

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

1. Call to order at 12:06 by President Danielle Kline

2. Member Spotlight - Ann Senn Realtor - Keller Williams: Ann provided a market update: increase in listings in the last two months. Interest rates were keeping a lot of people from selling, now they're down around 6, likely to go under in the next month or two. Should balance the market better. Ann also explained the real estate lawsuit many people have talked about: Some states don't have very good real estate forms (Wisconsin isn't one of them). In some states, there was no explanation of where the commission was going and agents were not disclosing to the sellers where the commission was going. Wisconsin forms have always been clear with two sections covering this topic. As a result, now it cannot be publicly advertised what the buyer's agent is being paid. The only difference in WI is that there is one line added to listing contracts stating offers of negotiation are not mandated and are negotiable. This isn't a change in business practices, just in the form itself.

3. Introductions and membership updates

Ginny O'Harrow's Family Farm: Harvest season is upon us, corn silage and manure. Be patient on the road **HSHS:** Colleen Koski is the new CAO (Chief Administrative Officer) replacing Chris Brabant. Recent system-wide changes to center the key markets. WI Division, Central IL division and Southern IL. The reason for this is to try and align leadership structure and provide autonomy to individual markets. This is an exciting opportunity for St. Clare to have autonomy. **Angie Oconto Falls Ambulance** has been busy, please pull over for ambulances with lights and sirens on. **Oconto Falls Community Garden** has donated 2,991 pounds to Kingdom Come Food Pantry. Thanks to all the community groups continuing to help. **Bill Koehne Packerland Websites** now has six chambers as clients. Nonprofits are half price. **Abrams Theater** Tickets go on sale October 5th for Seussical the Musical. High energy show all 1300 tickets might be sold by Thanksgiving. All sponsors also receive two free tickets to each show. The Chamber will be doing a drawing to give theirs away at this meeting. **Ashley Oconto Falls Lioness:** Avenue of Lights is coming back, thanks to community sponsors and partners to make it possible this year. Letters should be coming out in the next few weeks. Will be sent out via the chamber if you want one and don't receive it. Also holding a fall meat raffle

Thursday, September 19th • noon • Grace Lutheran Church, 501 S. Main Street

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

November 10th at S&S (Packer Bye Week). **Ken FFA Alumni and St. Anthony Parish:** Monday, St. Patrick's and the Red Cross will be having a Bloodmobile from 1-6p. Call Sandy Rieth or go to the Red Cross Website. Week from tomorrow is homecoming. FFA/Alumni are holding our pregame booyah outside the ag department (across from the trail going to the field). Open house of the ag department as well (4:00 to game start). Meat Raffle at Steel Moose Saturday Oct 19th starting at noon. **Destiny Pro Wireless** in Oconto/Oconto Falls is now taking iPhone 16 pre orders. Launch tomorrow, but can do pre orders until the end of the month. Unlimited plus select plan offers trade in where the phone is basically free. Other plans also have some trade in options. Internet is in Lakewood, but will hopefully be here October/November. **Dean Hess Oconto Falls School District:** athletic programs in full swing, check in the school website for concerts and activities. Middle School is still going well and the district website has video updates; under budget and ahead of schedule. October 5th **Lions Club** having a booyah sale in the morning at Piggly Wiggly. **Kristi Larsen - Chiropractic Advantage** is having a Get Your Bones Checked Event. Patients 17 and under get a complete health consult, ortho, neuro, x-rays and report of findings for free. \$20 adjustments for kids as well. **Pam Langley Grace Lutheran** Trunk or Treat again this year during City Trick or Treating. Operation Christmas Child is also coming up: fill a shoebox sent through Samaritan's Purse to children in need around the world. Hopefully next month will have shoeboxes and instructions for people to take/fill/return. **Cathy Hansen - Cottages Director** introduced Andy (Andrea) as the new Life Enrichment Coordinator. Activities, live music scheduled through January of next year. New activities as the population is changing. Trying to start clubs on Tuesdays. Book Club, Card Club, Red Hat Society - looking to start a men's club for any ideas. Also some Saturday activities now too. Carnival at the end of August - good turnout. Topped last year's \$800 at \$1000 donation to the Humane Society. Walk to End Alzheimer's and bake sale, raffle buckets. \$225 donated to Alzheimer's research. Thinking about adding a walk to the carnival next year. Will be participating in Trick or Treat Trail. Residents are participating in Homecoming dress up days. Permission was given for senior high school students to come and chalk the parking lot. Were TPd last year and that was a hit with residents. Both buildings will be open for Trick-or-Treaters during the City-wide event. **Katie Oconto Electric Cooperative** will be hosting their bagged lunch on Election Day. Flyers will go out to local businesses if delivery is requested. Otherwise it will be a drive-through event. Ground was broken near the office for the new substation. **Jessie and Selena Encompass Childcare:** Opened June 10th and currently have around 50 kids, in need of more teachers so spread the

word. Working with the school district for a morning 4K program in the basement. Also started up with a Head Start program in preschool room and started to recruit to get kids and families the help they need. The Big Event for kids is Saturday at Heritage Hill and is free. Will be participating in the Trick or Treat Trail. **Danielle New View** had lunch and bake sale thanks to all who attended. 50th anniversary next month and October 23rd will be having an open house to celebrate. Watch for details. Selling Calendar raffles with 93 chances to win. Limited quantity, \$10 each.

