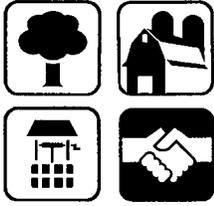


Oley Valley Business Association

P.O. Box 25

Oley, PA 19547-0025

www.oleyvalleybiz.org



July Meeting

Our next business meeting will be at 7:00 A.M. on Monday, July 31, 2006 – at the Oley Legion Diner.

Call to Order

The June 26, 2006, meeting of the OVBA was held at the Yellow House Hotel at 6:30 PM. In the absence of the President and Vice President, Secretary Sharon Morrow called the meeting to order at 6:55 PM.

Attendance

The total attendance for the meeting was nine members and one guest, plus the speaker. Seven member businesses were represented.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report

A motion to accept the minutes as published in the June newsletter was made by Stu Kern and seconded by Lloyd Hopkins. The motion carried.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's report as published in the June newsletter was made by Mary Ann Owens and seconded by Lloyd Hopkins. The motion carried.

Committee Reports

Program

Stu Kern reported on upcoming meetings:

July 31, 2006 – Business meeting, 7 AM, Oley Legion Diner.

August 28, 2006 – Lunch meeting (Noon), Pleasantville Inn.

Speaker: Victor Frederick, District Justice.

Scholarship

A picture of, and information about, the scholarship recipients was distributed. The recipients were Kathryn Ryan (\$1000) and Rebecca Eddinger (\$500). Kathryn will be working towards a Doctor of Pharmacy degree at Temple University. Rebecca has been accepted to the Schreyers Honor College of Penn State. She will be working towards a Bachelor of Science in Biology followed by Medical School.

Oley Valley Fair Committee

Minerva Hoppes requested that anyone interested in helping update the booth at the Fair stay after the meeting. Stu Kern stayed after and shared information about the whereabouts of the booth "walls" – which are stored in his spot in the Fair building. Sharon Morrow indicated that a flat screen monitor or laptop would be needed for the days of the Fair to display the Power Point presentation compiled by Peripheral Systems. Anyone who has one to loan, please contact Minerva. No one else came forward to offer assistance. If you can serve on this committee, PLEASE contact Minerva to volunteer and/or share your suggestions.

Program

Our guest speaker was Jerry Johnson. Jerry - a resident of Oley for 15 years – is a retired CFO for Vanity Fair, and is extremely active in community affairs, including the Oley Education Association and the Berks Conservancy. He indicated that there is a renewed interest in the economic development of Berks County, and presented some very interesting facts and figures:

From 1950 – 1995, Berks County grew at the slow rate of only ½% per year. In 1995, things changed. We are now the 2nd or 3rd fastest growing county in Pennsylvania, although the rate is still slow by comparison. Since 1995, we have added 60,000 new residents – 50% Hispanic, and the other 50% mainly in the eastern fringes of the County (Amity Township, etc.) – leading to our current population of 400,000 residents.

Some weaknesses impacting the economic growth of Berks County:

1. Small population. The county's population is smaller than inner city Milwaukee.
2. Low educational attainment of residents. The county is near the bottom in terms of High School degrees and higher education.
3. Complex governmental structure.
4. Zoning.
5. Low awareness of decision makers – who commonly reside outside of Berks – of what is happening in the area.

Some of our strengths include:

1. Diligent work force.
2. Lower cost of real estate (as compared to Philadelphia and New York)
3. Location – we live in the economic shadow of New York City.

Some growth opportunities include:

1. Food Processing Industry (we have the location, technology, natural resources, etc.)
2. Financial Services (we live in the shadow of the nations chief financial center – NYC)
3. Hospitality and Entertainment
4. Medical Services – the fastest growing, in terms of jobs for the area

Old Business

Township Signage

Marianne van der Velde was not present to update the group on the status of the signs.

Oley Community Track

Sharon Morrow asked if anyone was aware of the status of the Funding drive for the Community Track. Jerry Johnson (our speaker) said he thought there was at least a 6-month delay in starting the track, but no additional information was available.

New Business

Stu Kern brought along flyers for the Shops of Oley, entitled “The Oley Valley – Berks County’s Best Kept Secret.” They hope to have copies at the Trade shows that will be coming to the old Agere Works.

Stu reported that some people who he contacted about the meeting indicated they did not receive information ahead of time. Sharon Morrow agreed to check the email list to see if these businesses were on it. The last update was sent on June 13 – so if members believe they are on the list but did not receive an OVBA update on that date, contact Sharon (webmaster@oleyvalleybiz.org) to see if you are on the list, and with what email address. If your email address has changed, **you will need to access the oleyvalleybiz.org Home Page to unsubscribe your old address, then re-subscribe with the new one. You should also check your spam filters to make sure you are allowing mail from OVBA.**

Stu Kern reported that the Minimum Wage Bill has passed the Senate. This bill would raise minimum wage to \$7.20/hour, and is a big concern for small manufacturing companies, who are already competing with foreign imports.

Stu asked if anyone was contacting new businesses in town to see if they would like to join the Association. Since there is not currently an active membership committee, these businesses are not being contacted. Sharon requested that when new businesses open up, that someone send the names and addresses to the OVBA postal box or email info@oleyvalleybiz.org – and hopefully we can find someone who would be willing to send out cover letters and applications. This needs to be further addressed at a future meeting, particularly one with more members present.

Treasurer's Report

Oley Valley Business Association
Treasurer Report

Beginning Balance	\$6,459.66
Interest 6/30/06	<u>2.52</u>
Sub Total	\$6,462.18
Expenses	
Peripheral Systems #10886	12.67
Berks-Mont Newspaper	543.00
Bill Griffith – speaker’s meal	10.73
Yellow House-speaker’s meal	23.75
Kathryn Ryan – scholarship	1,000.00
Rebecca Eddinger – scholarship	<u>500.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 2,090.15
Balance as of 6/30/06	\$4,372.03

Respectfully submitted

Minerva S Hoppes, Treasurer

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Stu Kern and seconded by Mary Ann Owen. The business meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.