

# HCCC

HOTCHKISS COMMUNITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

promoting business & quality of life

## Hotchkiss Community Chamber of Commerce Members Meeting

November 6, 2013 – Hotchkiss Public Library

*Present: President-Nathan Sponseller (First State Bank- Merchant Herald- Stonehouse Inn), Rhonda Duclo (Delta County Libraries), Marsey Moore (Delta County Federal Credit Union), Recording secretary -Tom Wills (Wills Gallery and Books/Merchant Herald), Corresponding Secretary – Katherine Colwell(Colwell Cedars Retreat), Vice President Bill Long (TDS Telecom) and Downtown Improvement Committee Chair – Mary Hockenbery (Mary Hockenbery Photography-Church of Art), Yvon Gros (Leroux Creek Inn), Lenore Cambria (Coyote Road), Katie Gnauck (Delta County Library Board), Susie Kaldis (North Fork Creative Coalition), Debbie Cheesman (Embrace) and Gloria Crank (North Fork Valley Visitor Guide)*

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

The minutes of the October members meeting were approved as submitted and e-mailed.

In the absence of Treasurer - Elaine Brett, Nathan gave the basic account balances: General checking - \$6,947.08, Special Projects - \$5009.09, and Downtown Merchants/Improvement \$292.80. Marsey moved that the figures be accepted. It was seconded and all were in favor.

**Corresponding Secretary's Report:** Katherine reported that counting one business payment pending there were 96 paid up Chamber members. The Volunteers of America and Region 10 have joined. The coordinated joint chamber membership renewal/recruitment mailing will go out soon. Katherine will switch the Chamber's e-mail newsletter over to Constant Contact.

**Susie Kaldis – North Fork Creative Coalition** (the NFCC) - gave an overview of the group's work at present. The group is in the process of filing to obtain their IRS 501-3(c) standing as a non-profit. The group will be targeting the Front Range with recent marketing grant money. A grant asking for \$5,000 to plan for a project that would place artwork in rural pastures viewable from the highway has been submitted.

The NFCC has decided to be a membership organization and is working out the details. Hopefully things will be organized by the end of the year.

Susie will be attending a weeklong marketing conference and will offer a free workshop on the information after she returns.

Susie promised that the NFCC will strive for a more balanced presence in all of the North Fork in the future as it has been more active in the Paonia area this year.

Katherine expressed concern that the boundaries of the State Certified Creative District end at 3100 road on the west, while the North Fork includes Redlands Mesa where her business is located. Susie explained that the Creative Coalition and Creative District are different and the Coalition does include all of the North Fork.

The District's official boundaries might be expanded in the future but that would require a change agreed to by the State. Katherine will meet with the NFCC to discuss the issue.

**Katie Gnauck of the Delta County Library District** board announced that the additional tax for the libraries had failed but thanked the Chamber and members for their support. The District may try again in 2014.

**The Chamber's Annual meeting** on Tuesday November 12, at the Hotchkiss Crawford Museum from 5 to 7 p.m. was discussed. P.J.s Pub will provide the catering. There is tentative planning to show the Jordan Schevene/Heart & Soul film about North Fork values, and Business, Non-profit and Citizen of the year awards will be made. There will also be a general report and election of members of the board as well as vote on by-laws changes.

**Craft Fair and Chocolate and Cheer.** 10<sup>th</sup> annual Arts Crafts and Business Fair director Rhonda Duclou reported that the November 23 (9-4) show at Memorial Hall will be full if everyone who has committed follows through. Debbie Cheesman of the Downtown Merchants announced that downtown merchants will be having an open house Chocolate and Cheer event happening concurrently on the same day, 11-6. Any business is welcome to join in. Mary Hockenbery announced that her in-progress Church of Art/Mary Hockenbery Photography, directly across from Memorial Hall, will be open that day.

**Gloria Crank of the North Fork Visitors Guide** expressed some etiquette concerns connected to a recent joint Chamber's meeting in Crawford.

**Tom Wills and Mary Hockenbery of Downtown Improvement** reported that the Chamber/Town project has received a \$1,500 grant through Heart and Soul from the Western Colorado Community Foundation and Orton Foundation. The money will aid with the construction of a permanent bulletin board/historic display structure in the Barnie Fair alley park.

Mary is continuing with the planning for a student murals project in the downtown alleys and side streets and well as writing the budget for the third year of the downtown flowers. Any business or individual wishing to donate additional funds for the flowers is encouraged to do so through the Chamber or Town.

**Lenore Cambria** announced there will be a high school performance of the radio play version of *It's a Wonderful Life*, with desserts served, on Wednesday and Thursday December 11 and 12 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Hotchkiss High School. Tickets are \$8.00. Lenore is the director of the production.

**Yvon Gros of the Leroux Creek Inn** announced that he is back on the Delta County Tourism Cabinet. He led a discussion of the issue of bicycling in the North Fork and particularly interactions with local law enforcement. Bicycling is becoming an important integral part of the local lifestyle and tourism and apparently better communication and understanding of the rights and rules of the road are needed between drivers, riders, and law enforcement. Deb Cheesman announced that there is a newly formed cycling club in the North Fork.

*Respectfully submitted, Tom Wills – Recording Secretary*