

Annual Meeting time

Calendar of Events

- Mar 21** CVB Board Meeting
- Mar 22** Putnam House Soup Bowl Fundraiser
- Mar 29** Annual Meeting
- Apr 5** Chamber Board Mtg



Chamber Board

Kerry Anderson
Dennis Swanson
Katie Florhaug
Nicole Threadgold
Kristin Cabler
Jeff Welk
Wendy Bahm

The board meets the first Tuesday of each month.

Plans are underway for the **Annual Meeting** of the Chamber of Commerce, Convention & Visitors Bureau, Community Development Corporation and the Job Development Authority. This year the meeting will take place on **Tuesday, March 29** at the Chieftain Conference Center.

There will be booth space available if anyone would like to display or showcase something from their business or organization. There will be a Social Hour beginning at 5 pm with the meal at 6 pm and reports to follow. New this year: GREAT DOOR PRIZES!

Tickets are \$15 and available at the Chamber office and also City Hall.

Please join us to find out what's happening in our community—everyone is welcome!

On Main Street

Carrington Garden Club is a new organization sponsored by the Carrington Area Chamber of Commerce. They are brimming with enthusiasm and one of the priorities of this new club is coordinating flowering baskets to beautify our community.

Garden Club volunteers are signing up for the summer watering schedule. A BIG Thank You to Bessette Motors for the use of a pickup truck for watering and also to Wholesale Ag Products and Dennis Swanson for supplying the water tank and pump apparatus.

Call the Chamber to find out more, to volunteer or to make a donation to this project.



Sample photo

Spring City Wide Yard Sales

Our Chamber will be sponsoring the Spring City Wide Yard Sales event on **Saturday, May 21**. The sales will run from 8 am to 4 pm. If you would like to participate, you may contact the Chamber office with your name and site address. Multiple party sales are welcome. The cost to participate is \$5.00 for your listing. Sale site listings will be available online on our Chamber website, printed copies at Casey's and Cenex C-Store a day or two prior to the May 21 event date.



Like us on Facebook—keep up with what's happening with the **Carrington Area Chamber of Commerce** and also our **Carrington Convention & Visitors Bureau!** And now the **CARRINGTON GARDEN CLUB** too!

Retail Committee

Our Chamber board of directors is thinking of organizing a **Retail Committee** of the Chamber and would like your input. Perhaps this would be a group that would help direct the promotion of retail in our community and assist with planning events and promotions highlighting our retail sector. We'd like to hear your thoughts— feel free to visit with Kerry Anderson, Chamber Chairperson or Laurie Dietz at the Chamber office.

ND Travel Industry Conference

The annual ND Travel Industry Conference will be held April 11—13 in Grand Forks. This is a conference focused on bringing tourism to our state. Laurie Dietz will attend the conference and our Carrington Convention & Visitors Bureau will sponsor a booth promoting the Carrington area and all we have to offer.

The Carrington Chamber / CVB office will be closed April 11 -13.

Welcome Bags for New Residents

The Chamber puts together the Welcome bags for new residents in our community. If you have something from your business that you would like to contribute—please contact the Chamber office. You are invited to submit coupons, pens, little freebies, business cards, brochures or whatever you would like—to promote your business.

Don't miss this chance to get the word out about what you have to offer!

Board meeting minutes

BOARD MEETING MARCH 1, 2016 - 12:00 NOON PIZZA RANCH

ATTENDING: Kerry Anderson, Dennis Swanson, Jeff Welk, Katie Florhaug, Nicole Threadgold, Wendy Bahm, Denise Schuchard and Laurie Dietz.

ABSENT: Kristin Cabler

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kerry Anderson. Wendy moved to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2016 meeting as written. Seconded by Nicole, motion carried.

Financial report was presented. Dennis moved to approve the report, seconded by Nicole. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee reports: *Ambassadors* – Most recent visit was to Carrington Inn & Suites to recognize their updates. *Pageant* – Nothing new to report. *Birding Drives Dakota* – We have about 25 registrations in as of today. Festival dates are June 8-12. *Healthy Communities* – Meeting minutes were shared with the board. *Welcome Wagon* – No welcome bags have gone out recently. *Carrington Endowment* – Applications for funding will be accepted now through March 15 for the spring grant round. Two new board members: Pastor Randy Hahne and Heather Carr. *Membership Update* – New individual member: Linda Schuster. Almost all of the 1st quarter renewals are in. *CDC – JDA – CVB* – CDC met on January 27. Dean Pennington has taken the open board position. CVB minutes were shared. *JDA* – Denise and Dennis reported that the JDA met this morning had several topics on the agenda. One being an incentive for daycares and they heard a report on the Service Excellence Program at CHI. *Carrington Garden Club*: Dennis shared information regarding the start-up and progress of the club. City Council approved placing the flower baskets on the light poles at their February council meeting. A watering schedule is now available for volunteers to sign up and there have been some volunteers already. Next meeting is March 7 at 7 pm at the Chieftain. Nicole moved to open a checking account at Gate City Bank for the Carrington Garden Club finances with 2 signatures required on writing checks. Signatories would be: Chamber Executive Director, Chamber Board Chair and a Chairperson of the Carrington Garden Club. Dennis seconded the motion, motion carried.

-*Building repairs update*: Nothing new to report at this time.

-*Scholarship Program*: We have received 3 applications so far. The info has been in the Independent twice. The application is available at the high school and also online on our website.

