

# HCCC

HOTCHKISS COMMUNITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

promoting business & quality of life

Regular Meeting Minutes, July 3, 2013 – Hotchkiss Public Library Basement

*Present: President-Nathan Sponseller, Treasurer- Elaine Brett, Rhonda Duclo, Recording secretary -Tom Wills, Corresponding Secretary – Katherine Colwell, Sue Whittlesey, Danny Cotten and Mary Hockenbery.*

Nathan called the meeting to order at approximately 7:30 a.m.

The minutes of the June 5 meeting were approved as written and e-mailed to the membership.

The members welcomed new business member **Danny Cotten of Farm and Ranch Camp**, a new RV Park/Campground/event center located on Roger's Mesa. Mr. Cotten has been in the Hotchkiss community for 33 years and, previous to a sojourn in California, he grew up in Crawford.

The Farm and Ranch Camp business property at 30490 Highway 92 has hosted a large annual 4 day church convention for 83 years and already has extensive facilities for accommodating large groups. There will be 50 short-term RV-camper trailer spaces along with a tent camping area. Danny also offers guided tours of the North Fork with a special focus on local history. Facilities for horses are also available. About all that Cotten's business cannot accommodate is alcohol and tobacco use on the property.

Nathan commented that Farm and Ranch Camp highlights the long Chamber-discussed need for a North Fork venue list including public and private facilities that could host large groups.

**Corresponding Secretary**, Katherine Colwell, reported that the Chamber now has 88, 2013, members with the renewal of the Hotchkiss Inn and addition of Farm and Ranch Camp.

**Treasurer**, Elaine Brett, reported that the general operating checking account has a balance of \$6,777.14, while Special Projects is at \$5,007.60 and the Downtown Merchants'/Improvement account is at \$292.80.

**Visitor's Center:** Nathan reported that planning progresses on the Visitor's center upgrades including a hands-free, pre-programmed phone along with a business directory (will be a physical 20 page counter mounted display rather than a touch screen). It appears there will be plenty of room in the directory for local businesses other than just lodging establishments.

## **Websites:**

- Elaine is coordinating a joint Valley Chambers meeting to discuss the North Fork website and how the Chambers separate sites can mesh. Anyone interested in that can contact Elaine or Nathan.
- Board members Nathan, Rhonda and Katherine are meeting and researching as a "Website Working Group" to gather information to use in decision-making about the future of the NFV site, and for updating our HCCC site; their first meeting was June 28.

**Roll Royce Club:** Nathan announced the fact that the Rolls Royce Silver Ghost Association Tour (The Wholly Ghost Tour d'Rockies) would be arriving 11-1 on September 22 at the Delta County Fairgrounds where Chamber volunteers will help serve them lunch. About 25 to 50 vintage cars are expected. Nathan would like the food to consist of locally produced fare. Hotchkiss is listed on their website at: [www.silverghostassociation.com](http://www.silverghostassociation.com). Keep an eye and ear out for the volunteer call. The lunch will be a private affair for the touring drivers, passengers and staff. The RRS GA would rather not broadly promote the stop so mum's the word. The Tour will arrive by way of Black Mesa and Crawford so local photographers might pick a scenic spot that morning along Highway 92.

Every year the association does a fall tour of a different area of the country. In 2014 the 10 day tour will include New England.

**Elaine Brett** reported that the North Fork Valley Wellness Guide has been distributed and is available at local libraries, town hall and businesses.

Elaine updated the members on the progress of the Heart and Soul Project, which the Chamber has financially supported over the two years of the process. The formal project concludes at the end of 2013. H&S will be distributing surveys in July and August asking if locals agree with the 9 identified "values" of the Valley. Elaine said that the values identification will be a useful tool to use in grant writing for community improvement projects such as the recreational enhancement planned for the area around the Paonia High School.

**Downtown Improvement:** Mary Hockenbery announced that she had found a couple of picnic tables for the Barnie Fair Alley Park (from an anonymous donor) but will need a flatbed trailer to transport them. Planter maintenance is going well. Mary has been working with ornamental ironworker/artist, Ira Houseweart, in identifying spaces for sculpture bases

Tom asked if he could proceed with refurbishing the Chamber's Welcome to Hotchkiss sign located at 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Highway 92 (by the Credit Union.) He was given the go ahead. Besides repainting some of the wooden letters will need to be replaced.

Tom will also inquire of the Town if a more permanent, and attractive, alternative can be found to the saw horses now being used near the 6<sup>th</sup> Street sign to prevent drivers from cutting the corner. Danny Cotten volunteered to donate some large rocks.

The Town deserves kudos for re-placing the orange pedestrian crossing signs in the mid-street area downtown. Thanks!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 a.m. The next meeting will be of Wednesday, August 7, at 7:30 p.m., in the basement of the Hotchkiss Public Library.

*Respectfully submitted, Tom Wills – Recording Secretary.*