Meridian Chamber of Commerce

Ambassadors Committee

**November 24, 2020 | 11:30 am**

**Conference Call Meeting**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| X | Cheryl Mulvihill, Co-Chair | X | Kevin Coon, Co-Chair | X | Jeff McClees |
| A | Scott Marker | A | Rick DeAguiar | X | Jen Satterthwaite |
| X | Paula Miller | X | Pat Catanzaro | A | Shara Hazzard |
| X | Shane Robertson | A | Todd Kraft | A | Brandon Akers |
| A | Malissa Meyer | X | Randy Dorvin | X | Jasmin Herrera |
| A | John Wolff | X | Scott McDonald | A | August Henning |
| X | Brian Rubino | X | Tim Burroughs | X | Terrie Trevino |
| A | Jon Jensen, Board | X | Sean Evans, Chamber | X | Michelle Leverett, Chamber |

**Minutes**

**Welcome and Introductions:** Cheryl

**Updates & Upcoming Chamber Events/Programs:** Sean

* Virtual Gala Event – recording available to view on Meridian Chamber Facebook page
* Keep Meridian Healthy Campaign Update – 150 yard signs have been placed, along with 6 large banners at busy intersections
* Shop Meridian Campaign and Online Auction – Retail/service businesses are being highlighted on the Business Buzz interviews to encourage viewers to shop local for the holidays, and the online auction features many member businesses products and other donated items; the auction will run through November 30th.
* Meridian Community Choir – find the link to participate at [www.meridianchamber.org/communitychoir](http://www.meridianchamber.org/communitychoir)
* Leadership Meridian – application submission open until November 30th with session to begin January 14, 2021

**New Member Buddy Reports**

* Farmers Insurance-Curtis Conde – Kevin met with Curtis; great man to help you with all your insurance needs.
* Wright Physical Therapy Meridian – Scott met with Xavier, who relocated from New Zealand, and Cydne, the Physical Therapy Aide, who are staffing this second location for Wright Physical Therapy.

**New Member Packets**

* Grand Canyon University – Shara
* Modern Woodmen of America – August
* The Buckner Company – Paula
* Crevand SEO - Terrie

**Renewing Member Packets**

* PacificSource Health – Paula
* CTC Telecom – Malissa
* United Site Services – Todd
* QTS Payroll – Michelle
* IBL Events – Randy
* Allied Business Solutions – Todd
* Stevens Henager College – Todd

**Ambassador Assistance with Meridian Chamber Past Due Accounts – Encouraging Renewals**

* A list of past-due accounts/members that haven’t renewed their memberships from the past few months was included with the Agenda.
* The Ambassadors were challenged to reach out to any of these members with whom they have a contact or business relationship to encourage those members to renew their membership with the Chamber.
* A script of What the Chamber Has Been Doing in 2020 was also provided to assist Ambassadors with naming all of the programs, campaigns, workshops, etc. that the Chamber has been instrumental in providing to support the Meridian business community during this difficult year in lieu of our normal networking activities (which we are hoping to get back to providing/hosting in 2021).

**Other News**

* For those interested in joining an MC Leads Group, the Chamber is working on starting a 4th group up beginning in January 2021 that will meet every other Thursday afternoon. Please let Michelle know if you are interested; more details will be coming mid-December.

**Upcoming Ambassador Committee meeting**

* December 15, 2020 (one week earlier than normal due to Christmas holiday)