-*Events, Promotions and Ideas for 2016*: Dennis moved to go ahead and have the Chamber offer the Welcome to our Town training through NDSU Extension. Seconded by Katie, motion carried. We'll check into having a burger/brat stand at Super Valu again in May to fundraise for fireworks. Laurie will ask for input from the community regarding an Independence Day Parade theme. Laurie shared information from the Lead Local workshop held here last week. Katie moved to reimburse Laurie for the \$65.00 fee to attend. Seconded by Wendy, motion carried.

-*Annual Meeting*: Will be held Tuesday, March 29. The meeting will take place at the Chieftain. The meal will be Roast Turkey and trimmings by vote of the board members. The social will begin at 5 pm with the meal at 6 pm. Reports and speakers to follow. Ticket prices will be same as past years - \$15.00 each. Nicole and Denise offered to shop for the door prizes.

-*Membership clings & Welcome bags*: Still working on this. Also discussed ordering Chamber logo shirts for board members and Ambassadors.

-*Community Impressions Program*: Nothing new to report.

NEW BUSINESS

-*Retail Committee*: Laurie suggested that in looking for direction for events and promotions etc for our community, it may be helpful to have a Retail Committee to share ideas and help chair projects etc. We'll gauge interest in this and see if various Chamber members would be interested.

-*Other*: Dennis moved to go ahead and sponsor some ads on KSJB radio during the State Girls Basketball Tourney this weekend at a cost of \$110.00. Seconded by Jeff, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: Dennis moved to approve and pay all bills presented. Seconded by Katie, motion carried.

NEXT MEETING DATE: April 5 at Bordulac Bar & Grill.

Meeting adjourned.

Birding Drives Dakota

The Annual Potholes & Prairie Birding Festival will be held **June 8 –12** with the festival headquartered at the Chieftain Conference Center.

Festival registrations have been coming in from several states such as: Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, New York, Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona, Texas and more.

If you are interested in learning more about the festival or would like to volunteer, please contact Jeff Galt, Birding Drives Dakota's president or Laurie Dietz, Sec/Treasurer.



Potholes & Prairie Birding Festival attendees viewing some of the many bird species found in our area.

Chamber Offers Scholarship

A \$500.00 scholarship from the Carrington Area Chamber of Commerce will be awarded this spring at the Honors Night at Carrington High School.

The scholarship opportunity is available to students at Carrington High School that are or have been employed by Chamber member businesses. Applications are available at the high school and also online www.cgtn-nd.com

Deadline to apply is April 1, 2016.

This is the second year that the Chamber has offered this scholarship. The board of directors know that our high school students fill a need and are a vital part of the workforce.

\$500.00

Trivia Time

The Carrington Area Chamber of Commerce is:

- A. A part of City Government
- B. A non-profit organization
- C. A pyramid scheme



Be the **FIRST** person to **email** the Chamber office with the correct trivia answer and you could WIN a free small pizza courtesy of the Carrington Pizza Ranch!

chambergal@daktel.com

Parade Theme

Do **YOU** have an idea for our Independence Day Parade theme this year?

We'd like to hear your thoughts!

Here are a few of the themes from past years:

Star Spangled Salute, It's A Grand Old Flag, God Bless the USA, Tip Your Hat to Our Troops, and Let Freedom Ring.



Spring Fever Garden Forums

Our NDSU Extension Service is offering four garden forums on Mondays in April. You can attend locally or on your home computer. The dates are: **April 4, 11, 18 and 25.**

The forums will be held at the Foster County Fairgrounds—Community Activity Center. There is no cost. Please register with the Extension office by calling 652-2581.

Learn from NDSU experts on:

- Pollinator gardens
- Caring for lawns
- Pruning trees, shrubs
- Starting seeds
- New cultivars
- Grapes
- Blackberries
- Aronia
- Amazing annuals
- Special small trees
- Growing microgreens
- Enriching your soil

Attend at your NDSU Extension office or on your home computer
www.ag.ndsu.edu/springfever/

<p>Mondays April 4, 11, 18 and 25 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. CDT Free of charge</p>	<p>NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE Foster County Extension Office: 652-2581</p>
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Carrington Cash



Puzzled over what to buy for that birthday, anniversary or thank you gift? How about **CARRINGTON CASH**?

Available at the Chamber office—it's great for gift giving for that hard to buy for person! We have two denominations—fives and twenties.

Fireworks fundraising



The Chamber will have a **BURGER & BRAT** stand at the Super Valu / Leever's parking lot on Thursday, May 26 to help raise money for fireworks for Independence Day in July.

We'd love to have some volunteers—give us a call if you would like to help out!

Employee of the Month

Have you received exceptional service or had someone go above and beyond in their job? You can nominate them to receive the Chamber's Employee of the Month award. The nomination form is available at the Chamber office or online on our website www.cgtn-nd.com



Find out more -

Find out more about Chamber and community activities by listening to 'Here's What's Happening' on **KDAK** radio Mondays at 8:40 am and reading the occasional *Chamber Chatter* articles in the **Foster County Independent**. And visit our website at www.cgtn-nd.com



**Thank You for supporting our
many Carrington Area
Chamber of Commerce members!**

Carrington Area Chamber of Commerce

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Like Us!

Looking ahead -

Here are some dates to jot down on your calendar:

- March 22 Putnam House Soup Bowl Fundraiser
- March 29 Annual Meeting of the Chamber, CDC, CVB & JDA
- April 1 Crossroads Golf Annual Night Out
- April 8 CHI Carrington Health's Spring Fling
- May 21 City Wide Yard Sales
- May 29 CHS Graduation
- June 8-12 Potholes & Prairie Birding Festival
- June 14 Annual Chamber Golf Day
- June 22-24 Foster County Fair