



# Oley Valley Business Association

P.O. Box 25

Oley, PA 19547-0025

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

## November 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Wednesday, Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> – Dinner at 6:30 pm – Yellow House Hotel  
(Social time beginning at 6:00 pm)

*Speaker: Judge Jeffrey Schmehl will talk about the impact that crime has on businesses in the County.*

**Reservations and your entrée choice must be made to Doug Kramer no later than November 23, 2007**, either by phone (office number is 610-987-8966) or email so he can provide Yellow House with a count. His email is [dkramer@appliedsurveying.com](mailto:dkramer@appliedsurveying.com). (See president's message for dinner choices, etc.)

*Please mark your calendar and plan on attending.*

## Upcoming Meetings

There will no meeting in December due to the Holidays.

## Message from Doug Kramer, OVBA President

Thanks to all in attendance at the last business meeting. What an incredible way for everyone to start their day at the Artist Cottage, Garden & Studio. Thank you Trish and Lamar for an awesome breakfast accompanied by the eloquence and charm of your cottage and surroundings. Again, thanks to all in attendance for your enthusiasm and ideas for our continual growth and yes there were more new faces!

Our next meeting will be at the Yellow House Hotel. It will be our last meeting of the year due to the year-end holidays. I would like to encourage all to bring their spouses or a guest to share some social and dining time before the holidays. Judge Jeffrey Schmehl will be our guest speaker for the evening, and I am looking forward to some insight on the judicial system in Berks County and the effects of crime within our community. We will follow with a few housekeeping items of business such as nomination of officers for 2008.

Later in January, we are planning a post holiday mixer at the Oley Fire Company. Then back to work in February to a strengthening program for the OVBA. There is no doubt that we will continue to grow in numbers and ideas through 2008.

I truly want to thank my officers of this year who have supported me and encouraged me. It sure was a pleasure to work with you and all your energy. You truly were an inspiration to me. Thanks also to all the Directors who provided advice on the tougher issues throughout the year.

For our November meeting, your entrée choices are:

*Filet Mignon @ \$22.95*  
*Chicken Marsala @ \$16.95*  
*Flounder Monterey @ \$17.95*  
*Chicken Caesar Salad @ \$10.50*

Place and Time: Yellow House Hotel; Wednesday the 28<sup>th</sup> of November, 6:00 PM social hour, 6:30 PM dinner, followed by our guest speaker and then business.

All dinners with the exception on the Chicken Caesar Salad will include a tossed salad, potato and a vegetable. Extras, above the cost of the entree such as drinks, appetizers and desserts, will be your responsibility also. **Reservations and your entrée choice must be made to me no later than November 23, 2007**, either by email or phone so I can provide Yellow House with a count. My email is [dkramer@appliedsurveying.com](mailto:dkramer@appliedsurveying.com). Please note in the caption or subject of your email "OVBA Dinner Reservations" so that I do not inadvertently delete your email. I will confirm your reservation before the dinner. My office number is 610-987-8966.

See you there...

*Douglas A. Kramer, President*

## *Meeting Minutes*

*Oct. 31, 2007*

### **Call To Order**

The October 31, 2007 meeting of the Oley Valley Business Association was held at The Artist Cottage. President Doug Kramer called the meeting to order at 7:44 am.

### **Attendance**

The total attendance for the meeting was 17 members. 14 businesses were represented.

### **Minutes & Treasurer's Reports**

A motion to accept the minutes as published in the October newsletter was made by Mike McCarthy and seconded by Lloyd Hopkins. Oscar Egolf noted a correction needed to the minutes as follows: 'The motion to accept the Treasurer's report published in the September newsletter was passed subject to audit.'

The motion to accept the minutes as published in the October newsletter was passed with this correction.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's report as published in the October newsletter was made by Oscar Egolf – subject to audit - and seconded by Carol Meeker. The motion carried.