**Meridian Chamber Accounts Receivable**

**Members Haven’t Renewed Yet**

**Round Kickboxing**

**ABC Movers**

**Ada West Dermatology**

**Assured Direct Care**

**Big Al’s**

**Boise Fry Company**

**Call & Reorder**

**Chip Cookies**

**Consign Furniture**

**D.L. Evans Bank – Emerald Road**

**Donut + Dog**

**Dynamite Signs**

**Edgewood Springs Creek**

**Enhanced Telecommunications & Data**

**Everest Maintenance Group**

**Excalibur Metal Design**

**Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co.**

**Idaho Army National Guard Recruiting Center**

**INSUR-MART**

**Keystone Physical Medicine**

**Krispy Kreme Doughnut**

**Leavitt Group**

**Lunchbox Wax**

**Meridian Smiles Dentistry**

**Minuteman Lock and Key**

**Mountain America Credit Union**

**Movement Mortgage**

**NAMI of Treasure Valley**

**Network in Action**

**Northwestern Mutual**

**NuMSP**

**Phoenix Fire Games**

**PKG, Inc.**

**Premier Mortgage Resources**

**Prime Pay**

**Primerica**

**Qdoba Mexican Grill**

**Quest Diagnostics**

**Renewal by Anderson**

**Rick DeAguiar Real Estate**

**Roosters Men’s Grooming Center**

**Sa-wad-dee**

**Sherwin-Williams Paint Co.**

**Summers DIY Flooring**

**The Harp Irish Pub**

**The Lofts at Ten Mile**

**The Vault**

**Upright Chiropractic**

**Urban Air**

**Valentus Weight Loss Coffee**

**Veritas Structural Engineering**

**Village Cinema/Backstage Bistro**

**Vitality Wellness Center**

**Walmart/W. Overland**

**World Finance**

**Your CBD Store – Boise and Meridian**

**Script from Sean’s Speech at Virtual Gala**

**What has the Chamber been busy doing in 2020 with no LIVE Events?**

I received an email from a Chamber member business that had been invoiced for their dues renewal, and this member basically was a bit put-out that the Chamber was still invoicing for annual membership dues when we haven’t been doing anything (referencing no luncheons and networking events). In my response to this member, I referenced Sean’s opening speech from the Virtual Gala that highlighted all the programs, campaigns, workshops and things that the Chamber has provided this year as we have been forced to pivot from our normal programs to other ways to help the Meridian business community through this challenging year. I have included these bullet points for your reference if you have members wondering why they should continue with their membership with the Chamber in light of gathering restrictions and LIVE events being on-hold. (You can view the entire Virtual Gala and hear Sean’s speech on our Meridian Chamber Facebook page.)

* The mission of the Meridian Chamber of Commerce is to enhance the Meridian area business community by promoting economic development, growth and prosperity while doing this in a business-friendly, community-connected, family-focused way.
* This last year has been challenging for everyone. Like almost all of the 600+ businesses that we represent, we had to quickly adapt, pivot, modify, do all of those things that you have to do when disruptive change happens in your industry.
* The Meridian Chamber is well known for our social networking events, such as our luncheons, First Fridays, Ribbon Cuttings, tradeshows, and our very popular Business After Hours events. But for the sake of the health and safety of our community, those events had to be put on hold.
* The Meridian Chamber developed the **Keep Meridian Healthy and Open for Business** campaign. We wanted to make sure that our local business opened up in a safe manner to encourage the public to come back to their stores and to keep them open going forward. We held **online workshops** that provided information on the Paycheck Protection Program and other CARES Act resources for the business community. We held **webinars** so that the business sectors could share best practices on reopening protocols and how they intend to keep their patrons safe.
* We came up with ways to facilitate our virtual ribbon cuttings and to share with the business community and the public information on new business openings and remind them of some of the tried and true business members of the Chamber of Commerce. Our bi-weekly **Business Buzz** social media program has become a great way for us to connect with our member businesses and the larger online community.
* We continued to bring the business community important information they needed to stay informed, such as **political forums** both in the primary and the general election. With these forums being virtual, even more candidates participated, and we reached thousands with our online programs instead of the hundreds we could have reached in person.
* While almost all of our events, except for the **Annual Golf Tournament,** this year were canceled, the Meridian Chamber has worked to bring you over 40 engaging and interactive programs
	+ First ever virtual **State of the City address** in June with our new Mayor Robert Simison
	+ Just last month, we supported our Meridian restaurant community with the **Taste of Meridian Restaurant Tour**. Forty-seven local Meridian dining establishments participated, and we showcased the culinary delights and the dining options right here in Meridian.
	+ In October, we presented a **Virtual Town Hall** with Sheriff Bartlett.
	+ In November, the Chamber presented a **Community Health Update** sponsored by Saltzer Health.
	+ Our newest **Shop Meridian** campaign was kicked off at the end of the Virtual Gala program to support the Meridian business community.
* The standing committees of the Chamber have met virtually or in hybrid meetings this year for their regular monthly meetings.

The Meridian Chamber of Commerce is here to support, advocate and promote our membership. We encourage you to get involved with the Chamber programs and stay connected with our weekly newsletter and our growing social media presence. Get involved with some of our committees and their great work going forward. We will return to normal, but we will return having learned new skills, developed new talents and persevered through great challenges. We have seen our community come together this year to support each other in ways that we could not have imagined. Meridian is positioned to thrive, and we have a great business community to lead the way.

Thank you for your continued support of the Meridian Chamber and the Meridian business community!