



**Lake County Chamber Alliance
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
Friday, March 22, 2013 8:00am
LSSC Business Resource Center**

1. **Delegates In Attendance:** Mike Bucher, Shananne Cain, Jerry Cobb, Mark Dushane, Steve Jennelle, Jim Miller and Orin Owen.
Delegates Absent: Susan Brooks, Roger Byer, Beth Jenkins, Don Marx, Tom Miranda, Kelly Pisciotta and Dick Scott.
Directors: Peggy Hayes, Colleen McGinley, Ray San Fratello, Susan Martin and Jan Zacharchuck.
Alliance Partners: Deb Dyer, T.J. Fish, Bill Mathias, Carolyn Maimone, Jim Myers, Sean Parks, Tim Sullivan and Adam Sumner.
Visitors: Jonathan Till – Representative Bryan Nelson, Jennifer Wylie – Representative Larry Metz
2. **Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Minutes to be approved at April meeting.
4. **Financial Report:** Steve Jennelle
Lake Legislative Days (LLD) and regular January Alliance financials presented
LLD – better than projected.
Operating statement– need Eustis to report number of members.
East Lake is yet to be billed for their share of the Community Service Awards.
Website service fee is due. Tabled for April.
5. **Old Business**
Alliance Delegate Responsibilities Form
Mike Bucher – Most have been returned, but need remaining delegates to sign and return.
Alliance Website
Mike Bucher – Each chamber needs to ensure logos are up-to-date
Review website and give feedback on suggested improvements
Community Service Awards
Deb Dyer – Ceremony scheduled for April 24 at Lake Receptions; reception at 6, dinner at 7
Alliance 2013 Priorities
Mike Bucher – Review proposed Alliance 2013 priorities with chamber delegates. Goal is to have priorities reviewed at tentative May Alliance board/workshop meeting. The following initiatives were presented or discussed at Alliance meetings:
Capital Facilities Advisory Committee (CFAC)
Alliance representative and CFAC representative, Tim Sennett, resigned from Leesburg Chamber board. New delegate needed for Leesburg Chamber. Jim Miller offered and will consider the position. CFAC contributes significantly to long-term choices within the county. Tim Sullivan added that participation on CFAC will keep the Alliance informed of county decisions

Lake Legislative Days (LLD)

LLD is a “process” not an “event”. Agreed that delegates need to stay in contact with legislators in order to follow-up and document success of advocacy in order to evaluate success and plan for future LLD’s.

Key County Indicators

Agreed that such a report would be useful to chambers and to Lake County in recruiting new businesses to the county. Data to be included would include number of building permits issued, student enrollment and graduation counts amongst other leading indicators. All agreed that utilizing data currently available and consolidating all the data on the Alliance website would be best.

Other priority initiatives noted: transportation funding for disadvantaged. Rails for trails/Closing the Gaps, Business Opportunity Centers, on-line permitting, County capital budget items under review.

6. New Business:

Alliance Workshop

Mark Dushane – Purposes: 1) Regular monthly board meeting, 2) workshop and 3) social hour

Date/Location: Friday, May 30/Grand Oaks Resort, Weirsdale

Time: Regular Monthly Meeting of Alliance 2-2:30pm followed by workshop until 4:00pm with a Social Hour beginning at 5:00-5:30pm.

Delegates, Chamber Executives and partners will attend. Agreed that it would not be open to all chamber members and only limited to no more than 50 people. Workshop will help delegates address priority initiatives and in turn, be equipped to explain initiatives to their chamber boards.

Discussed funding workshop dinner with \$1500 from Lady Lake Chamber, Advanced Capital, Lake County Economic Development and LLD funds. Agreed workshop groups need to stay relatively small to encourage and allow interaction.

General Discussion

T.J. Fish supports, stating delegates are the “representatives” of the chambers in Alliance meetings and need to be as informed as much as possible.

Commissioner Sullivan supports and stated the Alliance is the “voice” of the business community and needs to stay informed while reporting information to their represented chambers. Commissioner Sullivan went on to say 80% of tax revenue currently comes from residents and the county needs to grow economically to reduce this burden on its residents. Currently only 22% of the county’s budget is controlled by the County Commissioners – the rest is controlled by Constitutional Officers not Commissioners.

Colleen McGinley encouraged delegates to attend the workshop with proposed solutions to present to the County Commissioners.

Jonathan Till reported that Representative Nelson wants alternatives and solutions – he desires to hear our ideas

7. **Alliance Partnership Reports**

Lake County Commission

Commissioner Sullivan – Tax revenue down 35-38% equates to tough decisions required. One area being looked at is the law library which is costing tax payers \$185,000 a year to maintain with very limited usage. Top priority is to maintain current “quality of life”. Revenues are projected to decrease by 3% over last years. The commission needs input from groups such as the alliance.

Lake County School Board

Councilman Mathias – Reported that career tech programs are key to the county’s future economy. One of the school boards priorities is to advance to an “A” rated school system. Currently at a 95.87% graduation rate. Board is working on an improved curriculum packet.

North West Regional Board of Advisors

Ray San Fratello – Workshop to be conducted next week in Orlando Chamber. Surveys went out 4 weeks ago and when results are available he will forward to all chambers.

Lake Sumter MPO

TJ Fish – East Lake/North Orange County meeting later in the day to discuss funding issues. Will be asking municipalities to support renewal of current gas taxes which are scheduled to end. Four of the five county commissioners are required for the vote to pass. He discussed the transit development plan and explained the challenges to paratransit services in Lake County.

Representative Bryan Nelson

Jonathan Till – Survey results were distributed to all chamber and he encourages each to share results with their members.

Lake County Home Builders Association

Carolyn Maimong – reported that she is now Executive Director of Lake-Sumter Home Builders and that she currently tracks data such as number of building permits and would share the data.

Lake County Economic Development & Tourism

Adam Sumner – reported Metro Orlando EDC reception will be held March 28 at LSSC and reservations are required to attend in order to prepare name tags for attendees.

Adjourned: Mike Bucher – 9:20am

8. **Next Regular Meeting**

April 26 at 8:00am

Submitted by: Jeff W. Smith, Lake County Chamber Alliance Recording Secretary