## **General Business**

All attendees introduced themselves to the members. Trish Hartline, who hosted the meeting at The Artist Cottage, gave a brief overview of her business. The cottage is available for B&B type rentals, meetings, and temporary housing for relocation.

Sharon Morrow brought up that our web hosting is due for renewal in February, 2008. We have several options for renewing:

1. \$7.95/month for a 1 year renewal
2. \$6.95/month for a 2 year renewal
3. \$5.95/month for a 3 year renewal

A motion was made by Lloyd Hopkins to allow the officers to authorize a 3 year renewal if the budget allows. Mike McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Doug Kramer brought up the need for nominations for officers for 2008 at the November meeting. Mike McCarthy, Stu Kern, and Scot Williams volunteered to be the nominating committee.

Stu Kern reported that the BOD has discussed how to get the needed changes to the By-Laws implemented since we cannot get the 2/3 vote needed to change things.

Mike McCarthy suggested a mailing where it is stated that no response is considered acceptance of proposed changes. The BOD will further discuss the issue.

Carol Meeker handed out invitations to the BMBA Marketing Seminar and Networking Expo on November 8<sup>th</sup>. She highly recommended the guest speaker, Carlos Ojeda Jr. She has heard him speak in the past and reported he has excellent ideas for small businesses.

Oscar Egolf brought up the issue of the 5 positions on the Oley Valley School Board that will be filled based on the upcoming election. Who are these candidates and how can we find out about them and where they stand on issues that will affect us? It was suggested that the upcoming Boyertown Times would have all of the candidates and information on them. Everyone was encouraged to vote.

Stu Kern passed out some Shops of Oley brochures and reminded everyone that the variety offered by these businesses can meet everyone's Christmas shopping needs.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Program Committee**

There will no meeting in December due to the Holidays.

There will be mixer in January hosted by the Oley Fire Company. We will take a short time to install the new officers at this 'meeting'.

Please submit any suggestions/ideas for future speakers to Stu Kern/Kevin Bieber.

Next Meeting: **Wednesday, November 28th** – 6:00 pm @ Yellow House. Our guest speaker will be Judge Schmehl, who will discuss the impact of crime on businesses. Spouses/Guests are invited and dinner will be served at 6:30.

### **Old Business**

Doug Kramer reported that we will further pursue the idea of profiling all of our member business for the purpose of better meeting their needs as well as better promoting their businesses. He will be talking with David Hoffman to discuss receiving assistance from FBLA students on this project.

The Audit of our books is not yet complete. The committee has been unable to meet with Minerva as of yet and are still working on it.

### **New Business**

Doug Kramer brought up the possibility of increasing our dues to \$75 year for discussion, stating that this is minimal and the funds would be used to hire someone part time (approx. 20 hours per month). He stated that this is necessary since it is unfair to the officers to ask them to not only volunteer so much of their time, but in many cases, members are paying their staff to do OVBA work.

Carol Meeker said that the BMBA hired someone for \$12/hour for 20 hours/month and that was plenty to cover their needs.

Andy Kent suggested that perhaps some of our retired members would be willing to contribute some time.

Oscar Egolf brought up the issue of combining our association with Kutztown. This has been discussed with no action being taken right now. It was brought up that doing this would also require additional costs as we would have to join their organization.

Stu Kern reported that Board of Directors has met and has been discussing the possibilities of higher dues and/or joining forces with Kutztown. Further analysis is still needed and Jeff Zackon is working on that. A decision will be needed by the end of November.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to Adjourn: 1. Stu Kern                      2. Mike McCarthy  
The meeting was adjourned at 8:26am.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Marianne van der Velde, Secretary*

### ***Treasurer's Report***

Due to the fact we are in transition between Treasurers, there will be no Treasurers Report for this month! The books are in Audit. The Board is working on the new budget for the 2008 membership year.

*Respectfully submitted  
Kelly Blankenbiller, Treasurer*