

The June meeting of the Greater Searcy County Chamber of Commerce was held June 9, at 12:00 noon, at the Searcy County Airport Meeting Room in Marshall. The following members were present at the meeting: Bob King, Ken Fariss, Richard Groves, Dorothy Hare, Lee Walsh, Jack Treat, Ben Treat, and Clint Freeman. Also present at the meeting was Kerry Liggett, representing Legacy Hospice.

The meeting was called to order by President Clint Freeman.

A prayer was offered by Chaplain Ben Treat.

The first order of business was to announce the apparent resignation of Merrily Hartwig from the chamber of commerce and her position of Secretary. A motion was made, seconded and approved by voice vote that Lee Walsh serve the remainder of this year as Secretary until new elections are held in January.

Clint Freeman gave a report on the Spring Fling 5 K Run and a report on the upcoming 5K-10K Leslie Homecoming Run which is being sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. He has lined up an official Timer for the event. He gave us the details on the course and expected attendance, which is expected at around 100 entries. Discussions were held about sponsors and T Shirts, and it was decided to ask the local banks to help sponsor the event to help defer the costs to the chamber, and we decided to order 100 T shirts for the event. This year's theme is "Run For Fun", and the logo that will be used on the T-shirts can be seen on the chambers website.

Treasurer Jack Treat gave a treasury report. The chamber currently has \$6,058.84 in the account with one \$200 check outstanding.

Dorothy Hare representing the Humane Society gave a report. She stated that the Spring Fling was the best event that the Humane Society had ever been a part of. She said they did very well at the events they sponsored and that the event really helped them out both financially and with name recognition in the area. She said that there were a lot of people that didn't even know there was a humane society in the area till this event, and they expect to receive additional support because of this event.

Kerry Liggett from Legacy Hospice gave us information about his organization and how it helps many people in Searcy County. This is a great organization that fills the needs of many people who need hospice care. For more information about Legacy Hospice, visit their website at : www.legacyhospice.net . It was suggested to Mr. Liggett that their organization should join the chamber of commerce as an associate member, and that we would include their information in our directory on the website. Mr. Liggett agreed this would be a good thing to do and took down the information about joining.

Bob King gave a report about an idea that he had about the promotion of Searcy County. We had previously discussed the purchase of a Pop-up tent, portable table, and in the future, a brochure rack for use at festivals and events around the state and area where we would like to have a presence and promote Searcy County. He elaborated on the need for this idea, and also to possibly contact the Conway Chamber of Commerce about setting up some type of "sister organization" relationship with them, since so many visitors that come into our area are from their location. We all feel like this is a great idea, and after some discussion a motion was made, seconded and passed that we would buy these items to use to promote member businesses at different events. We are going to have a presence at the Leslie Homecoming next week with a booth and plan to promote member businesses there also. An e-mail is to be sent out to members about collecting business cards and brochures from these businesses for promotion purposes.

Richard Groves gave a report about the airport. It has been inspected in the past week by 2 different agencies and passed with flying colors. Also he announced that the Flying Jam will be held this year on Saturday, October 1st, and plans are well underway for this event already. Also he announced that Secretary of State Mark Martin will be here next week to speak to the Marshall Rotary Club.

Lee Walsh discussed the need to place a card of thanks in the Marshall Mountain Wave about thanking the various organizations, individuals and

towns that were a part of the Spring Fling. This was approved by all members.

Ken Fariss gave a report about Richard Walden, who is the Field Agent for Congressman Rick Crawford. He has contacted both members Ken Fariss and Jack Treat about how he can help our area. Ken also had the opportunity to talk with him on Saturday at the dedication of the Depot in St. Joe where he was in attendance. They had a discussion about the possibility of getting Natural Gas piped into Searcy County, and they plan to have further discussions about this very soon.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lee Walsh, Acting Secretary.