

***Our Mission: To be a valid and dynamic link between local business and the community.***

1. **Call to order** Called to order at 7:30 by Vice President Ginny O'Harrow
2. **Member Spotlight - Senior Center, Home Respite and Commission on Aging**
  - a. (Senior Center: Debbie Arndt) Three non-profit agencies that utilize this building. Just updated the building, new elevator and securing funding to renovate the basement area as well. The building is available on the weekend for 'donations'. Capacity of ~300. It's a city building, run by a non-profit board. Looking to expand programming. Senior Center runs on a very slim budget and held their first fundraising campaign last year. Second one will be coming out this fall. All funds go towards continued maintenance, upgrades and programming to fully utilize the space.
  - b. (Home Respite: Annette Berringer) They are an all volunteer organization with one paid employee. Help provide a daycare for people who are homebound and their caregiver needs time to go grocery shopping, etc. Offer services one to two times per week. COVID has brought on hiccups working through capacity. Working through issues of lack of volunteers. Do some home visits on request. Volunteers have to be certified. Couple of fundraisers each year.
  - c. (Commission on Aging: Bobbie Knause) Meal site is at the senior center. Office is located in Oconto 6 different meal sites to offer social avenue, as well as meal delivery route. Provide 150+ meals across the county. 3 drivers who provide meal delivery. Stock Box Program with Hunger task force (anybody 60+ once per month shelf stable foods + cheese), any meal sites have eat in or carry out options. Transportation program: provides county-wide transportation. In-city routes in Oconto Falls and Oconto. In Oconto Falls, it's one day per week, in Oconto it's 5 days per week. Drivers who will drive across the county on an as-needed appointment. Four wheelchair vans. Volunteer drivers who volunteer their time and their vehicle to take people to appointments. In Oconto they have a loan closet for durable medical equipment. Ask for it to be returned upon end of use. Also have some depends, pads and briefs for donation. Elder benefits specialist - help people sign up for social security, Medicaid, Medicare. Also have

**Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup> • 7:30 a.m. • Oconto Falls Senior Center, 512 Caldwell Avenue**

**Board meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 7:30 a.m., monthly Membership meetings: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday January – November (noon or 7:30 a.m.)**

disability specialist at ADRC. Together run clinics during the summer on the basics of Medicare until open enrollment (Oct-Dec).

### **3. Introductions and membership updates**

- a. Ken Harter- FFA Alumni, St Anthony's Church. Oconto County Fair next weekend August **22-25**. Open Class entries dropped off Monday and Tuesday. Opening Ceremony Thursday evening at 6p. Oconto COunty Farm Bureau is recognizing farms and residences that have been recognized as centennial or sesquicentennial farms of family ownership (four families recognized). Sale of champions is Sunday at noon for youth livestock exhibitors. Always looking for additional bidders/organizations. Two FFA (Emily Elliot, Bailey Peterson) AgriScience Fair National competitors. Received top gold at state in June and applied to compete in Indianapolis in October. St. Anthony's biennial Food Truck Event Monday, September 9th at St. Anthony's. Vergie Damp - FFA Alumni, Provide breakfast burrito Friday and Saturday morning for exhibitors in the barns. Katie Jagiello - OEC, will be at the fair Friday night serving nachos to the kids who are exhibiting. Jackie Patz, Konkel Accounting, offseason for taxes, but always accepting new clients. Shelby Best just celebrated one year at Black Cactus Beauty. Destiny - Wireless Cellcom Oconto/Oconto Falls, good turnout at celebration tent events. Back to school sale through Monday. Next month will release fiber optic internet solution. no throttle speeds, comparable to spectrum. \$49/month unlimited everything. Available for purchase 1400 square foot radius. Dean Hess - Oconto Falls School District, getting ready for school year September 3rd first day. Thanks to FFA Alumni for lunch on the first day. Middle School 55% complete, ahead of schedule, and under budget. August 23rd Battle of Highway 22, 7:00 Oconto. Partnership with Encompass for 4K. Thanks for the support from the community. Debbie COppens - NWTC, also partnering with encompass to help early childhood certification. Encompass pays an extra 15 hours per week for continuing education. Kelly Schwartz - TEDCOR marketing communications. Chrsitine Grezlach - Trick or Treat Trail - 16 confirmed vendors, room for more. Working on improvements for parking, will have a shuttle to alleviate parking congestion. Will split into two sessions to minimize trail congestion. Will have online registration. Still looking for monetary donations to continue to make it a free event (covering porta potty, game prizes, etc.). Chamber is the Fiscal Agent Debbie Arndt, Angie Ahlgrim Oconto Falls Ambulance and Community Garden. Donated 1000 lbs of produce this year so far.

#### **4. Reports**

- a. Secretary: no changes or updates
- b. Treasurer: concert funds in and out, office supplies, advertising, 'swag' purchases. NO questions.
- c. Chamber Bucks: Order online, please put a note of the date you need them.
- d. City Administrator: Thanks to the chamber for help with the ribbon cutting of the fire station. Open house will be Sunday, August 25th 3-5 pm at the Fire Station. Awarded a block grant for the Columbia Street project. Will have a public meeting for Mobil Station and Hardees regarding blight. Have some potential housing projects.

#### **5. Events**

- a. Leadership Oconto County: five participants, just started. Great
- b. Community events: Cottages have their carnival August 31st from 11-4 at the Cottages and will also include a fill the Edge school supply event. August 30-31st Little Suamico Days at the Field area.

#### **6. Unfinished Business**

- a. July Evening Meeting: Chamber hosted a meeting at the community garden. Tours by Wally Taylor.
- b. July Concert: crowds were good, weather was beautiful. Thank you to all our setup and bartenders, food vendors.
- c. Any unfinished business

#### **7. New Business**

- a. August Concert: Tomorrow night, holding it a week earlier than 'normal'. Traditionally they were the 4th Friday. This is earlier to accommodate school/sports, Drive West Band: Country/Rock Variety. Always need volunteers 'behind the scenes' for setup, takedown, bartending, etc. Thanks to Dean Hess. Ken: collaborate with school organizations (FFA, FBLA, NHS community services) for volunteer opportunities? Trick or Treat Trail, 50/25/25 volunteer/fundraising opportunity.
- b. Canva Availability: We have a membership, if you are interested in utilizing it, please reach out to the chamber email if you are interested in utilizing it.
- c. Any other new business

Meeting Adjourned at 8:27.

**Next Meeting:**

Thursday, September 19th, **noon**, held at Grace Lutheran Church

**Communications:**

Electronic welcome signs: [ocountofallsscott@gmail.com](mailto:ocountofallsscott@gmail.com)

Newsletter, social media, website (including employment opportunities):

[ocountofallschamber@gmail.com](mailto:ocountofallschamber@gmail.com)