

# Greater Searcy County Chamber Of Commerce

Minutes of Meeting on January 13, 2011

The January 13, 2011 meeting of the Greater Searcy County Chamber of Commerce was called to order by newly elected President Dr. Clint Freeman at 12:00 noon in the airport conference room. Besides President Freeman, present at the meeting were Ben Treat, Mary Kirk, representing the North Central Arkansas Career Center, Richard Groves, Ken Farris, Betty Watts and Dorothy Hare representing Operation Kindness (Searcy County Humane Society), Vice President Lee Walsh, and Secretary Merrily Hartwig. Also present were guests Thomas Anderson and Sandra Chidester, owners of Oak Street Station in Leslie. They explained that Oak Street Station had rental booths for local arts and crafts, and that they also had antiques and collectibles. Tom does some antique restoration.

President Freeman said that there is presently cash on hand in the sum of \$3,933.21, and that dues notices have been mailed out.

During the round-robin discussion, Richard Groves announced that the Master Gardeners were going to do some landscaping at the airport.

Ben Treat discussed some of the Sunday plans for the Buffalo River Spring Fling which will include a memorial service followed by a "Pitch-in" dinner. Ben also mentioned plans to have a training facility near Leslie where missionaries home on furlough could bring their families. The facility will hopefully be a year-round training center for missionaries.

Merrily updated the group on the progress of other events to be held at the spring event.

Dorothy Hare passed around the new calendar that the Humane Society is using as a fundraiser. The calendars are available for a \$10 donation. Dorothy also said that Operation Kindness was running weekly information articles in the Marshall Mountain Wave when space was available. Betty Watts announced the dates for the next spay-neuter clinic which will be held in Marsh.

Mary Kirk said that the Fall Festival/RV Tour at the career center was a huge success and that the center was now able to do GED testing in Searcy County.

Ken Farris told the group that there are some 900 vets in the County and that members of the American Legion and VFW have been attempting to visit the vets at the Highland Nursing Home but, because of new privacy

provisions, had been encountering some difficulty. He said that they had secured permission to visit vets in the facility at 2:00 PM on the second Saturday of each month and that the length of the visits will be limited to one hour.

A discussion took place regarding where the County was headed in the near term and long term. A motion was made by Richard Groves, seconded by Ben Treat, and unanimously carried that Ben, Richard, Ken and Jack Treat approach business leaders and elected officials throughout the County to begin a dialog, hopefully to develop a master plan for the County.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Merrily Hartwig, Secretary