

9/20/10 GABA Board Meeting Minutes

Present: Barb Hogarth, Ken Zecklin, George Waden, Tim Simpson, Mike Kirsch, Rick Vojvodic, Kay Conklin, Sue Hefner, Lisa Reynolds.

Meeting called to order at 6:10 pm.

Minutes: August board meeting minutes approved.

Membership: Stands at 44. No new memberships this month.

Correspondence: None

Township/Fire Dept: No report

Park: The September social, sponsored by Stantall Studio/Easyweb Studio brought in \$85.00 for the park fund. The October social will be sponsored by, and held at, Glenn Manor on Thursday, Oct. 14.

Website: Kathy Stanton (Easyweb Studio) delivered a hard copy report of display traffic and visitor activity for the website from 5-15-10 to 9-19-10. A copy of this report may be obtained from Kathy Stanton or Barb Hogarth.

Fall Dinner: We would like to set a date for the dinner, and will hold elections that night. That is the meeting that garners the most members, so will get the best voter response. Mike will call Fenn Valley to check on dates, and Rick will contact What Not, Earls Farm Market, the Glenwood, and the Glenn Store to ask if they wish to participate again this year. Girl scouts did serving last year, so we will also need to find serving people for this year. The other option is to have it at one of the member restaurants that can accommodate that number of people, and, perhaps, rotate location from year to year. Last year, GABA lost \$300.00+ on the event, but the thought was that this is for the membership to meet and greet, and we should tap the treasury for that purpose. Therefore, we will keep participant cost about the same as last year. We will also have a discussion period during the dinner.

South Haven Area Business Networking Group: George Waden (Homebodies of Western Michigan) spoke to the group about his networking group. This is a group that's purpose is to grow your business through a network of like-minded business associates. The format includes a 60 second elevator speech by each member, one 10 minute presentation on each member's business (rotating basis), one 10 minute educational presentation that will benefit the group (rotating basis), lunch, and networking. The group meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at noon Maria's Restaurant, 330 Center St., South Haven, MI. The cost is the price of your lunch and 1 hour of your time twice monthly. The rewards are meeting other business owners who are interested in growing their business and are willing to promote **your** business as well when the opportunity arises. Only one business per business type (ie, only one plumber or one landscaper) can be a member at any given time. If you are interested, George would ask for at least a 6 month commitment, and he can be contacted at 269-857-3472, (c) 269-767-2955, or at George@homebodieswm.com.

South Haven Area Chamber of Commerce: Rachel Vochaska (Executive Director of the South Haven Chamber) spoke to the group about the Chamber (SHC) and its programs available to GABA members through GABA's reciprocal membership with the SHC. Your GABA secretary was not able to keep up, so the highlights will be covered. The take away message, however, is that if you have

business concerns, questions, ideas.....the SHC is there as a conduit to the information or answers you may be seeking. Use it and its programs. It is there **for you and your business.**

The SHC is geared toward entrepreneurs.....business owner/operators. Programs and events are "wrapped" around them. At present, there are just under 400 members, and the Chamber's "reach" is approximately a 20 mile radius around South Haven. The "in the loop" emails show dates and times of upcoming business "events", but a full fall/winter schedule is also available. I will present a brief overview of some of the programs.

BRACE: Business Resources and Counseling for Entrepreneurs. The mission of BRACE is to provide a supportive and systematic approach to small business development that will spur economic revitalization and encourage economic sustainability in Van Buren County. The premise and group worksheets can be adjusted to apply to an area like Glenn.

AFTER BUSINESS HOURS: Evening networking event held at a SHC member business, the third Thursday of the month Sept. through May. Relaxed, social networking.

BUSINESS FOR BUSINESS FORUM: Early morning program offered quarterly to create business for business.

ENTREPRENEURS CLUB: An interactive and informative discussion to connect people who are interested in developing a business concept or growing an established business with tools, resources, and opportunities across Van Buren county.

THE LANSING CONNECTION: Semi annual forum which provides an opportunity for local businesses to join in and hear the current issues on Capitol Hill and provide direct feedback to Lansing.

SUMMIT: A thought provoking and dynamic annual forum that attracts an audience from around the state. With a focus on entrepreneurship, Summit is a high caliber educational program geared toward creating a change in the culture and promoting a call to action.

Thank you to Earl's Farm Market and Conklin Real Estate for providing coffee and cookies!

Treasury Report: Available general funds: \$1131.80

Available Glenn Square funds: \$624.89

Next GABA board meeting: Monday, October 18, at 6:30 pm. At the Conklin building.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

GABA Board:

President: Tim Simpson (Tim Simpson Carpentry)

Vice President: Vacant

Treasurer: Mike Kirsch (Seymour House B & B)

Secretary: Barb Hogarth (Blue Star Studio of Wood and Glass)

Trustees: Ken Zecklin (KZ Small Engine Repair)

Rick Vojvodic (R & N Services)

IMPORTANT DATES:

Glenn Square Social: Thursday, October 14, from 6-8 pm at Glenn Manor

GABA Board Meeting: Monday, October 18, at 6:30 at the Conklin building.

GABA Annual Dinner: Tuesday, November 9 at the What Not.

South Haven Chamber Events:

E-Club: What do the legal eagles say - legal contracts and record keeping. Oct 14 from 6-8pm.

Lake MI college - SH Campus

