

Chamois Lions Club News

The Chamois Lions Club met for their regular monthly meeting on Monday evening, April 10, 2023, at the Chamois Community Center. Fourteen Lions and two visitors, Brad Arlen and Justin Bathke, were present for the dinner and business meeting.

Prior to the dinner, Lion President Mark Mehmert led the Chamois Lions in the Pledge of Allegiance and then Lion Rev. Jason Hilkerbaumer offered the table prayer. The Ladies of Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church served a delicious dinner of ham, potato salad, slaw, jello salad, deviled eggs, homemade dinner rolls, and cake for dessert.

Lion President Mehmert presided at the business meeting. To begin the business meeting, Lion President Mehmert requested that the meeting agenda be approved and the Chamois Lions voted to approve the agenda. Copies of the minutes of the March 13, 2023 meeting had previously been distributed electronically by Lion Secretary Beth Sieg and paper copies were available for those Lions who prefer paper. The Chamois Lions voted to approve the minutes. Lion Treasurer Nelson Sieg presented a detailed financial report. Due to the absence of Lion Building Co-Chairpersons Randy Thoenen and Dale Hackmann, there was no report on Community Center finances and maintenance issues.

Lion President Mehmert called on Chamois Lions Club liaisons to other Chamois and Morrison civic groups for reports on the activities of those groups. Lion Debbie Huff, who is President of the Chamois Industrial Development Corporation (CIDC), Lions Susan Sundermeyer and Betty Linhardt, who are members of the Chamois Historic Preservation Commission (CHPC) board, Lion Elise Brochu, who is Mayor of the City of Chamois, and Lion Scott Mertz, who is a member of the Fire Department, were absent and thus there were no regular reports for those organizations. Lion Jeff Kormann, who is a board member of both the CIDC and CHPC, was present and did provide an update on CHPC efforts to repair the kitchen floor in the Townley House. Estimated costs to repair the floor, which was sinking, are approximately \$1,600.00. Work has begun on the repairs, some generous donations have been received, but additional donations are most welcome. Lion Michael Edwards, who is the new Mayor-elect of the City of Chamois, was present but since he has not yet assumed office had no report. Lion Melissa Strope, Mayor of the City of Morrison offered a detailed report on Morrison activities. The city hopes to hire a new Water Commissioner, sidewalk repairs are a high priority, the City Council has begun to meet in City Hall, and repairs and upgrades to the City Hall building are underway. Lion Steve Duncan, who is on the board of the Osage County Agritourism Council (OCAC), reported on an April 15, 2023 tour entitled "A Morning with Osage County Artists". On that morning, approximately 10 participants will each visit the art studios of Vivian Carwile in Loose Creek and Fred Schollmeyer near Chamois. The tour begins at 9:00 a.m. in Loose Creek with Vivian Carwile, the visit will last an hour with the opportunity to view art and possibly purchase art works, from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. participants will travel to the studio of Fred Schollmeyer, and from 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon Fred Schollmeyer will host the participants.

Three items of old business, special project updates, and ad hoc committee reports were addressed.

Lion President Mehmert reported that there is still a need to rake, seed, and straw the vacant lot on Main Street that the City of Chamois owns. This lot was cleared of brush and debris last Fall and this past weekend Lion Michael Edwards cleaned off additional brush and tree limbs and removed an old fence. There is a need to level some areas of the lot. Lion President Mehmert will bring his skid steer and bucket and level the lot. Then grass seed will be sown.

In the continuing efforts to restore the Old Bandstand at the Chamois City Park, discussion again focused on possible contractors to undertake the renovation efforts and a trip to Hermann, MO to inspect their bandstand. Lions Mark Mehmert, Steve Duncan, and Michael Edwards have expressed interest in making the visit to Hermann and hopefully Lion Susan Sundermeyer can likewise make the visit.

Discussion focused on the need for the Chamois Lions Club Scholarship Committee to meet to select scholarship recipients from Chamois High School for the E. E. Turner Scholarship and the Chamois Lions Club Scholarship. Each of these scholarships are in the amount of \$500.00.

Six items of new business were introduced and discussed.

