

WARREN AREA CHAMBER MEETING Minutes

Wednesday, February 7, 2024. Lunch provided by Son-Rise Bakery

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

Welcome – Pastor John Boyanowski opened in prayer.

Minutes of Previous Meeting – Minutes were reviewed. Tina Disch motioned to approve, Patti Bustus seconded. Discussion. Motion carried.

Previous Treasurer's Report – Report was reviewed with discussion. Neil Laymon motioned to approve with a corrected date as of 1/31/2024, LeAnn Buzzard seconded. Motion carried.

Spotlight Business - Dash 90. Zane Herr shared this is a Winery on the family farm. It began 10 years ago making wine in the basement. Now they have 21 different wines, have a tasting room on the farm and host many live events throughout the year, food trucks, live music, comedians, and various entertainment.

New Business

- **Final Fridays Update** - Krysta Formal and Miranda Bolinger are now coordinating the Final Friday concerts along with Olivia Bolinger and Melinda Daniels. Anyone who wants to help is welcome and invited to help.
- **Easter Egg Hunt** - March 30th 10:00 AM sharp! Thank you to the businesses who are able to take a box of Easter Eggs, fill them with candy, coupons, trinkets, special prizes for the kids, and return them at the next Chamber meeting, 3/6/24.
- **Insurance for Shade Sails at Riverside Park** - To cover the shade sails for \$28,000, it will be an additional \$300 premium. Motion to approve by Melinda Daniels, 2nd by Tina Disch. Discussion. LeAnn Buzzard explained our contract with the Town of Warren, states it is our responsibility to insure any and all improvements. Motion carried.

Old Business

- **WACC Membership** - Please sign up for monthly Spotlight Business.
- **Taste of Warren** – Saturday, March 2, 2024 7-9 PM at Dogwood Glen Golf Course. We have 13 sponsors with a very special evening planned. This is “All About Warren.” We have tickets for sale today, please purchase them soon, as there is limited seating available.
- **Eclipse Party** – Monday, April 8, 2024. 10 AM to 3:30 PM with 3:08 pm totality! This is a big event for Indiana, and Warren. We are planning for local businesses to be open and have a DJ for the day with music. The Library will have Eclipse glasses and educational opportunities. Many local events are planned, more details to come.

Updates

- **HCCSC** - John Trout is thankful for all of Warrens’ support. They are investing \$5 million into Salamonie School. The school board will make a decision about The Eclipse 4/8/24 at their meeting on 2/19/24. They are working with Huntington University and Huntington North

High School Students to achieve dual credits, or early entry credit hours so they can earn up to a full years' college credit by their graduation. The Learning Center also works wonderfully to train students in trade skills.

- **Huntington County Chamber** - Jeff Souder shared for Steve Kimmel that the Entrepreneurial Counsel is hosting the next Meet and Greet at The Exchange in Warren on Monday, February 26, 5:30 - 7:30 PM. Please RSVP. This is a great opportunity to connect and partner with Entrepreneurs. Smekens Education and Krysta Fornal with Son-Rise Bakery will be speaking.
- **HC Community Foundation** - Amber, is in her fourth week with HCCF, announced their scholarships are now open and there are some specifically for Warren students. Let's encourage Warren students to apply. Hometown grants are open in the Spring.
- **HC Council or Commissioner** – Brian Warpup updated there will be ten miles of chip n' seal in our area this summer.
- **Historic Warren** – Becky Souder presented our Love Local/ Love Warren/ Shop Local event for February with five local businesses each giving away a prize. Please share on Facebook. 4th Annual Car Show is 5/18/24 at Heritage Pointe. We will be providing #100 goody bags to each participant and will be happy to include any promotional items your business would like to have included. Please refer to our flyer about our year in review. HNHS FFA is selling their famous strawberries. You may order through Becky.
- **Warren Town Council** - Steve Buzzard shared they are putting in a new pavilion at Tower Park when the weather permits. Soon the sewer and water projects will begin.
- **Warren Boys and Girls Club** - Audra Lahr is excited they are serving over 70 kids regularly. They have at least three employees in the building at all times. They have several programs for literacy skills with STRIDE and SEL 7:15-8am, K-2 and 3-5 grades.
- **WACC Gift Bucks**- are available for purchase at Bippus State Bank in \$5 increments and work just like a check. The full amount needs to be used when redeeming, no cash back is given.

Next meeting 3/6/24.

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 – 2nd Term

Krysta Fornal 2022-2024 – 1st Term

Tammy Zehner 2022-2024 – 1st Term

Melinda Daniels 2023-2025 – 1st Term

Troy Drayer 2023-2025 – 1st Term

Robert Neuenschwander 2023-2025 – 1st Term

Miranda Bolinger 2024-2026 – 1st Term

Olivia Bolinger 2024-2026 – 1st Term

Mike Ralston 2024-2026 – 1st Term