



Oley Valley Business Association

P.O. Box 25

Oley, PA 19547-0025

www.oleyvalleybiz.org

March Meeting

Our next meeting will be on Monday, March 27th at 6:30 p.m. at the Yellow House Hotel, with guest speaker Crystal Seitz, President of the Reading and Berks County Visitors Bureau. Please call the Yellow House (610) 689-9410 and give them your choice of entrée:

<i>Chicken Marsala</i>	\$16.25
<i>Flounder Monterey</i>	16.95
<i>Filet Mignon</i>	21.95
<i>Chicken Caesar Salad</i>	10.45

**All dinners include a tossed salad, potato and vegetable*

OVBA Application

If you are giving an OVBA application to someone interested in joining the association, please be sure to print out the latest version from our website. There is a link to access it at the top of the "new member" page.

Minutes

Call to Order

The February 27, 2006, meeting of the Oley Valley Business Association was held at the Pleasantville Inn at 12:00 Noon. President Bill Griffith called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM.

Minutes & Treasurer's Report

A motion to accept the minutes as published in the February newsletter was made by Frank Morgan and seconded by Carol Meeker. The motion carried.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's report as published in the February newsletter was made by Kevin Bieber and seconded by Lloyd Hopkins. The motion carried.

Attendance

The total attendance for the meeting was 22 members, representing 16 member businesses, and one guest.

Program

Kristie Swavely was invited to talk to the group about Christmas in the Valley and ways that the Association could help the group.

They have been holding this event for 11 years; it's held the Sunday before Christmas every year. Up to now, it's been taken care of by 5 committee members and their families, with help from the Boy Scouts for the luminaries. Some regular expenses include: banner repairs, installation and removal, hot chocolate and cookies, candles, luminaries, insurance, sound system for that night, a Santa Claus to visit that night, updating/reprinting the music books and newsletter printing and mailing. They have no formal budget, and depend on Fundraisers and donations to cover their expenses, which run around \$3000-4000 each year.

Some ways our Association could help:

- 1) They could use new members to join the committee, to help share the workload.
- 2) They could use help with, or have us take over, the fundraiser, which will likely be held this Spring. This usually involves help with the setup, getting or donating products for the raffle, selling tickets, etc. National Penn Bank in Oley provides space for displaying the raffle items each year.
- 3) They could use help with finding someone with the proper equipment to install and remove the banners. Met-Ed once did that, but won't any longer.
- 4) They could use help with the cookies and hot chocolate the night of the event, since the person who usually took care of that will be going off to college.
- 5) They could use help with setting out the luminaries, and cleaning them up afterwards, as well as cleanup after the event that evening.

When asked if they could use a donation from the Association, Kristie indicated that it would be helpful, but they could use people and help more than they could use the money.

Anyone who feels they could help can contact Kristie Swavely or our Association member Roxanne Stauffer (National Penn Bank).

Committee Reports

Program Committee

Kevin Bieber reported that the March 27 meeting would be held at 6:30 PM, with guest speaker Crystal Seitz, President of the Reading and Berks County Visitors Bureau.

April 24 will be a 7 AM Business meeting, location to be announced. Locations will be announced (and updated on the website) as Bill Griffith confirms them.

Association Mixer

Frank Morgan reported that the next mixer would be held at Golden Oaks, the same location as the cancelled December mixer. To make sure weather didn't cause any problems, it will probably be scheduled for sometime in May or June.

Scholarship

Doug Kramer reported that the scholarship application on the website was tested and is working properly. Students can go to the website to fill out applications, or can print it and send it by mail.

Old Business

Township Signage

Marianne van der Velde reported that she met with Robert Lesco from the Oley Valley Heritage Association to discuss their plans for putting up signs in Oley Township. They had plans to put up 4 signs beyond what we were discussing. Marianne passed around the Heritage Association's proposed design for the signs, and it was well received by the membership. It is the same design that appears on Township vehicles, and is a design that Graber Letterin' already has available. Once we find out the cost of the signs, a vote will be taken to share the cost of the signs with the Heritage Association. There will not be plaques to announce the sponsors of the signs. Marianne said that the Heritage Association had not yet contacted PennDot to get approval of the signs or the locations, but Jeff Graber was going to check to see if he was PennDot approved.

Community Pot Pie Dinner

Jay Roberts reported that he had tickets for the Pot Pie Dinner, scheduled for March 26, 2006, and also sent around a sign-up sheet for volunteer workers for Saturday preparation and Sunday serving and cleanup. Members can contact Jay at 610-987-9889 or contact Wilma Leininger at Oley Hardware to purchase tickets or sign up to help. A motion was made by Crystal Drumheller and seconded by Lloyd Hopkins to donate \$100 to the Community Benefit Association for the Pot Pie Dinner, as we have done in past years. The motion carried.

