



President's Report (January 25, 2023)

Greetings, fellow Chamber Members:

Hotchkiss had positive business growth in the downtown area this past 2022:

- Two Four Six Coffee opened April '22.
- Hotchkiss Short Stop gas station re-opened August '22.
- The 476 Eatery Thai restaurant opened November '22.
- Black Cat Pizza opened January '23.

Western Slope SUP (Stand Up Paddle) is building a new home on Bridge St. There will soon be a new workwear store (Gambles Too) on Bridge St. The lots at 2nd & Bridge St are under contract with an expected new building to start in 2023. Artist Lark Abel is back- currently in the old Town Hall at 2nd & Bridge. These are a few highlights and pardon me if I missed yours. COVID isn't completely behind us, but we are a resilient Town and are bouncing back!

The Chamber hosted the Colorado Grand vintage race car rally in September. The Hotchkiss Chamber will be helping coordinate awarding two \$10,000 scholarships from the Colorado Grand to local high school seniors. Thank you, Kelsi Buhr, Lenore Cambria, and Nathan Sponseller for a great job organizing the event. The Craft Fair at Memorial Hall in November was a success. The Chamber ended the year with a healthy \$26,000 cash balance.

We need volunteers for the Board and also single-event help. If you have a desire to help, please email HotchkissChamber@gmail.com or call the Chamber voicemail at 970-872-3226.

The Chamber Board has ongoing discussions with Paonia businesses and the Crawford Chamber about merging Chambers to create a North Fork Valley Chamber for efficiencies and a larger pool of volunteers. See NorthForkValley.net for prototype of the web page.

There will be a special meeting on Feb 7th at 5:30pm at the Hotchkiss/Crawford Museum to determine interest in the Hotchkiss Chamber becoming the North Fork Chamber and

Bylaw changes.

Ballots are being emailed to Chamber Members. You may vote by proxy by emailing your proxy ballot to HotchkissChamber@gmail.com. Ballots can also be mailed if received by February 6th.

Members will receive the annual dues renewal notice in January. PLEASE continue to stay a member, and volunteer if you can. 2023 dues will remain the same as 2022.

All the best in 2023 to our business, non-profit, special district and other government members and friends!!

/s/ Kim Shay, President HCCC