

Christmas Around the Town

Monday, December 5

Calendar of Events

- Nov 15** Industry Roundtable Discussion
- Nov 15** Carrington Youth Center
Open House / Business After Hours
- Nov 28** Tree of Lights @ CMC
- Dec 5** Christmas Around the Town
- Dec 6** Chamber Board mtg
- Dec 10** Lion's Club Santa Saturday
- Dec 14** CP Holiday Train
- Dec 25** Merry Christmas
- Dec 31** Christmas Cash program ends

Our annual holiday event will be held on Monday, December 5. We encourage our Chamber merchants to use this day to really roll out the red carpet for shoppers by having store specials, drawings, refreshments etc to not only encourage local shopping but to also show appreciation to shoppers who choose to do business here in our community.

Parade is at 5:30 pm. **Entries are wanted!**

All businesses, individuals, families, organizations and more are welcome to participate in this annual parade.

Contact the Chamber office for more info or if you'd like to participate. Everyone is WELCOME!

File Photo



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.



Industry Roundtable Discussions

Over the past few months several interested community and business leaders have been meeting monthly to discuss the workforce shortage in our area and the lack of a adequate labor pool. There has been a good exchange of ideas and subcommittees have formed. The next meeting is **Tuesday, November 15 at noon at City Hall.** Lunch is provided and anyone is welcome to attend.

CP Rail Holiday Train



The **HOLIDAY TRAIN** is coming to Carrington! It will arrive on Wednesday, December 14 at approximately 1:30 pm near Dakota Central Telecommunications on 6th Ave N. The entertainment this year is Kelly Prescott and Colin James.

The boxcar doors will open and there will be live entertainment from 1:45 to 2:15.

Dress warm and come out and support our local food pantry. CP Railway runs the Holiday Train each year to raise awareness of hunger in our own communities.

Business After Hours / Open House

Everyone is welcome to stop by the Carrington Youth Center on **Tuesday, December 15 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm** for an Open House! There will be refreshments, door prizes, fun and more. Come over and take a look at all of the wonderful improvements!

And note the great movies that will be showing soon: Trolls and Hack-saw Ridge.



Trivia Time

How does our Chamber communicate with our members and the community?

- A. Facebook, Connection Newsletter, radio, newspaper
- B. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, SnapChat
- C. Facebook, marquee sign, robo-calls, email

Winner and answer for the last question: Jo Pollert correctly answered 100-200 members in our Chamber of Commerce.



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

Retail & Promotions Committee

Consider learning more about the newly organized **Retail & Promotions Committee** of the Chamber.

The group has met twice and some ideas that were discussed included: A **Scratch & Win promotion** for December for retailers to participate, Christmas Cash, planning some type of event or promotion during February which seems to be a slow time of year for most businesses, having a large celebration around Independence Day and other ideas.

If you are interested in participating, learning more or have some ideas to share, please feel free to contact Laurie Dietz at the Chamber office or Kerry Anderson (Chamber Chairperson) at Central City Lumber.



Christmas Cash Program

It's Christmas Cash season! Our annual Christmas Cash program began October 20. We have about 30 Chamber members participating this year.

The loan program is available through Bank Forward, Community Credit Union and Gate City Bank. Consumers may borrow from \$500 to \$2,000 at NO interest and will receive 10% additional **FREE MONEY** that does not need to be paid back. These dollars are made available through our city sales tax fund.

This program is a win-win for our community. Christmas Cash dollars are spent locally and encourage shoppers to SHOP LOCAL!

For further details, contact the Chamber office at 652-2524 or email: chambergal@daktel.com or visit one of the participating lenders.



Like us on Facebook—keep up with what's happening with the **Carrington Area Chamber of Commerce, Carrington Convention & Visitors Bureau and Carrington Garden Club.**

And now **CONSIDER CARRINGTON** too!

Board meeting minutes

CHAMBER BOARD MEETING OCTOBER 4, 2016 - 12:00 NOON CHI – CARRINGTON MEDICAL CENTER

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kerry Anderson. Dennis moved to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2016 meeting as written. Seconded by Nicole, motion carried. Financial report was presented. Katie moved to approve the report, seconded by Wendy. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee reports: Ambassadors – Just visited Carrington Youth Center last week. Discussion on upcoming visits. Pageant – Cancelled due to small number of participants. Birding Drives Dakota – Annual Meeting is set for October 18 at the Chieftain. Healthy Communities – Minutes of the last meeting were shared. Meeting day has changed to the 3rd Tuesday of each month at noon. Welcome Wagon – We've received the new bags and Laurie has delivered two bags recently. Carrington Endowment – Nothing new to report. Membership Update – Fourth quarter billings for membership renewals are ready for mailing. CDC – JDA – CVB: CDC - Met on Sept 29. They voted to accept Deedra Aasand and Scott Buchholz as incoming board members as Tami Aljets and Holly Utke's terms will end by 2017. CVB - minutes were shared. We continue to receive good feedback on our tabletop advertising of events etc. JDA- Dennis reported that the JDA met this morning and shared a few points from that meeting. -Carrington Garden Club: Dennis reported that the Garden Club met Oct 3 at the Fairgrounds and Ostlie's gave a program on garlic etc. No meetings scheduled for Nov and Dec.

