

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

- 1. Call to order at 12:08 p.m. by Danielle Kline**
- 2. Member Spotlight** - Grace Lutheran Church shared information about what they are doing in the community and offered their assistance to community groups and events. Thank you to Grace Lutheran Church for allowing the Chamber to utilize their beautiful space for meetings.
- 3. Introductions and membership updates**
Katie - OEC: Focus on Energy is offering a 50% thermostat discount for smart thermostats (doesn't matter if you're OEC or City, check their website for application). Donations made this year include \$1000 to Victory Olympics, \$5000 Oconto Falls Legion for new matching uniforms for funerals, \$7500 to Nurse's Nook.
Virgie Damp and Ken Harter - Oconto Falls FFA Alumni and St. Anthony Parish: Saturday December 7th: breakfast with St. Nick at St. Anthony. FFA Alumni Christmas on Main hosting a s'mores station in front of the library. Fruit delivery will be December 18th.
Ashley Bahrke Oconto Falls Lioness Club: Thanks for donations/supporters of Fall Meat Raffle. Avenue of Lights lighting November 30th 6:00 p.m. Thanks Grace Youth Group, Boy Scouts, OEC for making it happen this year.
Bill Koehne, Packerland Websites - donated \$70,000 in kind services to non-profits this year. Offering discounts of up to half or more off for non-profits, faith-based, veteran-based websites. Abrams Theater is performing Seussical Dec 5-15th. Limited tickets available at AbramsTheater.com. March is Godspell auditions.
Stuart Russ Oconto Falls High School Principal: Concerts coming up for all grade levels, winter sports, 1-act play taking off for state now.
Dean Hess, Superintendent of Schools: head to the website for the activities going on. Middle school coming along ahead of schedule and under budget and 72% complete. Anticipate having keys by the end of June.
Kevin Malnor, Tri-County United Way. New for 2025: Coupon book with coupons valued at over \$900 for anyone who pledges \$52 or more. They will be available at the beginning of 2025 via the website.
Oconto County Health and Transportation steering committees (As a result of the community survey; AODA, Mental Health, Transportation the top three issues). New View received a grant and is partnering with Menomonie Transit in Wisconsin and covering Shawano, Langlade counties. Moving into Oconto County in 2025. Paid drivers (free service if you qualify, suggested donations otherwise). Still looking for a representative of Oconto County

Thursday, November 21st • noon • Grace Lutheran Church, 501 S. Main Street, Oconto Falls

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

on the United Way Board. Support 211 mental health hotline. Local, Wisconsin-based call center that can direct callers to local mental health services. **Destiny - ProWireless/Cellcom:** Black Friday sales through Dec 2nd. iPhone and Galaxy deals. Home internet solution still in the works. Hopefully by the second week of December will be able to pull up addresses. There will be an outside and inside option available. **Rebekah and Debbie from NWTC:** Fall semester is winding down. Spring is January and will have entry level firefighter, nursing assistant, EMR/First Responder classes currently enrolling. **Colleen HSHS St. Clare:** partnering with Prevea to expand ortho services and general surgery in a more robust way as truly a need in this county. Mission projects going on through the holidays: Food Drives for Kingdom Come Food Pantry, Nurse's Nook and Adopt a Family, Feed my Sheep in Lena. **Bonnie Machickanee Cross Country Ski Club:** Volunteers busy working on trails to repair damage. We will be celebrating our 41st year as a club in 2025. December 28th from 5:30-8p moonlit hike. Snowshoe or ski if there's snow. Candlelight ski and other events posted on website and facebook. **Jackie from Konkel Accounting:** Getting ready for tax season again, accepting new clients.