4. Reports

- a. Secretary's report approved as distributed.
- b. Treasurer's report passed out. Included some expenses from the concerts and one new membership.
- c. Chamber Bucks: Ashley and Ginny are going to businesses that accept them and take pictures to help promote them. Start thinking about family, teacher, employee gifts. If you order online, please include a date you need them by so we can be sure to get them to you.
- d. City Administrator: Getting bid out for Columbia Street anticipating it to be just under \$3 million excited to have it done before middle school. Depending on the weather, it might even start this fall. Sidewalks will be on the south/school side for the sidewalks. There will be tree impact on both sides of the street. Working with the former Mobil Station and former Hardees to be able to bring in a new housing opportunity. Application has been submitted for downtown to be part of Wisconsin Economic Development to help with grant funding. RFP out for garbage and recycling so there may be a change next year depending on how they come back. Budget time is coming up. Managing with a slim margin and rearranging things. Will be borrowing more money for the street project.
- e. Library: Kids are back in school and the library is quiet. Story time Tuesdays at 10:30 and toddler play time. Sewing classes just had two spots open for Saturday October 5th. Oct 15th November/Dec classes will be posted soon. The Hispanic Heritage month display was just updated, stop in and check it out! Humana is providing senior friendly technology classes every two weeks Oct 30th at 1: Tech 101; Nov 13th protect against scams; 27th: using technology to stay connected. No registration needed. Another craft supply exchange will be taking place this fall. Ahead of time you bring in things and receive an early access coupon on the day of the exchange. Offer leftovers to local teachers. Friends of the Library are always looking for additional members. Next

meeting is Oct 23rd at 3p in the library meeting room. If you'd like to join, but can't attend, contact Rachel.

5. Events

- a. Leadership Oconto County just held the first full-day seminar where participants did team building activities. Will be heading north for October.
- b. Community events: Blood drive at St. Clare Monday, Sept 23rd 10-2 through Community Blood Bank
- c. Trick or Treat Trail Saturday, October 26th from 10-noon West Side Beach
- d. Glover's Bar in Abrams will be having The Renegade Band from 6-9 on October 28th
- e. Studio at Impressions will be having Yoga Under the Lights at ST Paper stadium at 7:00 p.m. on September 19.
- f. Wheels Wings and Things (Fly in) in Oconto is this Saturday, 21st 9a-4p
- g. Fundraiser for Lena Library: Wooden Shoe Bar, Oct 5th 1p-3p
- h. Nuf Noshery: Comedy Night, Friday Oct 4th 7p-9p
- i. Oconto Harvest Fest 10a-3p on September 28th
- j. Homecoming parade this Sunday the 22nd at 6p with rally after at the stadium

6. Unfinished Business

- a. Concerts
 - i. 2024 Recap: Grace Lutheran Church paid for June Porta Potties - thank you! Weather was not on our side, hope to have all three next year! Ann suggested looking into rain insurance.
 - ii. Dates and bands are set for next year. Mark your calendars:
 1. June 20, 2025: Carbon Road
 2. July 25, 2025: Drive West
 3. August 15, 2025: Warden
- b. Any unfinished business

7. New Business

- a. Gauging Interest in 2025 Meeting Hosts: Sign-up sent around looking for interest to plan out next year. Please indicate if you're interested in hosting, your preferred time of day/month/location needed or tour availability.
- b. Board of Directors Nominations: will be having elections in November with a few openings. Reach out if interested.

- c. Trick or Treat Trail: 25 confirmed vendors (some new, some returns) have a registration this year for two different start times. Haven't distributed flyers yet, will be sent out next week already over 200 children have signed up. Main focus is parking and traffic efficiency. A few things in the works in terms of meeting that need. Charity BINGO, last night raised \$1000 thank you to all that came out to support!
 - i. Volunteers are still needed for a variety of shifts and length of shift on the day of the event. Also looking for candy donations.
 - ii. A motion was made by Ken and seconded by Cathy to donate \$250 to the Trick or Treat Trail this year. The motion carried.
- d. Any other new business

8. **Meeting** adjourned at 1:09 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, October 17th, **noon**, held at Oconto Falls City Hall

Communications:

Electronic welcome signs: ocontofallsscott@gmail.com

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

ocontofallschamber@gmail.com