-Building repairs update: The façade project is complete and we have received many nice compliments on the update. Discussion on façade grants through the city and also Renaissance Zone information.

-Community Impressions Program: A team meeting was held in September. We went over the progress of the improvements etc. Laurie is sharing information with Jodi Bruns who is coordinating the project.

-Retail & Promotion Committee: The group met on Thursday, Sept 15 at the Chieftain. Discussion on promotions and ideas from the group; particularly the Christmas Scratch Off Promotion. Dennis moved to go ahead with the Scratch Off Christmas Promotion. Seconded by Katie, motion carried. Next committee meeting is Tuesday, October 11 at noon.

-Fall City Wide Yard Sales: Was held Saturday, September 17 with approximately 40 sale sites.

- Craft & Gift Extravaganza: The date is November 5. So far, we are down in vendor numbers. Hopefully, we receive more registrations in the near future. A 4-H Club will serve lunch again.

-2017 Celebration: Dennis moved to go ahead with a Pasta Celebration next July and to organize a committee to help in planning and executing the activities. Seconded by Nicole, motion carried. Discussion on several fun activity ideas.

-Carrington Industry Roundtable Discussions: Upcoming meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 13 at noon at DCT. Everyone is welcome to attend. Dennis reported that the JDA agreed to participate in funding the Recruiter Network membership at \$250.00. Laurie will get the paperwork sent in.

-Christmas Cash Program: Dennis reported that the JDA did approve \$8,500.00 in funding for the Christmas Cash program. Laurie reported that she'll canvas the businesses to be certain of who will participate and we'll get the program going by October 20.

Trunk Or Treat: Laurie met with the cooperatives here in Carrington that have organized this event in the past.

We'll help promote this event at the city park on Monday, October 31 from 3:30 to 5:30 pm. All businesses, organizations, individuals, etc are welcome to participate.

NEW BUSINESS

-Christmas Around the Town & Parade: The date has been set for Monday, December 5.

-Board of Directors Election: Board members terms were shared and Kristin and Nicole have served their limit of two 3 year terms and we need to think of at least two people willing to run for a position on the board. Ballots would go out in the November issue of the Connection newsletter.

-Other: There are now five districts for our county commission election with several area residents vying for commission seats. Nicole moved to hold a County Commission Candidate Meet and Greet in the coming weeks prior to Election Day. Dennis seconded the motion, motion carried. Laurie will contact the candidates and also find a date.

Dennis Swanson brought up for discussion the idea of an electronic marquee sign to be placed along Hwy 281.

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

NEXT MEETING DATE: November 1 at the Ice Cream Shoppe.

Meeting adjourned.

Board meeting minutes

CHAMBER BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 1, 2016 - 12:00 NOON ICE CREAM SHOPPE

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kerry Anderson. Dennis moved to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2016 meeting as written. Seconded by Wendy, motion carried.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Committee reports: Ambassadors –Discussion on upcoming visits – new ER remodel at CHI-Carrington. Pageant – Cancelled due to small number of participants. Birding Drives Dakota – Annual Meeting was held October 18 at the Chieftain. Working on festival and there have been inquires already. Healthy Communities – Minutes of the last meeting were shared. Meeting day has changed to the 3rd Tuesday of each month at noon. Welcome Wagon – Laurie has 3 more welcome bags to get out this week. Carrington Endowment –It looks like the Otto Bremer Trust will no longer be matching our donations. Membership Update – Fourth quarter billings for membership renewals have been issued and renewals are coming in. We should be on track to meet our yearly goal. CDC – JDA – CVB: CDC – Last met on Sept 29 and are planning to meet in November. CVB - minutes were shared. JDA- Dennis reported that the JDA met this morning and there were two funding requests. - Carrington Garden Club: Dennis reported that the flowers have been ordered for next spring, still waiting for final approval on the roundabout planting plans, club meetings on hold until January.

-Building signage: Discussion on type of new signage for the front of the Chamber building.

-Retail & Promotion Committee – Scratch Off Christmas Promotion: The group met on October 11 at the Chieftain. Discussion on promotions and ideas from the group; particularly the Christmas Scratch Off Promotion. The promotion is going well with several businesses participating at the four levels offered.

- Craft & Gift Extravaganza: The date is November 5. Discussion on table set up and take down. Dennis, Wendy and Kerry will help with set up on Friday at 5:30 pm. Saturday at 3 pm, Nicole and Jeff will take down.

