

# WARREN AREA CHAMBER MEETING Minutes

*Wednesday, April 3, 2024. Lunch provided by East of Chicago*

**Introduction of Chamber members and guests** - Please be sure to sign the attendance sheet. Thank you for your investment in the Warren Community. John Boyanowski opened in prayer.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting** – Minutes were reviewed. Terry Miller motioned to approve, Joyce Buzzard seconded. Discussion. Motion carried.

**Previous Treasurer's Report** – Terry Miller motioned to approve, Tom Wall seconded. Discussion. Motion carried.

**Spotlight Business** - George and Cheryl DeWeese started DeWeese Softwater and Appliance over forty years ago after purchasing downtown buildings. They work on all makes and models. They sell Maytag, Amana, Speed Queen and other brand names. They also sell used Appliances, mainly from the old Cline-Click building. Reverse Osmosis water is also a major part of their business. They have salt routes and RO water routes.

**Guest Speaker** - Jim Bush, Lions Club of Roanoke was chartered in 1976 with 28 Lions, District 25B. He and his wife have been in the area for 32 years. Next year he will be the Lions District Governor. They are having a drive to start new clubs. Lions is the world's largest service organization. It originated in the U.S. and is now International in 200 countries. They have grants available.

## **New Business**

- **Samuel Jones Pioneer Breakfast** - July 5, 2024 at 7:30 AM at the KBC. We are asking for Award Nominations for the Community Service Award.
- **Downtown Flowers** - Update, Gebhart's Greenhouse will be putting out the flowers in May.

## **Old Business**

- **Final Fridays** - Update: The banner has been ordered. Krysta has a sign-up sheet for each concert to be the Master of Ceremonies. The FF Committee will MC the first concert. We also are asking the Chamber Members to pass the buckets for a concert for donations.
- **Easter Egg Hunt** - Jane said it was a great event, thankful for perfect weather and in one minute fifty-two seconds all of the eggs were gathered! Thank you to the KBC, the businesses who filled the eggs, the fire department and all who helped!
- **Eclipse Party** – Monday, April 8, 2024. 10 AM to 3:30 PM. Planning to hand out 1,000 bags with advertising. We could use your help right after the meeting to finish stuffing bags, thank you!

## **Updates**

- **HC Community Foundation** - Matt Ditzler has a last call for the Home Town Grants. Review is next Thursday. There is a Lilly Endowment 2:1 matching grant available.
- **HC Council or Commissioner** – Terry Miller updated they are meeting with Courtney Bonebrake of the H.C. Early Childhood Development program to meet the needs as we are about 50% short of having enough safe and affordable childcare. Tom Wall says things are going well in H.C. There is a consensus to move forward with adding a new Resource Officer.

- **Huntington County Visitors Bureau** - Tina Disch says we are all geared up for the Solar Eclipse this Monday, in Markle and Warren.
- **Historic Warren Main Street** – Jeff Souder invited us all to the 4th Annual Car Show 5/18/24, 11 am at Heritage Pointe. Come and enjoy all of the events and vendors.
- **SSF** - Next meeting is Tuesday, April 9, 2024, 6:30 PM at the KBC. All are invited to come. Your input and help is welcomed.
- **United Way** - Tom Wall updated their kickoff meeting went amazing.
- **Chamber Gift Bucks**- are available for purchase at Bippus State Bank, \$5 each, and work just like a check. The full amount needs to be used when redeeming, no cash back is given.

*Next meeting 5/1/24.*

**Positions:**

President – Tammy Zehner  
 1st Vice President – Krysta Fornal  
 2nd Vice President – Troy Drayer  
 Secretary – Melinda Daniels  
 Treasurer – Patti Bustos

**Terms:**

Patti Bustos 2022-2024 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Term  
 Krysta Fornal 2022-2024 – 1<sup>st</sup> Term  
 Tammy Zehner 2022-2024 – 1<sup>st</sup> Term  
 Melinda Daniels 2023-2025 – 1<sup>st</sup> Term  
 Troy Drayer 2023-2025 – 1<sup>st</sup> Term  
 Robert Neuenschwander 2023-2025 – 1st Term  
 Miranda Bolinger 2024-2026 – 1<sup>st</sup> Term  
 Olivia Bolinger 2024-2026 – 1<sup>st</sup> Term  
 Mike Ralston 2024-2026 – 1<sup>st</sup> Term