

Hotchkiss Community Chamber of Commerce

December 5, 2012

Monthly Members' Meeting - Hotchkiss Public Library

Present: President Nathan Sponseller, Corresponding Secretary - Katherine Colwell, Recording Secretary - Tom Wills, Treasurer - Rhonda Duclo, Vice President - Bill Long, Elaine Brett. Mary Hockenbery, Christina Asche-Busch, and Debbie Cheesman. Guest: Kathryn Oxford – Hotchkiss K-8 School.

President Nathan Sponseller called the December meeting to order and introductions were done. Those present welcomed first time attendee Christina Asche-Busch of Lewis and Company CPAs.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved as written and e-mailed to the membership.

The financial report prepared by Treasurer Rhonda Duclo was approved as presented. As of December the year's income stood at \$21,463.43 to \$17,724.86 in expenses. Income from the Colorado Grand and Ride the Rockies events put the Chamber into the black for the year.

Kathryn Oxford, a teacher at Hotchkiss K-8, presented information about the Tuesday Tutor program. This is a program made possible by a grant from Arch Coal, owner of the West Elk Mine. Oxford asked for Chamber members to consider volunteering to tutor students in the program.

Nathan and Bill reported that the DMEA remodel of the Visitor's Center was proceeding well and would be complete by the end of the year. One savings for the Chamber is that DMEA will carry its own insurance, something that should save us about \$187 per year.

Rhonda reported that the November 17, Chamber Arts, Crafts and Business Fair had gone well with all vendor spaces having sold out without doing a mailing. Shopper numbers seemed to be down somewhat from last year.

Katherine reported that the membership renewal mailing was ready to go out.

Tom reported that the Downtown Improvement Committee had met the morning before and had roughed out a plan of preparations for the 2013 season including the assembling of 10 new planters and planter benches made from locally produced mine timbers and assembled using mine roof bolts donated by the West Elk Mine. Beside refurbishing and replanting the existing and new planters work will also begin on a yet to be named alley park between the North Fork Valley Restaurant and The Rose. The Chamber DI Committee volunteers will also begin doing basic maintenance on the Littlefield Alley Park.

The next Chamber member meeting will be held on January 2 at 7:30 a.m. in the basement of the Hotchkiss Public Library.

Respectfully submitted, Tom Wills – Recording Secretary