4. Reports

- a. Secretary - no corrections as sent/posted online
- b. Treasurer - provided to everyone. Discovery Guide expense; interest only input coming into both operating and trail accounts. It was suggested to look into a 5% Edward Jones account that can be tied to checking.
- c. Motion made by Ashley to accept the budget as presented. Seconded by Bill. Budget approved.
- d. City Administrator - City passed 2025 budget with rate of increase around 3.1% and a little over \$2 million in borrowing for the Columbia Street project, playground equipment for Memorial Field, street sweeper other equipment purchases
- e. Library - The city budget did include the library amount that was cut from the county. January and February sewing classes will be coming up. Senior friendly technology classes through Humana Wednesday, November 27th 1:00 p.m. in the meeting room. No need to sign up. Grinch on Main Street will have a photo booth, take and bake craft for kids, and a voting station for pet costumes. Received a grant through the library system for innovation and improvement. 6 STEAM to go kits (bag with books, games, activities all focusing on different topics; magnets, engineering, sensory, etc) and six launch pads are tablets with 'kid-proofish' cases. Not connected to the internet.

Preloaded with games, etc. available for checkout in the kids section. Green Bay Children's Museum in the children's area will continue in 2025 with some rotating exhibits throughout the year. Children's Museum passes available for checkout and outreach programs throughout the year. Meeting Room calendar for 2025 available for signup if you need a space to meet. Open community space for appointments, etc. Free for nonprofits. \$20 first hour and \$20 additional time after for other organizations. Ashley shared that today is Rachel's 2-year anniversary with the library and thanked her for all she has accomplished.

5. Events

- a. Leadership Oconto County: Healthcare was the focus of the last one; County Government is December.
- b. Trick or Treat Trail: Many thank yous to the community. Awesome support, very humbling being able to see all of the people come out in the community. 28 vendors. Overall a very successful year. Some minor improvements in the works for next year to keep improving. Forming a committee to have support and additional ideas/opinions starting in the spring.
- c. Small Business Saturday: Ashley - Shop Small/Local the day after Black Friday. We will be publicizing the local businesses that are open that day to share hours and if there are any events that are going on in conjunction with that. Send hours to the Chamber email we'd love to include you!
- d. Community events: S&S Charity Bingo December 4th Proceeds going to Adopting a Christmas Family. Blue Spruce Craft Show November 24th 10a-2p. Oconto Falls Elementary will have Family Winter Night December 3rd 5p-7p (details on school website). Primal Eats has a Christmas event on December 14th 11a-8p music and activities. Lena: Reindeer Dash fun run fundraiser for the baseball team Saturday, December 7th (evening) scavenger hunt around town, library cookies, Santa at Village Hall.
- e. Couill Creations opening on Main Street (December 5th), handmade goods and The Main Course restaurant (November 25th).

6. Unfinished Business

- a. 2025 Concerts - Save the Dates!
 - i. June 20, 2025: Carbon Road
 - ii. July 25, 2025: Drive West

- iii. August 15, 2025: Warden
- b. 2025 Meeting Hosts were distributed thanks for all the volunteers!
- c. Board of Directors Elections: Bill moved to close the ballot Ken seconded. No nominations were made from the floor. Motion carried.

7. New Business

- a. Community Stage Partnership Opportunity: Ashley shared an opportunity for a new stage for events. The same event stage is currently rented on an event-by-event basis by the Chamber and Sno Jokers for community events. The Chamber and Sno Jokers are proposing to get together on purchasing a stage that can be used for community events. It would be a storage container, mounted to a trailer and modified into usage. The Chamber would pay more and Sno Jokers would do work to build it. The people that assist with assembling the current stage have mentioned it is dangerous, and 'not inexpensive' (\$1500 for the summer). It also requires us to pay people to set it up and use a semi to deliver it. Updated one will be easier to move and assemble. Ken moves to approve the purchase of a community stage and the fundraising raffle. Seconded by Pam. Motion passed.
- b. Fundraiser Raffle: Cash raffle to raise \$10,000 to fund this project. \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Raffle drawing will take place at The Antique on St. Patrick's Day.
- c. Any other new business
 - i. Thank you gifts given to Danielle and Angie, photos taken of the new board.
 - ii. Ken moved to adjourn at 1:02 p.m. Seconded by Virgie.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, January 16th, **noon**, held at HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital

Communications:

Electronic welcome signs: ocontofallsscott@gmail.com

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

ocontofallschamber@gmail.com