; Jim Switzer, Treasurer and one Board of Director seat, Christine LoDestro (3 year term). Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the annual meeting on Sept. 26, 2024.
- Christine LoDestro gave an update on a zoom meeting that was held between her with the Sodus Chamber and the Williamson Chamber. The discussion included what can be done between the three chambers to collaborate but maintain their own anonymity. The following were suggestions: Networking events hosted by each chamber – rotating every three months; event should be educational and fun theme; invite guests to speak; create fun competitions between the chambers (cornhole, trivia, golf tournament); work together to bring tourism to the three towns; share resources and ideas; reciprocal membership – offer members a 10% (\$10) discount if they join another chamber.
- The chamber board agreed with the above suggestions. Since the October 9th date has been reserved @ Konstantinou’s Restaurant, the board agreed to schedule a 3-chamber networking event. Program has yet to be decided (agenda item for September meeting).

Programs or Events for 2024:

- Program Rescheduled – Meet, Greet, & Chat - Bill Riddell (Economic Development) with special guest Supervisor Aman – October 9, 2024, 5:30-7:00, Konstantinou’s confirmed location. Program rescheduled since Supervisor Aman is not available that night.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted By
Donna Burolla, President
For Jenn Brake, Secretary

NEXT MEETING September 16, 2024 (MONDAY) @ 3:30 P.M. – CASEY PARK OFFICE BUILDING