

La Veta/Cuchara Chamber of Commerce  
Combined Board and Membership Meeting  
Monday, November 10, 2008  
La Veta Public Library Community Room  
5:00 p.m.

The Meeting was called to order by President Steve Perkins at 5:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Steve Perkins, Liz Henson, Tracy Webb, Marta Moore,  
Don Lowell, Linda Frederick, Renee Rinehart,  
Rich Snyder  
Board Members Absent: Mitzi Keairns, Sarah Good, Dave Rinehart  
Others Present: Sjani Boggs (Huerfano County Outreach Clinic)  
Kathy Hill (SPACe), Nancy Wooldridge (Spanish  
Peaks Interiors & Deer Tracks on The River), Chris  
Hudson (La Veta Coffee Company) and Brad  
Atchison (Pinon Hill Pottery)

Upon motion by Linda Frederick, second by Don Lowell the **MINUTES OF OCTOBER 6, 2008** were approved with the following correction:

Phones & E-Mails – Upon motion by Tracy Webb, seconded by Dave Rinehart, the Chamber will endeavor to enter into a contract with Betty Brown/Methodist Church to answer the Chamber phone and e-mails for the period November 1, 2008 – April 30, 2009 at the rate of \$100 per month. (These dates were previously presented as November 1, 2007 – April 30, 2008).

Linda Frederick reported that Betty Brown/Methodist Church has agreed to continue answering the Chamber's telephone and e-mails under a new contract dated November 1, 2008 through April 30, 2009 at the rate of \$100 per month. The Chamber will purchase a new answering machine to replace our current machine that is not operating properly. Betty Brown suggested that a town map be placed at the Depot for people getting on and off the train. The Chamber will address this request next year. Additionally, the Chamber will address adding camping information to our Chamber website.

No **TREASURER'S REPORT** to present at this meeting.

**CHAMBER CHRISTMAS PARTY** – The Annual Meeting and Chamber Christmas party will be held on Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:30 p.m. at The 1899 Inn on Main Street. Marta Moore and Liz Henson will coordinate the decorations for the party. Additionally both Marta and Liz will be at the party early to receive and set out the food that will be provided by Board Members. Chris Hudson volunteered to provide the coffee and the Signature will have an announcement in the newspaper. Several members offered to provide door prizes for the party. Board Members and Officers were assigned member names to call to invite them to this event.

Steve reported that the **CHAMBER NEWSLETTER** was recently mailed out to all members. Members were advised that Chamber Minutes can now be viewed through our Chamber web site.

A **NOMINATING COMMITTEE** comprised of Steve Perkins, Tracy Webb and Don Lowell will meet soon to come up with member names for the upcoming 2009 Board and Officer elections.

**ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET** – Steve Perkins will touch base with Huerfano Chamber of Commerce.

**COG GRANT** – Tracy Webb reported that she will contact the Council of Governments to determine what is required to finalize the paperwork on our recently received grant money.

**HOLIDAY SEASON DECORATING** – At a recent Town Board Meeting, approval was given for the Chamber to place lights on trees on Main Street, at the Town Hall Depot, Box car and Town Park Gazebo. Approval was also given to greet the trains on December 6, 13 & 20 with music, caroling and luminaries/farolitos. Several members volunteered to determine how many lights we need, acquire the supplies, etc. It was decided that volunteers will meet in front of Charlies at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> to decorate. Marta Moore will contact the Town Tree Board to see if they will assist in decorating. Steve Perkins will contact Bob at True Value Hardware to see if they have any interest in sponsoring a Christmas Decorating Contest. Grandote offered use of their bucket truck and San Isabel will be contacted as well.

**POLAR EXPRESS** – Debra Malone is coordinating Christmas carolers to greet passengers on the upcoming Polar Express. Mitzi has coordinated a photographer to take pictures as they board the train. Steve Perkins invited all interested members to join him for a breakfast meeting on Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. at Sammie's. The San Luis train people will be at this meeting. The following members volunteered to greet train passengers: December 6<sup>th</sup> – Tracy Webb and Nancy Wooldridge; December 13<sup>th</sup> – Tracy Webb, Steve Perkins and Don Lowell; and December 20<sup>th</sup> – Marta Moore and Liz Henson. Chris Hudson and/or Renee Rinehart offered their tents for these events. The trains board at 6:00 p.m. and return at 7:00 p.m. Volunteers should be set up prior to 6:00 p.m.

Upon motion by Don Lowell, seconded by Liz Henson, the Chamber will allocate up to \$500 to promote the upcoming Christmas activities in our Valley. The motion was approved unanimously. Steve Perkins will coordinate the advertising on our local NPR radio station, local newspapers (including Pueblo and Colorado Springs) and our Chamber website. These ads will run through mid-December.

**OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS:** Open House at Dream Mountain – December 6<sup>th</sup>; SPACE Progressive Fundraising Dinner – December 6<sup>th</sup>; Santa and Tree Lighting in La Veta – December 6<sup>th</sup>; Ricki Tims concerts – December 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

Sjani Boggs with the **HUERFANO COUNTY OUTREACH CLINIC** in Walsenburg announced a Cooking Class on November 20<sup>th</sup> featuring diabetic friendly and healthy cooking alternatives for the upcoming holiday season. Call for reservations at 738-2718. Steve Perkins handed out a recent article from Open Air.USA Today spotlighting winter activities that could be featured in our Cuchara Valley area. These are ideas that can be looked at for our 2009 Calendar Year.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Henson, Secretary