

Capacity Crowd at Chamber

Every chair in the building was set up as invited guests from organizations all over town filled the Information Center and shared news from their groups during the April 20 meeting of the Eureka Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber Board had asked each organization to give a report so the community would be aware of the function and events of each group. They were all invited back to give further reports in upcoming meetings; the next one will be Monday, August 17 at 7:00 PM at the Information Center. People do not need to be Chamber members in order to attend.

The evening proved to be a place where much information was exchanged and groups hosting upcoming events were able to make known their need for volunteer help.

Organizational Reports:

- City of Eureka – The temporary fix on the artesian well will have a permanent repair in the future. 7th Street from Highway 10 to the north end by the body shop will have major repairs this summer. Dennis Heilman is the new council member from Ward 3 and will be seated on May 11. A malt beverage license was approved for the Ambassadors for July 3-4.
- Fire Dept. – One truck is being renovated at Eureka Manufacturing. Firemen from Eureka and surrounding towns are attending several months of classes in Eureka; upcoming will be CPR certification. Donations are being accepted for the July 4 fireworks display.
- Ambassadors – Freedom Dayz will be held July 3-4 and volunteers are needed to help with the events. The group will have a large tent set up in the park area during the celebration. Chamber will pay for half of the special event insurance needed for the celebration.
- Schmeckfest – The celebration will be held September 18-20 and some of the events will be a parade, entertainment in the afternoon, German church service, tractor pull, craft show, and German meal with entertainment. The group is open to more ideas. Chamber will pay half of the special event insurance needed for the tractor pull.
- Top Hats – A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on April 18 to celebrate the expansion of Ingerson Custom Welding through the addition of new equipment. A ceremony will be held on May 25 to celebrate Avera Eureka Health Care Center's 25th anniversary. The group is comprised of members from Eureka Chamber and Eureka Development.
- Eureka Community Development Company – The annual meeting was held in conjunction with a Community Action session facilitated by Holly Hoffman. The large crowd that attended identified three main paths for volunteers to take. Recruit, Involvement, and The Golden Rule will each be headed by committees who signed up in each area and will meet to decide on action that will be taken. Recruit has done their action planning and is moving forward, Involvement will meet in May, and The Golden Rule will meet in June.
- Lions – The group sponsors a wide variety of activities and events throughout the year including a 5K Run, Punt, Pass and Kick, Halloween Candy at the nursing home, Toys for Tots, Community Thanksgiving Meal, Christmas Gift Baskets, Hunter Safety Course/Shooter Education, JV Basketball Tournament, Pitch, Hit, and Run, Junior High Track Meet, Ditch Clean-Up, Lions Track Meet, Kids Fishing Derby, and Triathlon. They print a community calendar, serve as ticket takers for football and track, collect eye glasses and hearing aids, and provide scholarships. On June 20 they will team up with SD

Game, Fish and Parks for shooting education, trap shooting and archery in the morning and a fishing derby in the afternoon. The Lions will provide a noon lunch and prizes for the participants in the fishing derby.

- HRC – The two 4-plexes have a vacancy which will be filled on June 1. Another unit will be available July 1. Those on the waiting list will be contacted, and if none are ready to move then the vacancy will be advertised.
- Garden Club – This organization had the largest representation at the meeting and each member took turns describing an aspect of their club. It was organized in 1963 and their theme for the year is Power in Plants. The 10 members meet once a month. They have 3 flower plots in town that they plant and maintain. Each year they do a 3-month program of Yard of the Month or Planter/Hanging Planter of the Month, and one of these will be done this summer. An annual Arbor Day program is usually the fourth Friday in April at school. It features a speaker and students in grades K-6 are given a bare root tree to take home and plant. They donate to several causes throughout the year and would welcome new members.
- Red Hatters – It was explained that this is not a service organization, rather a group of ladies that gets together and has fun, and often goes on outings. Known for their red and purple attire they live by the motto, “Laughter is what we’re here after.”
- VFW Auxiliary – A group of few members, their main project is to put out flags and markers for service men and auxiliary members at cemeteries.
- Boy Scouts – Several of them are working on Eagle Scout projects. Tucker Fauth is doing a very extensive project at the shooting range, Hunter Heinrich is doing shelving for Legion flags and crosses, and Cody Imberi is making picnic tables for the nursing home and assisted living. All three would welcome volunteers to help them.
- Germans From Russia – The group was organized in Eureka in 1983 to honor their heritage and that of many of Eureka’s residents. They sponsor the German church service (also translated to English) during Schmeckfest. They have 23 members and welcome new members.
- Senior Center – Area 4 Nutrition is separate from the Senior Center, and their mission is to supply nutritious meals and an avenue for socialization for those who attend. Those who eat the meals pay \$4.00 and the cost is supplemented with local, state, and national funds. The balance of the money comes from donations. Major expenses are supplying a building for the meals and all of the upkeep costs associated with it. Fundraisers are held so they can break even. Younger people can eat there but they pay full price for the meals. Bingo and entertainment are held in conjunction with the meals on specific days, and the community bus provides transportation. New members are welcome.
- Eureka Ministerial Association – The group is formed of all pastors in Eureka and meets once a month. They sponsor the Thanksgiving Eve service, Hymn Sing in the summer, Christmas Musicales, and the Food Pantry. They welcome input and suggestions.
- Booster Club – The group began in December 2014 to support students in many areas. The 20-25 members hold quarterly meetings. They provided snacks during Smarter Balance Testing, will give their first annual \$500 scholarship this year, and will host an After Graduation party. They have held an ugly sweater contest and a raffle to raise funds, and their upcoming fundraiser is a Glow Ball Golf Tournament.

- Modern Woodmen and Thrivent – The upcoming event is Join Hands Day when the Lutheran and City cemeteries will be cleaned in May. This will be done through a cooperative effort with all organizations in town that are willing to participate.
- American Legion – This year the organization will sponsor T-Ball, Peewee, and Midget baseball; there are not enough kids for older teams. A flag disposal ceremony is held when needed, and one is planned for July 4. Annually they sponsor the Boy Scout Troop, sponsor a Boy Stater, organize government day for the EHS Senior Class, sponsor the Scholarship Program, present a Citizenship Award, and provide the drill squad to lead parades and conduct military funerals for area veterans. Memorial Day and Veteran’s Day programs are joint efforts with the VFW. Their sponsored track meet in May uses 50-60 volunteers and many of those are still needed. They donate to many causes throughout the year.

Business conducted at the Chamber meeting was a report on the Anything Goes and Communitywide Rummage Sale which will be on June 6. Those who wish to have a rummage sale or vendor booth should fill out a registration and submit it. A Citywide Cleanup will be held May 13-14 if insurance is found to cover it, otherwise the landfill will be open for free drop-offs for residents. Over 800 names are listed at the Veteran’s Memorial and each will be represented by a flag for the July 4 event. Organizations can purchase a gross of flags for \$70-\$80 and donate them – Chamber will provide a gross. A donation of \$500 will be made to the July 4 fireworks.

It was an evening of learning as the organizations learned about each other. “I never knew they did that” was a comment echoed throughout the evening as the conversations continued.

All organizations in the community are invited to attend the next meeting and continue to share their organizational news. The speaker that evening will be Joe Galbraith, Conservation Officer from Game, Fish and Parks.

Wanda Jundt