

Chamois Lions Club News

The Chamois Lions Club met for their regular monthly meeting on Monday evening, May 8, 2023 at the Chamois Community Center. Fourteen Lions and two guests, Dan Howard and Delmar Mitchem, were present for the dinner and business meeting.

Prior to the dinner, Lion Steve Duncan led the Chamois Lions in the Pledge of Allegiance and also offered the table prayer. The Ladies of St. Mary's Catholic Church served a delicious Mexican dinner of beef tacos, beef burritos, enchiladas, taco salad, chips and salsa, and cake for dessert.

Prior to the start of the business meeting, Lion President Mark Mehmert introduced guests Dan Howard and Delmar Mitchem. Dan Howard is the Treasurer of Chamois Lodge #185 A.F. & A.M. and also a member of Chamois American Legion Post 506 and Delmar Mitchem is the Adjutant for Chamois American Legion Post 506. Mr. Howard and Mr. Mitchem reported that both Chamois Lodge #185 and American Legion Post 506 have been approached by local residents who would like to see a large flagpole constructed at the Chamois City Park. Chamois Lodge #185 has been involved in the construction of six flagpoles at the Chamois Lodge Hall, various cemeteries, and a local church. Dan Howard and Dave Steffen, who is the Finance Officer for Chamois American Legion Post 506, recently visited a flagpole and flag vendor in St. James, MO. A 40-foot flagpole would cost approximately \$4,400.00 and discussions with a local concrete contractor have determined that approximately 5 yards of concrete would be required for the base. Ideally, there would be a spotlight focused on the flagpole so that the flag would be visible at all times. Both Chamois Lodge #185 and Chamois American Legion Post 506 have great interest in pursuing this project. There are several issues to be addressed. Some funds are available but additional donations will be required. The location of the flagpole needs to be determined with the hope that a location can be found that provides for the flagpole to be seen from within the City Park but also highly visible to traffic on the Missouri River. Ongoing maintenance issues to include periodic replacement of the flag and the payment of the electric costs for the spotlight will need to be addressed. Consensus of members of the Chamois Lions Club was that this is a great project and pending the resolution of those issues identified the Chamois Lions Club would like to be involved.

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 April 10, 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.

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), Lion Melissa Strobe, who is the Mayor of the City of Morrison, and Lion Scott Mertz, who is a member of the Fire Department, were all absent so there were no reports for those organizations. Lion Susan Sundermeyer, who is a member 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, provided an update on the City's water project and indicated that there is a need to find some land on which to drill a new well. Lion Edwards also reported that he is trying to find ways to have the restrooms at the Chamois City Park open in the evenings and on the weekends. Lion Steve Duncan, who is a member of the Osage County Agritourism Council (OCAC), reported that the OCAC has a board meeting scheduled for Tuesday evening, May 9, 2023 and the "Taste of Osage County" event has been scheduled for September 9, 2023. New members continue to purchase individual memberships in the OCAC and obviously new members are always most welcome.

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

Lions Beth Sieg, Nelson Sieg, and Steve Duncan reported on the Chamois Youth Group and Chamois Lions Club April 15, 2023 volunteer day at the Show Me Lions Eyeglasses Recycling Program. On that day, five members of the Chamois Youth Group sponsored by St. Johns United Church of Christ and the Chamois United Methodist Church, three youth group leaders, and five members of the Chamois Lions Club volunteered at the Show Me Lions Eyeglasses Recycling Program, which is housed in the former Cedar City Lions Club building located in North Jefferson City. At the Eyeglasses Recycling Center, donated eyeglasses received from throughout the State of Missouri are stored, sorted, cleaned, the prescriptions read using a lensometer, and the glasses and a printed copy of the prescription are bagged and labeled for distribution. During 2022, approximately 50,000 pairs of eyeglasses from this facility were taken on mission trips to Mexico, Central America, South America, Africa, and the Philippines and also shared in homeless clinics in Missouri.

Lions Michael Edwards and Steve Duncan reported on the April 22, 2023 city-wide clean-up day in Chamois. Despite numerous conflicting events that day, three Lions and one youth volunteer cleaned Main Street gutters of weeds, mud, and debris and cut weeds around storefronts and the flower beds near the railroad tracks.

In a somewhat related matter, Lion Michael Edwards reported that he had finished the cleanup, seeding, and strawing of the vacant lot on Main Street that is owned by the City of Chamois. The vacant lot now looks most attractive. Lion President Mehmert reported that he has plans to spray weeds around Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church and in the downtown area.

Lion Susan Sundermeyer next reported that she has a contact person in Hermann, MO who can provide answers to questions as to how Hermann rehabilitated a bandstand in the Hermann City Park and could also be available for members of the Chamois Lions Club to inspect the Hermann City Park Bandstand. Lion Sundermeyer has tentatively scheduled a meeting with local building contractor Grayson Light to inspect the Old Bandstand in the Chamois City Park and hopefully then submit a proposal to finish the second story of the Old Bandstand.

Lion President Mehmert called on the Nominating Committee to present a slate of officers for the 2023-2024 Lions year. The Nominating Committee presented a slate of officers to 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 Director, Lion Melissa Strobe as Membership Chairperson, and Lions Susan Sundermeyer, Randy Thoenen, Mark Lieneke, and Duane Paulsmeyer as Directors. This slate of officers was unanimously elected. Lions Club officers must be reported to Lions Clubs International (LCI) by May 15 of each year for the ensuing Lions year.

Two items of new business were introduced and discussed.

Lion President Mehmert reported that the Scholarship Committee, comprised of Lions Susan Sundermeyer, Nelson Sieg, Dale Hackmann, Lana Hackmann, Steve Duncan, and Randy Thoenen, would meet immediately after the regular meeting. The Chamois Lions Club provides two \$500.00 scholarships to graduating Chamois High School seniors. One scholarship is the E. E. Turner Scholarship and the other scholarship is the Chamois Lions Club Scholarship. Applications for these scholarships have been received from Chamois High School guidance counselor Meghan Birmingham.

Lion Steve Duncan reported that he had filed IRS Form 990-N or e-Postcard for tax year 2021 for the Chamois Lions Club. As a tax-exempt entity, this is the income tax return that is required for the Chamois Lions Club. Copies of the return and the IRS confirmation of the filing were provided to Lion Treasurer Nelson Sieg and Lion Secretary Beth Sieg.

Following the business meeting, Lion President Mehmert made one announcement. Chamois Lions were encouraged to volunteer on May 13, 2023 at the "Stamp Out Hunger" event that is co-sponsored by the Food Bank and the National Association of Letter Carriers. Volunteers are needed at 1750 Jefferson Street in Jefferson City, MO for two-hour shifts that begin at 10:00 a.m. and end at 6:30 p.m. Lions Clubs International (LCI) focuses on service projects that address vision, hunger, environment, youth, and pediatric cancer. Lion President Mehmert then extended May birthday wishes to Lions Jeanne Best, LeRoy Huff, Pamela Kormann, and D J Keilholz. Prayer concerns were expressed for various members of the community who are ill or in need to include Lions Jeanne Best, Kay Schwinke, and Janice Sehnert.

To conclude the meeting, Lion President Mehmert called on Lion Steve Duncan to share a joke. Lion Duncan shared a list of humorous quotes by famous people. Included in the list were a quote from Groucho Marx that "I was married by a judge, I should have asked for a jury" and a quote from Zsa Zsa Gabor that "I have never hated a man enough to give his diamonds back."

The next meeting of the Chamois Lions Club will be on Monday, June 12, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the Chamois Community Center.