

Chamois Lions Club News

The Chamois Lions Club met for their regular monthly meeting on Monday evening, September 11, 2023 at the Chamois Community Center. Despite schedule conflicts with school functions and some illnesses, thirteen Lions still were present for the dinner and business meeting.

Prior to the dinner, Lion Jeff Kormann 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 spaghetti and meat sauce, green beans, salad, garlic bread, and cheese cake or chocolate chip cookies for dessert.

Prior to the start of the business meeting, the usual Tail Twister game or activity was cancelled due to the illness and absence of Lion Tail Twister Sherry Conner. Instead, Lion President Robin Lieneke shared a meaningful personal account of the 9/11 tragedy. Lion President Lieneke worked for a brokerage firm that had offices in the World Trade Center. Shortly before 9/11, Lion President Lieneke was in New York for business and was in the World Trade Center to meet with coworkers in that building. Approximately six weeks after 9/11, Lion President Lieneke had to return to New York and visited Ground Zero and was able to take some photos of the devastation. Following her remarks, the Chamois Lions Club observed a moment of silence in remembrance of the events of 9/11 and those who lost their lives in this terrorist attack.

Lion President Lieneke presided at the business meeting. Lion President Lieneke requested that the meeting agenda be approved and the Chamois Lions voted to approve the agenda. Copies of the minutes of the August 14, 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 Lieneke declared the minutes approved. Lion Treasurer Nelson Sieg presented a detailed financial report and Chamois Lions voted to approve the financial report. Lion Building Co-Chairperson Dale Hackmann was absent, but Lion Building Co-Chairperson Randy Thoenen was present and did present a detailed financial report for the Community Center. In his financial report, Lion Thoenen reported that the Chamois Lions Club will pre-buy propane for the Community Center and that the building insurance premium will be due in October and that in all likelihood there will be changes in insurers with separate policies for property insurance and liability coverage. Chamois Lions Club members voted to accept the Community Center financial report.

Lion President Lieneke called on Chamois Lions Club liaisons to other Chamois and Morrison civic groups for reports on the activities of those groups. Lion Michael Edwards, who is Mayor of the City of Chamois, and Lion Melissa Strobe, who is the Mayor of the City of Morrison, were absent so there were no reports for those organizations. Lion Jeff Kormann, who is on the board of the Chamois Industrial Development Corporation (CIDC), reported that the CIDC has received receipts from Osage County R-1 School for school supplies purchased with donations

received by the CIDC from the “Back-to-School Supplies” project. Lion Kormann, who is also a member of the Chamois Historic Preservation Commission (CHPC), reported that the CHPC will have the Townley House open for Chamois Day and will again sell honey ice cream on the grounds of the Townley House during Chamois Day and the Rost Family Singers will again entertain. The CHPC will also have an Old Bandstand display with a donation jar, will have Joe Keilholz’s covered wagon on display, will have books by local authors for sale, and will have a drawing for prizes at 3:00 p.m. Lion Second Vice President Scott Mertz, who is a member of the Chamois Fire Department, reported that the brush truck is almost ready to be put into use, the Fire Department has purchased an 18-wheel big rig to be used as a tanker truck, and there is a focus on training. Lion Steve Duncan, who is a member of the Osage County Agritourism Council (OCAC), reported on the recent “Not Your Granda’s Farm” tour which was a huge success with over 50 tour participants and Lion Jeff Kormann, also a member of the OCAC, reported on the “Taste of Osage County” event that was held on for September 9, 2023 and was also a huge success.

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

Lion Third Vice President Randy Thoenen reported that he has a door to be installed on the Chamois City Park ballpark storage shed and will schedule a work day to install the door and address ballpark fences repairs.

The rebuild of the second story of the Old Bandstand remains a very high priority and the Chamois Lions Club hopes to have local building contractor Grayson Light attend the October 9, 2023 meeting to further discuss plans for the rebuild, perhaps discuss other enhancements to the Old Bandstand, and try to document cost estimates and a timeline.

Some discussion focused on break-away basketball rims which originally had been purchased for the basketball goals on the St. Mary’s Catholic Church parking lot. There is a need for new backboards and rims for outdoor basketball goals at Osage County R-1 School. The Chamois Lions Club voted to donate the rims to the school.

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. Several Lions volunteered to be a contact person for RadioWire and to meet RadioWire technicians at the Community Center to grant entrance into the building in order to complete the installation.

Lion Steve Duncan reported on the Chamois City-Wide Clean-Up Day held on Sunday, September 10. This is an annual community betterment project that is scheduled just prior to Chamois Day. Numerous Lions and community volunteers to include youth volunteers picked up trash, cleaned the sidewalks and Main Street, dug out drainage ditches, cut brush and pulled weeds around vacant buildings, cleaned up the landscaping around the “Welcome to Chamois”

signs, and performed clean-up work at the Chamois City Park to include power-washing the Old Bandstand. This is the type of project that Lions members and community volunteers can invest labor and sweat equity and make a real difference in the community.

Lions Dawna Keilholz and Becca Mehmert, who along with Lion Michael Edwards and volunteer Amanda Carter comprise the Chamois Day Committee, presented a final report 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". The parade will start at 10:00 a.m. Entertainment will be provided by Broken Arrow and Chloe Rhea. Activities will include hayrides, vendors, crafts, food, a Little Mr. & Miss Chamois Day, a scavenger hunt (forms will be available at the Main Stage and a Country Road backpack will be given to all participants), games for children near the St. Mary's Catholic Church Hall, food trucks on the St. Mary's Catholic Church parking lot, and as a new event a pulled pork competition involving four local businesses. The games for children will include a duck pond, ring toss, bubble machine, spinner game, and plinko. In addition, 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. Due to the drilling of a new City of Chamois well, the hayrides route will be different than in previous years. Members of the Chamois Lions Club extended thanks to the Chamois Day Committee for their efforts to plan the annual celebration.

In response to a question about the project to install a flagpole at the Chamois City Park, Lion Steve Duncan reported that American Legion Post 506, Chamois Masonic Lodge #185, and the Chamois Lions Club have undertaken a cooperative project to install a 40-foot flagpole somewhere on City property at the City Park so that the flagpole is visible both from inside the park and from the Missouri River. The flagpole has been purchased and received. Volunteer assistance to pour concrete for the base of the flagpole, to set the flagpole, and to eventually light the flagpole has been arranged for.

Two items of new business were introduced and discussed.

Lion President Lieneke suggested the need for a fundraiser. Given the upcoming Old Bandstand renovation project, the various charitable donations made during the year, and service projects that need to be addressed, there is a need for additional funds. Lion President Lieneke proposed a possible upscale four to five course dinner, perhaps like the Queen of May Banquet meal the Lions Club used to prepare and serve. Lion Second Vice President Mertz suggested a Trivia Night. Both suggestions have much merit and will be further discussed at future meetings.

To conclude the business meeting, Lion President Lieneke, who also serves as the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) Chairperson, reminded Lions Club members of the need for a Chamois Lions Club donation to LCIF. This issue will be addressed at the October 9, 2023 meeting.

September birthday wishes were extended to Lions Jolie Brand, Dale Hackmann, and Nelson Sieg. 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 President Lieneke called on Lion Steve Duncan to share a joke. Lion Duncan shared a joke entitled "Darn spell check".

The next meeting of the Chamois Lions Club will be on Monday, October 9, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the Chamois Community Center.