Lions Brandy Ruegge and Steve Duncan reported on the Easter Egg Hunt held at the Chamois City Park on Saturday, April 8, 2023. The weather was perfect and a very large crowd of children and parents enjoyed the activities. Six Lions assisted with the event. These Lions included Connie Smith, Brandy Ruegge, Jeff Kormann, Beth Sieg, Steve Duncan, and Michael Edwards. A special thank-you was extended to Lion Connie Smith for her efforts to lead this project and to prepare the eggs and candy. Lion Beth Sieg used her best teacher voice to organize the kids and to start the egg hunt.

Lion Rev. Jason Hilkerbaumer announced that the Chamois Youth Group will volunteer at the Lions Eyeglasses Recycling Center in North Jefferson City on Saturday morning, April 15, 2023 as a service project. Youth group members and sponsors will sort, clean, read, and label donated used eyeglasses which then will be distributed during various mission trips to foreign countries and perhaps to local mission projects in Missouri. Several Chamois Lions Club members will also participate in this volunteer service project.

Lion President Mehmert appointed a Nominating Committee comprised of Chamois Lions Club Past Presidents. A slate of officers for the 2023-2024 Lions year will be submitted and elected at the May 8, 2023 regular meeting. New Lions officers must be reported to Lions Clubs International (LCI) in May of each year.

The annual Spring clean-up day in Chamois was scheduled for Saturday, April 22, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. Trash will be picked up, weeds cut, and areas around the "Welcome to Chamois" signs and the Chamois City Park will be landscaped. This service project welcomes all volunteers, Lions and non-Lions, to get involved and help to spruce up the community.

Lion President Mehmert introduced visitor Justin Bathke, who is the Public Works employee for the City of Chamois. Discussion focused on efforts shared by the City of Chamois and the Chamois Lions Club to maintain and improve the City Park and which entity is responsible for various maintenance projects and costs incurred. Mr. Bathke stated that his goal is to make the City Park even more of an attraction for residents and visitors. The City Park is a beautiful park, but with any public venue there are challenges to maintain the buildings and grounds and find ways to cover the costs. Issues raised included fees assessed local baseball and softball teams to cover the cost of ballpark lights, the need to constantly monitor and empty trash receptacles, the need to have the restrooms opened more hours each day, the need for immediate repairs to the roof of the ballpark grandstand, and the persistent problem of vandalism at the City Park. Discussions are underway to determine the costs to repair the grandstand roof, the amount of insurance claim funds received to cover the damage, and the identification of a building contractor to lead the roof repairs. Even more discussion focused on the vandalism and how best to utilize security cameras located within the park to deter vandalism. The use of security cameras could be enhanced if there was Internet access within the Chamois Community Center and the City Park. Lion President Mehmert will explore options for Internet access.

To conclude the discussion of new business items, the Chamois Lions reviewed a request from the Patton, MO Lions Club for financial assistance following devastating tornados in Southern Missouri in which rural communities were destroyed and five residents lost their lives. The Chamois Lions voted to donate \$200.00 to the Patton Lions Club for recovery efforts.

Lion Secretary Beth Sieg made one announcement. The Osage County Shop with a Hero program pairs approximately 40 children with law enforcement, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and military personnel for a shopping spree leading up to Christmas with the goal to instill a positive experience in each child. To raise money for this project, there will be a Dodge a Hero Dodgeball Tournament on Saturday, April 29, 2023 at the Linn High School Fieldhouse. Businesses and organizations are encouraged to form a team or else make a monetary contribution to the event. For further information or to register a team, e-mail arice@osagesheriff.org or jennifermillard@cmca.us.

April birthday wishes were extended to Lions Connie Smith, Steve Duncan, Sherry Conner, and Debbie Mehmert. Concerns and prayer requests were offered for all members of the Chamois and Morrison communities who have health issues or needs to include Lions Jeanne Best and Kay Schwinke. A moment of silence was observed for Lion Orville Whithaus, who recently passed away. Lion Whithaus was a dedicated and active Lion while living in Chamois and despite having to relocate to a nursing home had maintained his membership in the Chamois Lions Club and was most interested in club activities and service projects.

To conclude the meeting, Lion President Mehmert called on Lion Steve Duncan to share a joke. Lion Duncan shared a joke entitled "Old People Jokes" with quotes from famous individuals. Mark Twain once said that "The older I get, the more clearly I remember things that never happened" and J Norman Collie said that "Grandchildren don't make a man feel old, it's the knowledge that he's married to a grandmother that does."

The next meeting of the Chamois Lions Club will be on Monday, May 8, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the Chamois Community Center.