

## **Avilla Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes November 11, 2017**

In attendance: 4 Members and 2 Guests

President Kevin Kelly called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Mark Bleeke made a motion to approve the minutes of the October meeting. Russ Shartzter seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Treasurer's report was not given but the balance is \$7246.74; \$5952.29 of which is for Avilla Christmas Charities.

### **Old Business**

The Noble County Fair Board position representative position remains open. If you know anyone interested, please contact us for more information at 260.242.4898 or email at [avillachamber@gmail.com](mailto:avillachamber@gmail.com).

Bill Ley was unable to attend this meeting so there is no update given for sign removal or for a quote on decal pricing.

### **Avilla Christmas Charities Fundraiser:**

- The turkey dinner went well in spite of the inclement weather. It was well attended and a total of \$5074.93 was donated on that day. Thank you to all who donated items and/or worked at the Annual Christmas Benefit Turkey Dinner. Thank you to the St James for hosting this event and to Chamber members Avilla Country Kitchen, Case Family Taxes, Our Hometown News and Snyder Food Services for helping as well. We look forward to doing it again next year and growing it bigger.
- Another bicycle has been donated. It is a Kent brand "Trouble Maker" boys bike with 20 inch wheels. This along with the small girls bike which was donated last year will be available for applicant families.
- The firepit is also still available for sale to raise money for Avilla Christmas Charities.
- Avilla Liquors has a cash donation box in place which will be there until Friday 20NOV.
- Avilla Elementary will be doing a hat and glove drive 27NOV thru 01DEC and there is no update yet about Oak Farm doing a hat and glove drive.
- St Mary's School will be doing a toy drive on 04DEC and a food drive on 11DEC.
- Kevin Kelly worked with Dollar General to mitigate the active 501 requirement in their corporate paperwork so that they can collect toys for Avilla Christmas Charities. They will collect through 04DEC.

- Eleven applications have been received so far with more than twice that amount expected in the next week. Applications are accepted through 4:30 Friday 17NOV at the Town Hall or be postmarked by 17NOV.

No update yet on our 501 ( c) 6 status from the IRS.

Membership referral program qualifications were reviewed. We now have a benefit for active members to receive a benefit for referring a non-member business to join the Avilla Chamber of Commerce. The details will soon be added to the Chamber website ([chamberofavilla.org](http://chamberofavilla.org)) and will be mailed to the membership.

House and Tree Decorating Contests are currently accepting applications.

- The applications and guidelines are available on the Chamber website.
- All of Zip Code 46710 is eligible to participate.
- Number signs are being made by R&C Fab/Private Painter/Library for the House Decorating Contest.
- Decorated trees can be at the participant's business provided it can be seen from the parking lot after dark.
- Limited spaces are available downtown in Albion Street storefronts for decorated trees. Kevin is contacting those building and business owners who have not responded to previous requests.
- Voting for both contests will be online only this year.
- Deadline to enter contests is 30NOV.

### **New Business**

New Member: Black & Ramer Insurance Welcome to the Avilla Chamber of Commerce!

New Businesses Downtown

- 140 East Albion St. (Steve's Barber Shop)- Beauty Salon opening soon.
- 108 East Albion St. (Carteaux TV & Appliance)- Testimonies reopened today (11NOV)
- 127 East Albion St. (Sweet Insomnia) - Clothing store to open soon.
- 112 East Albion St. (Old Ford Dealership)- Riley's Gun Shop opened a retail store.

Since the Christmas season is a busy time for everyone, we have decided not to hold a Chamber meeting in December this year. So our next monthly meeting will be in January 2018.

With no further business, Russ made a motion to adjourn. John Harris seconded. The motion passed 4-0

Meeting ended at 9:56 a.m.

Our next meeting is on Saturday, January 13 from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Avilla Library.