**Chamois Lions Club News**

The Chamois Lions Club met for their regular monthly meeting on Monday evening, July 10, 2023 at the Chamois Community Center. Eighteen Lions and one guest, Brad Arlen, were present for the dinner and business meeting.

Prior to the dinner, Lion Third Vice President Randy Thoenen led the Chamois Lions in the Pledge of Allegiance and Lion Duane Paulsmeyer offered the table prayer. The Ladies of St. Mary’s Catholic Church served a delicious dinner of brats and hot dogs, baked beans, mac and cheese, green beans, potato chips, and apple pie with ice cream for dessert.

In the absence of outgoing President Lion Mark Mehmert and incoming President Lion Robin Lieneke, incoming Third Vice President Lion Randy Thoenen presided at the business meeting. Prior to the start of the business meeting, Lion Third Vice President Thoenen called on Lion Steve Duncan to install new Lions officers for the 2023-2024 Lions year which began on July 1, 2023. Lion Duncan offered very brief remarks about the importance of Lions officers in serving their club and thanked those Lions for accepting leadership roles. Officers were then declared installed. These officers include Lion Robin Lieneke as President, Lion Rev. Jason Hilkerbaumer as First Vice President, Lion Scott Mertz as Second Vice President, Lion Randy Thoenen as Third Vice President, Lion Beth Sieg as Secretary, Lion Nelson Sieg as Treasurer, Lion Sherry Conner as Tail Twister, Lion Connie Smith as Lion Tamer, Lion Robin Lieneke as LCIF Chairperson, Lions Michael Edwards and Steve Duncan as Club Service Chairpersons, Lion Mark Mehmert as Marketing/Communications Chairperson, Lion Melissa Strope as Membership Chairperson, and Lions Susan Sundermeyer, Randy Thoenen, Mark Lieneke, and Duane Paulsmeyer as Directors.

Lion Third Vice President Thoenen presided at the business meeting. Lion Third Vice President Thoenen requested that the meeting agenda be approved and the Chamois Lions voted to approve the agenda. Copies of the minutes of the June 12, 2023 meeting had previously been distributed electronically by Lion Secretary Beth Sieg and paper copies were available for those Lions who prefer paper. With no objection voiced, Lion Third Vice President Thoenen declared the minutes approved. Lion Treasurer Nelson Sieg presented a detailed financial report and Lion Building Co-Chairpersons Dale Hackmann and Randy Thoenen reported on Community Center finances and maintenance issues. In the report on Community Center maintenance issues, Lion Thoenen reported that the contractor previously contacted to look into HVAC issues and a possible issue with the gas lines has not done so and there is a need to contact another HVAC contractor.

Lion Third Vice President Thoenen called on Chamois Lions Club liaisons to other Chamois and Morrison civic groups for reports on the activities of those groups. Lion Scott Mertz, who is a member of the Fire Department, was absent so there was no report for that organization. Lion Jeff Kormann, who is on the board of the Chamois Industrial Development Corporation (CIDC) was present but had no report. Lion Susan Sundermeyer, who is a member of the Chamois Historic Preservation Commission (CHPC), reported that the CHPC has been planning for Chamois Day. The CHPC will again sell ice cream on the grounds of the Townley House during Chamois Day and the Rost Family Singers will again entertain. Lion Mike Edwards, who is the Mayor of the City of Chamois, and Lion Melissa Strope, who is Mayor of the City of Morrision, were both present and both indicated that there was no new information to report other than the City of Chamois water project will soon begin. Lion Steve Duncan, who is a member of the Osage County Agritourism Council (OCAC), reported that the “Taste of Osage County” event has been scheduled for September 9, 2023 and Ken and MaryAnn Gelven have scheduled a “Not Your Grandpa’s Farm” tour for September 5, 2023. This new tour will highlight how technology and science are advancing agriculture in Osage County and will demonstrate some alternative uses of farms. Tour cost is only $75 per person and will include a wonderful lunch catered by Argyle Catering.

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

At the June 12, 2023 meeting, the Chamois Lions Club voted to install wifi at the Community Center. Wifi capability would enhance the camera security system already in place. Lion Michael Edwards has contacted RadioWire and will follow through on scheduling an installation.

Lion Third Vice President Thoenen reported that his farm work schedule has slowed down and that he hopes to have time to look into Chamois City Park ballpark fence repairs and the replacement of the door on the storage shed. Lion Thoenen will contact other Lions volunteers and schedule a work evening.

