

Albion Chamber of Commerce Minutes
February 2, 2023
“2022” ANNUAL Meeting

The meeting was held at the Blessed Sacrament Church with President Chris Magnuson welcoming everyone and then leading us the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. (approximately 48 people present).

Chris went over the documents provided to each member. Members received the 2023 official ballot, door prize ticket, the 2022 and 2023 list of Chamber expenditure/balances, the agenda, and a trivia contest worksheet. She also shared many of the great projects that the Albion Chamber has been involved with and supported. None of the things would be possible without member dues.

Chris first introduced the Albion Chamber board members by having them stand at their seat. Board members include Mariah Keirn, Sandy Petrie, Kay Craig, Sharon Leitch, Ken Cripe, Carla Fiandt, Steve Hook, and Pattie Gatman.

Chris recognized **New Members and New to Town businesses**: Room-2-Room now has a brick & mortar storefront, Wellow’s Marketplace moved a few doors South, HomeTown Mix has new owners, Noble Strength Gym, Catchy Creations, Red’s Rusty Nail Boutique, Bates Technology and former Cougar Cone is under new ownership as Cowabunga Creamery.

Chris then talked about the many good projects funded **grants/facades/improvements**. Local businesses receiving money include Albion Pizza Depot, Noble County Miracle Tree, Brick Arc Inn B & B, BeNoble (fence for pocket park), Noble Enterprise, J & A Leasing (Red’s Boutique), Newman & Newman, Doc’s Hardware, Noble Property Group LLC (for Fox Den building).

Chris then moved on to introductions by having everyone introduce themselves and their business affiliation with the Chamber. Chris reminded everyone that there would be time later in the program for sharing business updates. There were several new attendees this year.

Chris provided a brief overview of both 2022’s and 2023’s budgets. She reminded everyone that all the budgeted projects are totally funded by membership dues, except for the flag program fund chaired by Ken Cripe. No questions were entertained.

Carla moved on to reviewing the ballot and asking for nominations from the floor. None were made. Because there were no floor nominations, it was decided to nullify the ballot since all four nominations would be elected. Therefore, the **2023 election results** are as follows: serving their second year on the Chamber board include Carla Fiandt, Pattie Gatman, Chris Magnuson, and Maria Keirn. Those nominees that will be serving for a 2-year term include Kay Craig, Steve Hook, Sharon Leitch, and Sandy Petrie. Both Tammy Luce and Ken Cripe will be stepping down. Carla also introduced the optional trivia sheet asking questions related to winter. These were rather tough questions to ponder.

Ken thanked the Ladies Sodality for the wonderful meal and venue and then led the group in prayer.

Chris released tables to fetch their food and enjoy their meal.

Towards the end of the meal, two presentations were given. Jenna Anderson with Thrive By 5 gave a 10-minute presentation on the Tri-Share program. Lori Gagen followed with a brief discussion on the updated Chamber website platform.

After the presentations, it was time to hear updates from anyone from the floor. Kay Craig stood up and provided the first update followed by various others providing updates and happenings with their businesses and organizations.

After business updates, Chris honored both Tammy Luce and Ken Cripe for their years serving on the Albion Chamber Board. Both are stepping down to pursue other ventures. Tammy was recognized for her years chairing the Christmas in the Village event and Light Parade. Ken was recognized for his years chairing the Flag Program, which has grown over the years. Chris handed both a card containing a generous monetary gift.

Maria then reviewed the answers to the trivia game. Only one individual was able to answer all but a couple of questions. The first and second winners received a warming blanket.

Door prize tickets were drawn for the flower centerpieces which were purchased at Lily of the Valley.

The evening was finished off by auctioning a one-of-a-kind and locally made Reese's peanut butter cheesecake to the highest bidder with proceeds going to the Lady's Sodality of the church who provide both delicious food and a place for fellowship. The bidding started at \$25 and soon blossomed to a \$100 bid by Matt Young, owner of Noble Strength. The Lady's Sodality was given \$100 from the auction event.

The event ended around 8 pm.

Minutes prepared on 2/4/2023 by Steve Hook on behalf of Sandy Petrie, Chamber Secretary, off on vacation.