



**Lake County Chamber Alliance
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
Friday, February 27th, 2015
Lake Sumter State College**

In Attendance

Delegates: Mark DuShane, Jim Miller, Orin Owen, Shananne Cain, Mike Bucher, Chris Mitchell, Steve Skaggs, Don Marx, Davis Talmage, Thuy Lowe, Dan Robuck

Delegates Absent: Catherine Hanson, Steve Jenelle, Jerry Cobb, Tom Miranda, Phyllis Buam, Roger Beyers, Beth Jenkins

Directors: Ray San Fratello, Sandi Moore, Rob English, Sue Kelly

Liaison: TJ Fish, Bill Mathias, Yolanda Watkins, Debi MacIntyre, Nancy Muenzmay, Adam Sumner, Jim Myers, Amanda Wettstein (Lake Legislative Days)

1. Call to Order: (Jim Miller) 8:03 a.m.

Invocation	Don Marx
Pledge of Allegiance	Don Marx

2. Treasurer's Report

- Orin Owen reported that the Chamber Alliance is positive on Lake Legislative Days.

3. Old Business

Lake Legislative Days (Amanda Wettstein)

- Amanda Wettstein reported that Lake Legislative Days 2015 was a success.
- Plan to have feedback shortly and the goal is to have seed money for next year
- Lake Legislative Days has become more expensive due to hosting reception at the Governor's Club

- Goal for next year is to open up sponsorship to smaller businesses to give them a chance to participate
- Mike Bucher introduced the idea of keeping delegates up to date on the bills that were lobbied for in Tallahassee
- Next year, goal is to give sponsors more recognition
- Delegates discussed the possibility of Lake County having a lobbyist

Penny Sales Tax (Amanda Wettstein)

- The League of Cities has given \$15,00 to fund the poll for the penny sales tax
- The poll ran the weekend of 2/21. Results should be in within a month
- Committee is working of how to get multiple groups to deliver the same message
- Nancy Muenzmay reported on the Tavares luncheon where groups showed the benefit of the penny sales tax and how it benefits the groups

4. New Business

- Mike Bucher made a motion to move the March meeting to the Clermont Community center. Chris Mitchell seconded the motion.

5. Alliance Partnership Reports

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Business Opportunity Centers

- No Report

MPO

- TJ Fish reported on the MPO Summit on March 27th in Clermont. The summit will be called "Pedaling Toward Eco-tourism Success". TJ stated that people are coming to Lake County to cycle; they are planning trips around cycling. Currently, the coast-to-coast trail is in the process of being completed, which will benefit Lake County tourism. The biggest gap in the trail is between Groveland and Hernando. Also, the trail is Mt. Dora will be connected to Seminole County to hook up with the Wekiva Trail. TJ also reported on another upcoming summit in July entitled "Sidewalks Around Schools". The county is looking for \$50 million for sidewalks around schools. These dollars would come from the penny sales tax.

Lake County Commission

- No report

Lake County School Board

- Bill Mathias reported on NR2- where parents opt out of spring testing. He also reported on merit pay. Currently merit pay is based on 50% for tests and 50% for observation. If a teacher fails three tests & observations, they are ineligible to teach anymore.

Lake County Economic Development & Tourism

- Adam Sumner reported that Economic Development is currently in the process of moving offices. He also reported that Course Lab is coming to Leesburg and will bring 55 new jobs to the area. Two more manufacturers are also considering sites in Lake County as well.

HBA of Lake & Sumter Counties

- No report

Be Free Lake

- Debi Macintyre reported on a town hall forum that will be held on March 17th at LSSC. The forum will be discussing Lake County's social issues.

League of Cities (LOC)

- Jim Myers reported that the Lake County Community Service Awards judging will be held on March 5th.

Capital Facilities Funding Advisory Committee (CFAC)

- No report

CareerSouce Central Florida (CSCF)

- Yolanda Watkins reported that CareerSource is working on letting employers know that they are available to help. Currently, they are working on a GED program and will be conducting in-house interviews. A resource room has also recently been set up which has computers to help with job searches.

Legislators Reports

- No Report

Library Foundation of Lake County

- No report

6. Adjournment

Adjourned at 8:57 a.m. (Jim Miller)

7. Next Meeting

Friday, March 27, 2015 8:00 a.m. at Clermont City Center

Submitted by Hannah DuShane, Lake County Chamber Alliance Recording Secretary