

Meeting of March 20, 2007

This was the last meeting that the Grange will be serving lunch for the Chamber of Commerce. In order to honor the Grange for their contribution to the Chamber, members present were asked to come forward. Each were personally thanked and given a corsage. They were then instructed to sit at a special seat of honor and enjoy the Chamber serving their meal to them.

The Grange has been serving Chamber lunches since 1985. The homemade pies have been a long-time favorite of all attendees. JoAnn Wade and her mother Betty Smith began the pie baking tradition. Stories were told; One of the greatest challenges was learning to improvise using equipment on hand. Neil Miller would use an old cloth sugar sack, place it in boiling water to make coffee. He was very grateful when a percolator was purchased. As always while serving is the concern of running out of food. All of the Grange members could attest to the different times that portion sizes were decreased in order for all to be served, or they purchased pizza after the event so they could eat. Janie Dennis, Fairfield County Grange Deputy, edified the Bremen Grange members and spoke about what these fine people contributed to this division of the Grange.

Motion carried to purchase a \$50,000.00 Treasurer Bond from Trimmer Insurance Agency in the amount of \$175.00 for a period of three years.

President Moyer attended the Incentive Review Council Meeting representing the Chamber to show support of the businesses from our community being reviewed. Westerman's was approved. Exciting news was they are looking to employ 10 to 12 more jobs within 60 days.

Rienschield's Gourmet Sausage is in the process of re-writing their paperwork with The Village of Bremen's blessing. A special Council Meeting will be held on March 28th to get this process moving. Met with Kenny & Katie to encourage them and asked if there was anything we as a Chamber could do to help...even if it is getting a work session together to help paint. They will get back to us.

The Bremen Area Historical Society has agreed to take over the responsibility of providing lunches for the Chamber at a charge of \$6.50 per person. However, they are working on obtaining the proper license to do this function. In the meantime, the Bremen Mason's will handle this task. The Chamber pays the Historical Society \$600.00 per year for building rental. After discussion, motion carried to charge \$8.00 per person and use the difference to offset the building rental.

The Friendly Bremen Bank donated a computer to the Chamber office. A special thank you was extended. The office now has a Sheriff's Sub Station sign out front. Prices will be obtained for the next meeting to purchase a new sign that will be like the ones currently being used in the downtown district.

Progress of Checkerboard Bakery: Things are coming along good. The County Health

Department will be doing the Health Inspection within a week or two. Once this is complete, Marilyn will be moving in to bake and doing final touches. NOT TO OPEN. After the final touches are complete she hopes to open possibly next month.

Progress of Snyder-Sheridan Funeral Home: Larry advised they are moving forward with financial meetings with the Bank. Larry is very pleased with the results and they are waiting on final approval from the Banking Board.

Featured speaker David McCandlish gave a beautiful presentation of his new business Agrifuel, LLC. David's company is currently renovating a facility in Rushcreek Township, adjacent to the Village of Bremen, where they will produce bio-diesel from soybean oil. Agrifuels, LLC is expected to produce 3.5 million gallons of bio-diesel annually within three to five years and will employ approximately 20 people.

Mr. McCandlish says utilization of bio-diesel is a great way to lessen our country's dependency on foreign oil. The soybeans are grown in Ohio, crushed in Ohio, and then will be processed by the local facility. David is our hometown boy and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Chemical Engineering from Ohio University.

#### BREMEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Connie Moyer, President

Eric Mahler, Vice-President

Tracy Lecrone, Treasurer

Anna Marie Qualls, Secretary