Lions Susan Sundermeyer and Steve Duncan next reported that several members of the Chamois Lions Club and CHPC met with contractor Grayson Light to examine the Chamois City Park Old Bandstand. The group was able to enter the utility room inside the Old Bandstand and to review the structural soundness of the bandstand. There is a need to briefly remove one metal panel on the second level of the bandstand to further examine the original second story floor before the rebuild of that story can commence. Contractor Grayson Light is to schedule that task. Susan Sundermeyer, a member of both the Lions Club and CHPC, met with the Mayor and City Council and was given permission for the two groups to proceed with getting a bid from Grayson Light for the reconstruction of the second story of the bandstand.

Lions Dawna Keilholz and Becca Mehmert, who along with Lion Michael Edwards and volunteer Amanda Carter comprise the Chamois Day Committee, reported on plans for the 23rd Annual Chamois Day to be held on Saturday, September 16, 2023. The theme for Chamois Day is “Country Roads Take Me Home”. T-shirt order forms and Chamois Day flyers were distributed to be posted in local businesses and churches. The parade will start at 10:00 a.m. Entertainment will be provided by Broken Arrow and Chloe Rhea. Activities will include vendors, crafts, food, a Little Mr. & Miss Chamois Day, a scavenger hunt, games for children on the St. Mary’s Catholic Church parking lot, and as a new event a pulled pork competition whereby businesses and individuals prepare pulled pork to be judged by a panel of judges and also by popular vote. Roomerz Restaurant and Bar will hold a washer tournament and a cornhole tournament and host a live band. There will be an adult raffle and a children’s raffle. Members of the Chamois Day Committee are soliciting adult raffle prizes and Lion Connie Smith will again secure prizes for the children’s raffle. Much discussion focused on possible new activities for Chamois Day such as turtle races and a hay bale tossing competition. There is great interest in adding new activities next year but there is a need for additional volunteers to help with such events. At present, members of the Chamois Day Committee, Chamois Lions Club members, and volunteers are stretched to the limit in terms of setting up for Chamois Day, providing labor for the various activities, selling raffle tickets, overseeing the raffle drawing and distribution of prizes, driving tractors for the hayrides, and cleaning up at the end of the day. A sign-up sheet for volunteers was circulated at the meeting and potential volunteers are encouraged to contact a member of the Chamois Day Committee. Every volunteer is welcome and any amount of time that can be donated would be much appreciated.

Three items of new business were introduced and discussed.

Lion Steve Duncan reported that the Chamois Industrial Development Corporation (CIDC) will again sponsor a “Back to School Supplies” program whereby cash donations are used to purchased school supplies for Osage County R-1 School students who have needs for such supplies. This is a wonderful project to benefit youth and youth projects are one of the major focuses of service projects for Lions Clubs. Lions were encouraged to make individual donations and to mail such donations to the Chamois Industrial Development Corporation in care of the Old Schoolhouse on the Hill B & B at 402 S. Main Street in Chamois, MO 65024. Any other donor who would like to contribute to this worthwhile project is likewise encouraged to mail donations to the CIDC. In the event additional funds are needed after individual donations have been received, the Chamois Lions Club will make a donation as a club.

Some discussion focused on possible new cameras for the Community Center and the Chamois City Park given the wifi installation at the Community Center. At the recent Town Hall Meeting hosted by Sheriff Bonham and other law enforcement representatives, various types of security cameras and security systems were explained. Consensus of Chamois Lions Club members was to explore new cameras. Lion Third Vice President Thoenen agreed to check with the insurance provider for the Community Center to determine if upgraded cameras might help to reduce the cost of insurance premiums for the Community Center.

Lion Melissa Strope reported that the Roomerz men’s softball team and local T-shirt vendor Matt Shockley have discussed offering banners to be hung on the Chamois City Park ballpark fence to advertise local businesses. For a modest sponsorship fee, the businesses would be recognized on individual banners and the proceeds could be used for ballpark maintenance. Chamois Lions Club members endorsed this idea.

Following the business meeting, two announcements were made. Lion Secretary Beth Sieg reminded Lions that dues are due as of July 1, 2023 and encouraged Lions to pay dues promptly. Lion Michael Edwards announced that the City of Chamois will host three movie nights at the Chamois City Park. These movie nights will be held on July 15, 2023, August 12, 2023, and August 26, 2023. There will be refreshments for sale at these movie nights. Several Lions offered compliments to Lion Edwards and the City of Chamois for the fireworks display on July 4, 2023.

July birthday wishes were extended to Lions Mark Lieneke, Nelson Ruegge, and Rodney Frey. Prayer concerns were expressed for those community members who have health issues to include Lions Jeanne Best, Janice Sehnert, and Mark Lieneke.

To conclude the meeting, Lion Third Vice President Thoenen called on Lion Steve Duncan to share a joke. Lion Duncan shared a list of humorous “Airline Announcements”.

The next meeting of the Chamois Lions Club will be on Monday, August 14, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the Chamois Community Center.