

# HCCC

HOTCHKISS COMMUNITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

promoting business & quality of life

## **Board of Directors Meeting – September 24, 2014**

*Present: President- Nathan Sponseller (First State Bank/Merchant Herald/Stonehouse Inn), Recording Secretary- Tom Wills (Wills Gallery and Books/Merchant Herald), Mary Hockenbery (Mary Hockenbery Photography/Church of Art) and Rhonda Duclo (Hotchkiss Public Library). Absent: Vice President – Bill Long (TDS Telecom), Corresponding secretary – Katherine Colwell (Colwell Cedars Retreat), Treasurer – Elaine Brett.*

### **Treasurer's Report**

It was reported that the total combined Chamber bank accounts stood at \$13,479.11 including: General Checking - \$7,035.42, Special projects - \$6,150.89 and Downtown Merchants/Improvement - \$282.80. The report was approved but there was a question about what "retained earnings" meant as a line item under Liabilities and Equity on the Quickbooks printout.

### **Corresponding Secretary's Report**

There are now 93 paid members of the Chamber with the addition of Names and Numbers phone book publisher.

### **Downtown Improvement**

It is generally agreed that overall the 2014 Downtown flowers/planters are the best so far thanks to coordinator Mary Hockenbery and the many cooperating businesses and volunteers. The goal for the future is to steadily move the project towards routine sustainability with certain planters being maintained by specific businesses/volunteers/local non-profits on a year to year basis.

Tom Wills reported that several new projects are being considered including installing decorative, flat-style bike racks at the post office and First State Bank corners. Also, continued work on the Bernie Fair Alley Park including signage and beginning work on a paver patio surface.

### **Welcome to Hotchkiss Sign Replacement – Call for Artists**

The Hotchkiss Chamber of Commerce is putting out a call for Hotchkiss and Valley artists to submit designs and bids for doing a Welcome to Hotchkiss sign to replace the wind damaged one on the east Hwy 133 end of town. A pre-made 10 by 12 foot panel is being provided to the artist. The maximum bid cannot exceed \$1,000. The selected design will be eye catching, creative and colorful; something that would seem appropriate for both the Friendliest Town Around and the gateway for the North Fork Creative District.

### **New Board Members Needed for 2015**

It was announced that three board members will not be running for a new term: Elaine Brett, Tom Wills and Rhonda Duclo. It is time for other members to step forward and fill the positions on the board,

which also include the Recording Secretary and Treasurer officers. So far, Carrie Yantzer of the K-8 School has expressed an interest in serving on the board.

**The Chamber's Annual Meeting** will take place this year on Wednesday, November 12 at the Hotchkiss Elk's Lodge, a loyal member of the Chamber for many years. The event is open to Chamber members, their employees and the interested public. The evening should be a fun social occasion featuring the presentation of the Business and Citizen of the Year awards and a few annual Chamber business items as well as an annual report on what the Chamber has been up to.

Chamber members are urged to nominate Business of the Year and Hotchkiss Citizen of the Year. Nominations should be sent to the Chamber at [chamberinfo@hotchkisschamber.com](mailto:chamberinfo@hotchkisschamber.com)

**November 22 Set For Hotchkiss Holidays Kickoff: Chamber Craft Show, Church of Art Funky Bazaar, Senior Center Craft Show and Creamery Fill the Town with Creativity**

The Hotchkiss Chambers Annual Arts, Crafts and Business Fair will take place on Saturday November 22 from 9-4 p.m. at Memorial Hall. Table spaces are available for \$25 each including a table. There is a limit of two table spaces per vendor. Contact Rhonda Duclou at 872-4780.

On the same day the Hotchkiss Church of Art at First and Main across from Memorial Hall is holding a Funky Art Bazaar. Table spaces are \$25 for 8 feet and entrants will be juried with creative folk and recycled-item art being strongly encouraged. The funkier the better! Not just a Fair, an EVENT! Contact Mary Hockenbery to reserve a space at 872-3448.

Then, just two easy blocks west, the Hotchkiss Senior Center at Town Hall will present their annual Craft Fair/Flea Market and Sloppy Joe Lunch. Table spaces are also available at this venue. A fun event with a long tradition. Contact John or Billie Marta for information. 872-2127

**Other items:**

Nathan Sponseller reported that the Colorado Grand will not be returning to the Valley until 2016 when it will (hopefully) be Hotchkiss' turn to host the event.

Tom Wills thanked the Chamber for their \$50 donation to the Hotchkiss Neighborhood Watch Block party. The HNW hopes to benefit local businesses as well as residents of the town in general by discouraging petty crime and strengthening the sense of community. Presently two downtown business owners including Kim Shay of Gambles/Ace serve on the HNW board of directors. HNW board meetings will take place at Town Hall on the second Monday of each month at 6 p.m. More information: Deputy Gates Shaklee – 872-3848, Chair – McKenzie Cowan – 970-201-0602 or Secretary, Tom Wills, at 872-2664 or [Hotchkiss@aol.com](mailto:Hotchkiss@aol.com).

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Wills  
Recording Secretary