

Chamois Lions Club News

The Chamois Lions Club met for their regular monthly meeting on Monday evening, June 12, 2023 at the Chamois Community Center. Twenty Lions and one guest, Brad Arlen, 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 Lion Rev. Jason Hilkerbaumer offered the table prayer. The Ladies of St. Mary's Catholic Church served a delicious dinner of fried chicken, Caesar salad, potato salad, macaroni salad, two different jello salads, homemade bread, and pecan pie and Boston cream pie for dessert.

Prior to the start of the business meeting, Lion Tail Twister Sherry Conner introduced a scavenger hunt/bingo game that involved all Lions Club members seeking out other Lions in an effort to identify Lions who had a particular characteristic, skill, or accomplishment and thus complete a bingo card. Lion Debbie Mehmert was the first bingo winner. A fun time was had by all. Lion Tail Twister Conner hopes to have an activity for each Lions Club meeting.

Lion President Mehmert presided at 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 May 8, 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 President Mehmert declared the minutes approved. Lion Treasurer Nelson Sieg presented a detailed financial report and Lion Building Co-Chairperson Randy Thoenen reported on Community Center finances and maintenance issues. In his report on Community Center maintenance issues, Lion Thoenen called on Lion Rodney Frey, who reported that he has found a contractor who will replace the gas lines in the HVAC units in the Community Center.

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 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. Lions Susan Sundermeyer and Betty Linhardt, who are members of the Chamois Historic Preservation Commission (CHPC), reported that the CHPC has made progress on repair issues at the Townley House. The kitchen floor has been stabilized and repaired. There is still a need to address electrical issues and at some point in time repairs to the floor and a wall in the dining room will need to be made. Lion Mike Edwards, who is the new Mayor of the City of Chamois, reported that the City has received a bid from contractor Grayson Light to rebuild the portion of the City Park ball park grandstand roof that was removed due to windstorm damage sustained last Fall. Lion Edwards also reported that the ball park storage shed door needs to be replaced and this project was added to the list of Lions Club

community projects to address. Lion Melissa Strobe, Mayor of the City of Morrison, reported that the City has employed Greg Breeden as the new Water Commissioner. 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, Ken and MaryAnn Gelven are working on a possible "Not Your Grandpa's Farm" tour, and that the OCAC continues to need new individual and business members.

Lion Susan Sundermeyer, who is also on the OCAC board and who is the Osage County Ambassador to Missouri Life, reported that she was able to have the Old Schoolhouse on the Hill B & B recognized as a "Hidden Gem" in the May 2023 issue of the magazine. The Old Schoolhouse on the Hill B & B is owned and operated by Lions Debbie and LeRoy Huff. Congratulations to Lions Huff and Huff and thanks to Lion Sundermeyer for her efforts to promote Osage County as a visitor destination.

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

For many months, the Chamois Lions Club has discussed the possible need for wifi at the Community Center. Wifi capability would enhance the camera security system already in place. Lion Michael Edwards reported that he has performed some research and found a vendor to provide wifi service. RadioWire will provide a modem and install the modem for a one-time fee of \$200.00 and for \$69.00 a month provide bandwidth of 12 mbps for downloads and 6 mbps for uploads. Following much discussion, Chamois Lions voted to pursue this wifi solution.

Lion Susan Sundermeyer next reported that she along with Lions Jeff Kormann and Steve Duncan and members of the CHPC recently visited Hermann, MO and met with Lois Kruse, who shared information as to how the Hermann City Park Bandstand was built and provided a very detailed inspection of the bandstand. The Chamois Lions Club hopes to proceed with a rebuild of the second story of the Old Bandstand in the Chamois City Park and to perhaps add some enhancements such as a concrete pad around the outside of the bandstand. The next steps in this process are for representatives of the Chamois Lions Club and CHPC to meet with the City of Chamois to get permission to proceed, have detailed plans for the rebuild of the second story and other improvements drawn, and then using such plans seek contractor bids.

Lion Dawna Keilholz, who along with Lions Becca Mehmert and 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 washer tournament, and a cornhole tournament. 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.

Lion Secretary Beth Sieg reported on behalf of the Lions Scholarship Committee. For 2023, the E E Turner Scholarship in the amount of \$500.00 was presented to Waylon Carter and the Chamois Lions Club Scholarship in the amount of \$500.00 was presented to Paige Weed. Congratulations to these 2023 Chamois High School graduates.

Two items of new business were introduced and discussed.

Lion Secretary Sieg announced that Lions Club dues will be due on July 1, 2023. Lions were encouraged to pay their dues.

Lion President Mehmert thanked Lions Tail Twister Sherry Conner for her efforts to introduce fun activities into the club meetings. The Chamois Lions voted to establish a small budget to be used by the Tail Twister for prizes to be awarded to the winners of club fun activities and games at each regular meeting.

Following the business meeting, Lion President Mehmert shared one item of correspondence. A letter was received from the Gasconade Valley Enterprise Zone (GVEZ). The GVEZ provides economic development assistance to the City of Chamois and for many years the Chamois Lions Club has been a financial supporter of the GVEZ. Following brief discussion, the Chamois Lions Club voted to contribute \$250.00 to the GVEZ.

June birthday wishes were extended to Lions Alex Bingelli and Kay Schwinke. Prayer concerns were expressed for those community members who have health issues to include Lion Jeanne Best.

To conclude the meeting, Lion President Mehmert called on Lion Steve Duncan to share a joke. Lion Duncan shared a list of humorous quotes that "Confucius Didn't Say". Included in the list were a quote that "Man who jumps off cliff jumps to conclusion" and "Man who lives in glass house should change clothes in basement".

The next meeting of the Chamois Lions Club will be on Monday, July 10, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the Chamois Community Center.