Oley Fair

No one has come forward to volunteer to Chair the Oley Fair Committee. **Interested members, please contact Bill Griffith. Meetings must start soon if the booth is to be improved, and ready in time for the Fair!!**

Also, Wilma Leininger mentioned that she has thrown out boxes of our Association flyers that are normally handed out at the Fair, and recommended that fewer be printed in the future to avoid waste.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Kevin Bieber was asked to repeat his 2 suggestions for events the Association could sponsor to help get our name out in the Community:

- The Peach Dessert Baking Contest, held during the Peach and Ice Cream Festival at the Oley Fire Company in August could be sponsored for \$300.
- The Hershey Baking Contest at the Oley Fair could be sponsored for \$500. At the Fair, there would be a sign announcing the sponsorship, and the sponsor's name would be mentioned again at the time the awards are presented.

Frank Morgan moved that we sponsor the Hershey Baking Contest for \$500. Mike McCarthy seconded it; the motion carried.

New Business

Wilma Leininger announced that she is selling the Hardware Store, but wants to keep it in Oley, so in order to do that, she has to move it. So, she is in the process of moving the store to 450 Main Street.

Wilma also reported that member Lorraine Sterner (Sterner's Used Cars), suffering from a brain tumor, had been taken off life support. After the meeting, she called to report that Lorraine had passed away that morning. Our sympathy goes out to her family and friends.

Linda Williams reported on the 1-week trip that she and her husband Scot took to Mississippi. Between Christmas and New Year, they went down to the Gulf Coast to Ocean Springs, Mississippi, to help with Katrina cleanup. The trip was organized through the Lutheran Disaster Response, but included other people from the Community as well. Linda said that this is how it will get cleaned up – by groups of people going down to help. The areas have started the rebuilding process, and will need help with that for years to come. They stayed at a Lutheran Church, who provided them with food and a place to sleep. They were split into groups to go work on a house or work in a distribution center set up for people to get food and clothing and other needs. So many people lost everything. Linda said that many houses are totally gone, with nothing but the slabs left behind. Those whose homes weren't totally destroyed live in trailers on their properties. Many historic areas that have held up through many years of storms were destroyed this time.

On the way back, they drove through Biloxi, and it is almost completely destroyed. Linda and Scot have participated in cleanup efforts before, but have never seen as wide an area of destruction – from the Florida Panhandle to Texas. She and Scot plan to do this again, and hope that others in the community will have the opportunity to do it as well. Linda said the people there really appreciate the help they get, and it's a very good experience to be there helping.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Tom Mitchell and seconded by Doug Kramer. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Morrow, Secretary

*Treasurer's
Report*

*Oley Valley Business Association
Treasurer's Report*

Beginning Balance		\$6,547.25
Interest	2/28/06	2.50
15 Dues	2/20/06	680.00
Scholarship Donations	2/20/06	10.00
Dues	2/20/06	<u>200.00</u>
SubTotal		\$7,439.75
Expenses		
Peripheral Systems	#10670	<u>17.09</u>
Total Expenses		\$ 17.09
Balance as of 2/28/06		\$7,422.66
Total Donations to Scholarship Fund as of 3/10/06 \$645.00		
Total Dues collected as of 3/10/06 72 members = \$3,530.00		

*Respectfully submitted,
Minerva S. Hoppes, Treasurer*

*Humor from
Tom Mitchell*

Subject: Magic Beer

A lady walks into a bar and sees a really good-looking guy sitting at the bar by himself. She goes over and asks him what he is drinking.

"Magic Beer," he says.

She thinks he's a little crazy, so she walks around the bar, but after realizing that there is no one else worth talking to, goes back to the man sitting at the bar and says, "That isn't really Magic Beer, is it?"

"Yes, I'll show you." He takes a drink of the beer, jumps out the window, flies around the building three times and comes back in the window.

The lady can't believe it: "I bet you can't do that again."

He takes another drink of beer, jumps out the window, flies around the building three times, and comes back in the window.

She is so amazed that she says she wants a "Magic Beer", so the guy says to the bartender, "Give her one of what I'm having."

She gets her drink, takes a gulp of the beer, jumps out the window, plummets 30 stories, breaks every bone in her body, and dies.

The bartender looks up at the guy and says, "You know, Superman, you're a real idiot when you're drunk."