



# Oley Valley Business Association

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[www.oleyvalleybiz.org](http://www.oleyvalleybiz.org)

## President's Message

I hope that everyone has had a profitable month!

As we get closer and closer to the summer vacation season, it is time to reflect on our year. We have already had 4 of our regularly scheduled 12 meetings of the year. Attendance is up and we look forward to being able to accomplish many things for ourselves and for our community as we begin to prioritize our own personal and OVBA goals for the balance of the year.

While taking some quiet time to review my current situation, I came across a small item entitled "Success" by Ralph Waldo Emerson. It reminded me of what is, or should be, important to me. Maybe it has some meaning for you as well.

### **SUCCESS**

*To laugh often and much;  
to win the respect of intelligent people  
and affection of children;  
to earn the appreciation of honest critics and  
endure the betrayal of false friends;  
to appreciate beauty,  
to find the best in others;  
to leave the world a bit better,  
whether by a healthy child, a garden patch  
or a redeemed social condition;  
to know even one life has breathed easier  
because you have lived.  
This is to have succeeded.*

*-Ralph Waldo Emerson*

I hope to see everyone on the 23rd at the Yellow House Hotel for our legislative update with Dennis Leh. Dennis always presents us with much needed information that affects us and our businesses.

Please remember to telephone individuals this week to remind them of the meeting. The telephone committee has been doing a great job in getting people out to the meetings.

Have a safe and profitable month.

*Bill Griffith*

## **MayMeeting**

Our next meeting will be **Monday, May 23 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Yellow House Hotel. Our speaker is Dennis Leh. The menu choices are as follows:

Pork Chops	\$13.75
Chicken Parmesan	\$14.95
Roast Beef	\$12.95
Fried Crab Cakes	\$14.50

All dinners will include:

- Salad
- Choice of Potato OR a Vegetable

Please call Yellow House Hotel with your reservations, at (610) 689-9410. You only need to reserve a spot – you can specify your meal choice that night.

## **Board of Directors**

There were three general membership nominees for two seats on our newly created OVBA Board of Directors. At last month's meeting, the members present voted for two members from our general membership. The two members elected were Frank Morgan and Roxanne Stauffer. The five members of the OVBA Board of Directors and their terms are:

Wilma Leininger, Past President, 2-year term  
Tom Mitchell, Past President, 2-year term  
Scot Williams, Past President, 1-year term  
Frank Morgan, 2-year term  
Roxanne Stauffer, 1-year term

The OVBA Board of Directors will meet on a quarterly basis. In addition, the Board can meet as needed.

## **Items to Ponder (Stu Kern)**

Frustration or imagination? Is our telephone service better? It seems that a majority of recent telephone calls do not go through on the first try resulting in the totally obnoxious three tones in my ear. I first thought it was my mistake or the phone itself, but it happens on all of my phones, dial and push button, at work and home. It used to be that the Bell System (remember them?) standard was 7 seconds from dialing the last digit to connection (one of the system standards), information service outside of your immediate area was free and you could get a real live person to help if needed. It sure was a reliable, user friendly, efficient system that wasn't broken. Maybe that's why the government had to fix it.

## *Minutes*

## ***General Membership Meeting Minutes***

**April 25, 2005**

### *Call to Order*

The April meeting of the Oley Valley Business Association was held at the Oley Legion Diner. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 AM by President Bill Griffith

### *Minutes & Treasurer's Report*

A motion to accept the April minutes was made by Barbara Cummings and seconded by Scot Williams. The motion carried.

A motion to accept the April Treasurer's report was made by Kevin Bieber and seconded by Stu Kern. The motion carried.

### *Attendance*

The total attendance for the meeting was 15 members and 2 non-member guests.

### *Program*

This was a business-only meeting, with no special program.

The nominating committee met and selected members to fill the remaining 2 positions in the Executive Board. Those nominees were: Jeff Zackon, Roxanne Stauffer and Frank Morgan. Members present at the meeting were given ballots to elect 2 of the 3 nominees. The results were: Jeff Zackon (9 votes), Roxanne Stauffer (12 votes) and Frank Morgan (13 votes), which means Roxanne and Frank are the two new members of the Executive Board.

