

Hotchkiss Community Chamber of Commerce

Monthly membership meeting

November 2, 2011 – 7:30 a.m. Hotchkiss Public Library

Present: President Nathan Sponseller (First State Bank,) Treasurer-- Rhonda Duclo (Hotchkiss Public Library), Corresponding Secretary - Katherine Colwell (Rivendell Retreat), Recording Sec. – Tom Wills (Wills Gallery and Used Books), Katie Gnauck (Hotchkiss Trading Company), King Robertson (Hotchkiss Kiwanis - Memorial Hall), Marsy Moore (Delta County Federal Credit Union) and representatives (Kay Hotzenpillar and Mindy) from Hilltop Inc. for Delta, Montrose and Ouray Counties.

Chamber President, Nathan Sponseller, called the meeting to order.

It was moved that the minutes of the September meeting as written by Tom, and proofed and e-mailed out by Katherine, be approved with the addition that Debbie Cheeseman contributed to the discussion about Hotchkiss Bucks including the original idea. Debbie has experience with Crested Butte program. The motion was seconded and approved. The minutes are also available on the Hotchkiss Chamber website (www.hotchkisschamber.com).

Rhonda presented the Treasurer's report. It was moved, seconded and approved that the report be approved as presented. The general checking account showed a balance to date of \$2,221.03 and Special Projects stood at \$6,982.98. Income for the year to date: \$5,557.70. Expenses: \$7,137.78.

Rhonda reported that the spaces for the November 19th, Hotchkiss Chamber's Arts Crafts and Business Fair to benefit Memorial Hall are sold out and there is a waiting list in case of cancelations.

Corresponding Secretary's Report

There are now 82 members in the Chamber with the recent addition of artist photographer, Mary Hockenbery. Coyote Road was an early renewal.

Katherine reported that she is working on agricultural related page on the website as well as other items along with her regular duties. Kathy McKee of the Hotchkiss-Crawford Historical Society is working on updating the history page. Events for sharing on the Chamber calendar should be sent to chamberinfo@hotchkisschamber.com

Hilltop Presentation

Kay Hotzenpillar and another representative of the regional (Montrose, Delta and Ouray County) Hilltop Inc. gave an overview of the various services and programs that Hilltop offers. In Delta County, Tri-County Resources (domestic violence programs) and the Tandem Families mentoring program are two prominent Hilltop offerings. Hotzenpillar said that Hilltop is having funding problems with government money as well as grant availability being down over the last few years. The regional Hilltop has a total of 24 human service programs currently, many exclusive to Montrose County.

Business/Local Government Symposium

Nathan reported that January 21 appears to be a workable day for the joint chamber's "Local Business Meets Local Government" symposium. Oxbow Mining has initially confirmed

that they will be available to do a presentation on their business and the planned Oak Mesa project.

Hotchkiss Bucks- Holiday promotion

The HOT(chkiss) Bucks program, headed up by Elsie Edstrom of the Rose and the Downtown Merchants' Committee of the Chamber, will kick off on Saturday, November 19 at the Chamber's craft fair where there will be a booth selling the 20% discounted "bucks." They can be spent at participating merchants listed on the backs of each buck, dollar for dollar. After November 19 the HOT Bucks will be available for purchase at the First State Bank.

Holiday Lighting Contest

After a brief discussion it was moved by Tom Wills that the Chamber award \$75 for first place in both the residential and business holiday lighting contest with \$25 for the runner up in each category. Marsy Moore seconded and all were in favor. The public will once again judge the contest with nomination drop boxes at The Rose, First State Bank, Hotchkiss Short Stop and the Creamery. Votes will be compiled about a week before Christmas.

Officer Positions Open

Any member/member representative that would like to run for an officer position please get your name in to Nathan or Katherine by December 1. Tom Wills has announced that he is retiring for now from the Recording Secretary position and all of the other Board positions are up for yearly election. It was decided that the officer ballot would be included with the membership renewal mailings to be done in December. There will also be a vote on a revision of the by-laws. The proposed by-laws will be posted on the website.

Ride the Rockies/USA Pro Challenge

Nathan had a brief update on the tentative (not official-official yet) return of the Ride the Rockies bicycle tour to Hotchkiss on Sunday, June 10, 2012. The route and host municipalities will be confirmed in February. The RTR organizers will pay the town a visit in December.

Kelli Hepler of Delta County Tourism gave the members a heads up on the possibility that the 2012 USA Pro Challenge staged bicycle race may pass through the North Fork this coming year. Other possible pass-through towns include Delta and Cedaredge depending on the final route. Kelli would like information / liaison volunteers from each community to come to a few meeting to discuss planning.

Kid-Healthy Family Vacations

Kelli Hepler of Delta County Tourism asked if the Chamber had an interest in the Kid-Healthy Family Vacation program being proposed by the Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways committees. Hotchkiss is on the West Elk Scenic Loop. The program idea is to come up with an itinerary of suggested options that would keep kids busy at stops along the Byway. Parents could pick and choose from things that appealed to their family with the focus on exercise, healthy foods, etc. The Chamber members agreed that it sounded like a positive idea. Contact Keli for details of how your business might fit in.

Respectfully Submitted, Tom Wills - Recording Secretary