

Bremen Area Chamber of Commerce minutes of the June 27, 2024 meeting

Those present: Cenell Boch, Marilyn Boyd, Lydia Coakley, David Foltz, Toni Harper, Sue Henwood, Laura Kennedy, Deputy David Maple, Jessica Martinez, Dee Mowry, Billy Robinette, Sue Schmitz, Ken Shofter, Linda Ward, David Weber, Stefani Young. President David Foltz called the meeting to order and led the group in the pledge of allegiance. Pastor Linda Ward gave the invocation. Lunch was served by the women of the Bremen Bethel Presbyterian church.

The minutes of the May meeting were approved as e-mailed on a motion by David Weber, seconded by Marilyn Boyd and carried. A letter of thanks for the chamber's contribution to the Bremen Elementary lunch fund was received from the Fairfield Union Board of Education. The treasurer reported the following account balances:

checking:	\$ 5 574.65
community fund:	7 178.37
CD:	12 362.38
CD:	13 680.71
CD:	5 167.30

The two 15 month CD's opened in March of 2023 at 4.300% rolled over to 4.75% and will mature on September 6, 2025; interest earned was \$1 300.52. Toni Harper moved to receive the treasurer's report, seconded by Dee Mowry and carried. Treasurer Henwood requested that the community fund savings account be transferred to a money market account; this would still draw interest and save a step of transferring money to checking for dispersal. Dee Mowry so moved, seconded by David Weber; motion carried. There has been no movement on the application for unclaimed funds from the state of Ohio.

In new business, Cenell Boch has accepted a position as a visiting professor for nine months and is therefore stepping down from the remainder of her term as vice president. The executive board appointed Rich Lines to complete the term. It was proposed that new businesses be given their first year of membership and first lunch meeting for free; Ken Shofter made the motion, Laura Kennedy seconded it ,and it was approved. Marilyn Boyd moved that the chamber give \$200 to the Scarecrow contest and \$300 in school supplies to Bremen Elementary from the community fund; this was seconded by Ken Shofter and carried. (Sue Henwood will purchase the supplies and give them to the school at the December meeting.)

Announcements:

The chamber will have a decorated truck in the Bremen July 4th parade. Fairhope Hospice will hold a 5K race in conjunction with their *Trash to Treasures* sale. They are planning to expand with a palliative care clinic.

APG's **deadline** for submissions to the local business directory is **August 9**. The directory is open to non-members as well as those in the chamber.

The 2nd annual **Senior Expo** will be held at the Ed Sands building on the county fairgrounds on **August 23 from 10 to 2**.

Sponsors are being sought for the **Bremen Oktoberfest** on **Sep. 28**

The Perry County Housing Coalition **auction** will be **October 19**;
David Weber will take donations.

The speaker for the day was Deputy Dave Maples with the Fairfield County Sheriff's Department. He has spent thirteen years as a resource officer, eight in the detective unit, and now three in the Community Response Unit. About 70% of his time is spent teaching:

- cyber security, especially to students
- how to avoid scammers, especially for seniors (who on average lose \$34,000 in a case!)
- self defense for ages 11 through senior citizens - situational awareness, getting free of holds, protection if the attack involves a knife or gun, active shooter responses specific to a group or location

He emphasized that the "Best thing to do is the right thing, the 2nd best thing to do is the wrong thing, and the worst thing is to do nothing!" Their three person department does threat assessments for businesses and churches seeking state grants. They go out in pairs, which allows people to feel comfortable about calling with problems. And they share their programs with other counties but present the actual programs in Fairfield County. Deputy Maple can provide literature on all these topics as well.

The next chamber meeting will be on July 25 at the Bremen Bethel Presbyterian church. We adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Schmitz, secretary