



## Chamber Meeting Minutes January 28, 2025

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**Location:** Augie's Sports Bar & Grill

**Meeting called to order:** 6:18 pm

**Roll Call:**

Carrie Vercauteren	Sue Heim
April Lange	Jim Heim
Travis Lange	Sam Barta
Jean Dax	Rod Mleziva
Donna Mleziva	Karen Mleziva
Alex Stodola	Ted Stodola
Jo-Ellen Fairbanks	Rick Landi
April Konitzer	Tim Tremel
Sue Bins-Ingebretsen	Kelly Froelich
Jordan Ebert	Lois Derenne

**Meeting:**

Previous minutes were unavailable at time of meeting, but they are included in this report. Jean read the Treasurer's report, also included in this report.

Guest speaker Rick Landi from Amazon. Spoke about new Amazon Hub initiative to have a few local businesses deliver packages to homes in the area. Details included in this report.

Jean brought forward a sponsorship from the Kewaunee County Fair due by January 31<sup>st</sup>. Previous sponsorship in 2024 was \$500. Ted made a motion to approve the same amount, seconded by Sue Heim. Motion carried.

**Old Business** – Carrie reported that the Christmas Party was a great success with an excellent meal from the new chef at Northbrook Golf & Grill. Ted added that the winners were very gracious and the speeches were very informative.

Ted reported that for the Santa Claus event the new addition of LC students in band and choir made for a fun time, with the added benefit of bringing more parents to the event.



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Eight banana boxes full of food were donated, and although Santa finished speaking with the kids about a half hour earlier than usual, we went through about the same amount of candy canes.

#### **Committee Reports**

Music in the Park - moving forward with Ted Stodola and Kelly Froelich in charge. They are ready to begin booking bands, but needed to confirm with the chamber that they may need to spend up to \$3,500 for bands not currently covered by sponsors. Tim Trembl motioned to approve up to \$4,000 for bands and April Konitzer seconded. Motion carried. Further, Carrie reported that Rose's Taco Truck would be willing to set up at some Music in the Park events. Scotty's and Augie's will both be approached as rain-out locations for bands to move into in case of inclement weather.

Dairy Days Dash – Donna Mleziva reported that a committee meeting is scheduled for February 19<sup>th</sup> where members will select a charitable partner and begin the process to schedule and advertise the event. Kelly Froelich offered to DJ the June 7<sup>th</sup> event. Members are encouraged to send ideas for charitable partnerships to the Chamber Secretary.

Golf Outing – April Konitzer reported that plans to partner with the Violence Intervention Project were unlikely to their having their own golf outing. Alex Stodola will contact the committee to set up a meeting to discuss additional options and make a final decision in order to get planning underway. Members are encouraged to send ideas for charitable partnerships to the Chamber Secretary.

**New Business** – Chamber board members met with Susan Doughty-Smith from Talent Advancement Professionals to work on developing a new mission statement for the Luxemburg Chamber. Our existing mission statement was overly broad and often unfocused. The board members, with guidance from the year-end survey results, refined the mission to the following: "The Luxemburg Area Chamber of Commerce exists to provide education, support and connections to help businesses thrive". Further development is needed, and discussion will continue at the next Chamber board meeting.

Website improvements continue. Alex reports that development of the new directory is underway, and all current members should be listed by the time of the next meeting. Improvements to the chamber membership e-mails have begun, including a new system for RSVPing to meetings.



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Business Tours. We are fortunate to have two local business tours scheduled for 2025 – Quali T Inc. coming up on April 29, and Cabinet Creations on June 24. We are seeking more local businesses to offer tours of their business to our members. If you are interested in hosting a tour, or you have an idea for a business you'd like to take a tour of, please let us know.

#### **Upcoming Events**

Before concluding, Alex requested that members in attendance share something exciting in their business coming up in 2025.

- Jo-Ellen reported that LC School District is improving cybersecurity & students are improving life readiness skills
- April reported that NWTC is a finalist for the Aspen award and is augmenting programs that will focus on business' needs.
- Sue reported that Luxy Raceway is opening April 18<sup>th</sup>. Excited for another strong season, members are encouraged to sponsor and attend.
- Jordan reported the Salmons is conducting an ERP transition with the goal of making business processes more efficient. At Ebert Enterprises, they are hosting KCEDC Career Days in late April, bringing over 1,000 kids to learn about careers in agriculture.
- Sue reported that Quali T is celebrating 35 years and looks forward to hosting everyone at the April 29<sup>th</sup> event. She has recently hired a new business development executive named Deb Polster.
- Sam reported that with the completion of a new grain bin in 2024, Rio Creek is anticipating a smoother experience for their customers in 2025.
- Karen reported that Northbrook Golf & Grill has a variety of weekly events, including Singo on Mondays, All you can eat Shrimp on Tuesdays, Italian Night on Wednesdays, and Sunday brunch. They are also welcoming a new course superintendent who will coordinate the numerous tournaments and events held at the course.
- Kelly reported that the Rendezvous is hosting a variety of bowling leagues, events, and fundraisers, including varsity and JV bowling teams, a tournament benefiting Bruemmer Park Inclusive Playground, and an American Legion Meat Raffle. Other



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notable upcoming events include a hypnotist on February 7<sup>th</sup> and Bubble Bowling on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

- Travis reported that he is excited to share his doctoral research in marketing through a variety of venues, including the local Business Builders group in Algoma, who meet the first Tuesday of each month.
- Lois reported that Augie's is open for business four days a week – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 3pm until close. They serve a full bar as well as their very delicious pizzas.

Our next gathering will be on February 25<sup>th</sup> at Scotty's in Luxemburg beginning at 5:00pm. This will be a networking event, and all members are encouraged to attend and to bring a guest. Our next business meeting will be on March 25<sup>th</sup> at NWTC in Luxemburg beginning at noon.

Alex made a motion to adjourn, and Ted seconded. Motion carried, and meeting concluded at approximately 7:30pm.