-2017 Celebration: Wendy, Amie Aesoph and Laurie will be meeting tomorrow to visit about DGPC activities. Laurie reported that several people are on board to help or to hold an activity. CVB is involved as well.

-Carrington Industry Roundtable Discussions: Upcoming meeting is scheduled for Tuesday November 15 at noon at City Hall. Pizza Ranch has offered to host. Everyone is welcome to attend. Three subcommittees have formed: Funding, Community Building and Marketing.

-Christmas Cash Program: Program began on October 20. A list of participating businesses was shared with the board.

Trunk Or Treat Recap: This event was held at the city park on Monday, October 31 from 3:30 to 5:30 pm. There were approximately 15 businesses or organizations that participated. It's estimated that approximately 360 or more trick or treaters attended. The co-op businesses will pay for print advertising and DCT created and printed the posters.

-Christmas Around the Town & Parade: The date has been set for Monday, December 5. We are getting the word out and encouraging businesses to have special sales, drawings, extended hours etc. We will encourage parade entries.

-Board of Directors Election: Ballots will go out in the November issue of the Connection newsletter. Nikki Mertz has agreed to serve. Amie Aesoph will take Wendy's position on the board. We need one more.

-Commissioner Meet & Greet Recap: It was held on October 25 at the Chieftain. All candidates attended and were very appreciative of the opportunity to attend. We had approximately 20 attendees.

Electronic Sign: Dennis Swanson reported on his meeting with Indigo Signs regarding placing an electronic sign marquee sign on the Hedahls parking lot (corner of Main St & Hwy 281). Cost estimates were discussed along with funding possibilities.

Other: We'll plan to hold the Residential Christmas Lighting Contest again this season. Judges will be needed.

NEW BUSINESS

-Dates for 2017 Events: We'll work on this next month due to time restrictions.

-Scholarship Program: Laurie will advertise and get the word out at CHS about our Scholarship from the Chamber.

- New Rules for Salaried Employees: Discussion on new rules which go into effect on December 1.

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

NEXT MEETING DATE: December 6 at the Chieftain.

Meeting adjourned.

Chamber Board Election

On December 31, 2016, the second term of two board members will be complete. We thank Nicole Threadgold of Carrington Medical Center and Kristen Cabler of Central Pharmacy for serving six years on the Chamber board. We appreciate their time and talents they have given to our organization.

Wendy Bahm of Dakota Growers Pasta Company has served one three year term and has chosen not to continue with a second term. We thank Wendy for her enthusiasm and volunteer hours with our Chamber.

We will certainly miss all three great volunteers helping guide the work of our Chamber!

The following three people are interested and have agreed to serve on our Chamber board. Please vote. Write in candidates are also accepted.

Please vote for three (3) names:

_____ **Amie Aesoph—Dakota Growers Pasta Co**

_____ **Drew Higgins—Leevers Foods**

_____ **Nikki Mertz-Farm Credit Services**

Thank you—your vote is important!

Please return this ballot by **November 25, 2016**. You may mail, fax or drop this ballot off at the Chamber office.

FAX: 701-652-2291 **DROP OFF OR MAIL:** 871 Main St Carrington ND 58421

NEW—Scratch & Win Christmas Promotion



PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES:

Bessette Motors
Carrington Drug
Casey's General Store
Carrington Medical Center / Gift Shop
Carrington Youth Center
Central City Lumber
Central Pharmacy
Erickson Implement
Foster County Independent
Leading Edge Equipment
Leevers Foods
Napa Auto Parts
OK Tire Store
Pizza Ranch
Professional Eyecare
Rick's Wholesale Tire
Runnings
The Looks For You Hair Salon

A brand new Christmas promotion will begin near Thanksgiving. It's a **Scratch & WIN** and the participating businesses will have a supply of cards to give out to customers. There will be thousands of prizes and also SECOND CHANCE drawings too!

We hope this will be a successful promotion and we can expand it next year. Our goal is to encourage folks to spend their dollars locally! And of course have some FUN!

Carrington Cash

Puzzled over what to buy for that Christmas, 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.



Carrington Area Chamber of Commerce

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Like Us!

Looking ahead -

Here are some dates to jot down on your calendar:

Nov 15	Carrington Industry Roundtable Discussion
Nov 15	Business After Hours / Open House at Carrington Youth Center
Nov 16	100 Years Celebration at Carrington Medical Center
Nov 28	Tree of Lights Ceremony at Carrington Medical Center
Dec 5	Christmas Around the Town and Parade
Dec 10	Santa Saturday at Carrington Youth Center
Dec 14	CP Rail Holiday Train Comes to Carrington
Dec 25	Merry Christmas!
Dec 31	Christmas Cash program ends
Dec 31	Scratch & Win Christmas Promotion ends