The Board will be scheduling a meeting to discuss such issues as Chamber membership and our level of involvement in the Covered Bridge Festival, as well as to make recommendations for the best use of Association funds.

Stu Kern mentioned that we need a map that includes our Association business area. Although Township maps are being produced, they would not cover our total business area, so we need to consider producing one ourselves. It was also suggested that we could link to MapQuest from the Association online directory. This is possible as long as the business has a valid street address on file. The subject was tabled with no specific instructions or action plan.

Minerva Hoppes, Treasurer, requested that all dues be sent to the P.O. Box, along with a copy of the invoice, rather than handed to someone, so she can keep an accurate record. She asked if she needed approval to pay for the Association Ad that is placed in the Oley Fair booklet. She was told that it was already budgeted, and could be paid without approval.

Minerva also reported that she now has a full-time second shift job, and asked if she should resign as Secretary. It was agreed by those present that she should continue as long as she feels she is able to do the job.

**Committee  
Reports**

*Scholarship*

Doug Kramer reported that the Committee would meet soon to pick the winner of the 2005 Scholarship.

*Berks County Chamber of Commerce*

Mike McCarthy of the Berks County Chamber of Commerce reported on upcoming programs, including the Chamber dinner on May 17, featuring Tom Ridge. Mike also mentioned that there have been a group going around testing businesses for ADA compliance and filing lawsuits. It was determined by the Chamber that a Maryland Attorney who gets a fee from the lawsuits filed by this group started this effort. The Chamber is trying to work with them so that a reasonable time can be given for the businesses to become ADA compliant, before any lawsuits are filed. More information is available on the Chamber website.

*Program*

Kevin Bieber reported that the May program will be Dennis Leh, at 6:30 PM at the Yellow House Hotel. June's program will be Dave Kessler, Oley Township Supervisor, at 7 AM, at the Oley Legion Diner.

*Oley Fair*

Doug Kramer reported that the committee would start meeting within a few weeks.

**Old Business**

*Town Meeting*

Stu Kern reported that the Town Meeting had about 150 people in attendance, which was less than expected, but that it was a productive meeting. If you did not attend and would like to receive information on the Caucus plan, please contact Stu Kern.

*Shops of Oley*

Stu Kern reported that the Tour of the Shops of Oley would be held on May 21 & 22.

**New Business**

No new business.

**Adjournment**

Tom Mitchell moved to adjourn the meeting; Lorraine Sterner seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 AM.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Morrow, Secretary*

*Humor  
from  
Tom  
Mitchell*

## Brings Back Memories

This is the message that the Pacific Palisades High School (California) Staff voted unanimously to record on their school telephone answering machine.

This came about because they implemented a policy requiring students and parents to be responsible for their children's absences and missing homework.

The school and teachers are being sued by parents who want their children's failing grades changed to passing grades even though those children were absent 15-30 times during the semester and did not complete enough school work to pass their classes.

This is the actual answering machine message for the school:

"Hello! You have reached the automated answering service of your school. In order to assist you in connecting the right staff member, please listen to all your options before making a selection:

"To lie about why your child is absent - *Press 1*

"To make excuses for why your child did not do his work - *Press 2*

"To complain about what we do - *Press 3*

"To swear at staff members - *Press 4*

"To ask why you didn't get information that was already enclosed in your newsletter and several flyers mailed to you - *Press 5*

"If you want us to raise your child - *Press 6*

"If you want to reach out and touch, slap or hit someone - *Press 7*

"To request another teacher for the third time this year- *Press 8*

"To complain about bus transportation - *Press 9*

"To complain about school lunches - *Press 0*

"If you realize this is the real world and your child must be accountable and responsible for his/her own behavior, class work, homework, and that it's not the teachers' fault for your child's lack of effort: Hang up and have a nice day!"