



Kathy DePra	President	Ameriserv Financial	814-269-3815
John Riccilli	Vice President	AT&T	814-262-9192
Chris Fisher	Treasurer	First Commonwealth Bank	814-532-7273
Dorene Miller	Secretary	Highland Community Library	814-266-5610
Veronica Hordubay	Membership Chair	Precision Business Solutions	814-471-0206

**East Hills Business Association
Monthly Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2011**

Attendance

Forty (40) members and guests were present.

Opening Remarks

The regular monthly meeting of the East Hills Business Association was called to order at 12:24pm by President Kathy DePra.

Kathy thanked Ambrosia Fine Dining for hosting this month's meeting.

The introduction of members and guests took place, with the opportunity for brief announcements.

Kathy requested approval of the November minutes, which were made available on the website, and also distributed to members present at the meeting. Motion to approve made by Matt Di Francesco; seconded by Barry Critchfield; minutes approved.

Members were advised that the meeting registration count needs to be more accurate. There were 15 extra meals leftover at the November meeting, which cost the organization \$108.00. The meals were donated to the Family Kitchen in Johnstown, who was very appreciative.

Members were also reminded that the numerical button on the registration page does not work – each guest's information must be typed and submitted separately. If this procedure is not followed, your guest will not be registered for the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Chris Fisher reported that the checking account balance is \$3,859.21. The organization brought in \$330.00 from the November luncheon, and \$555.00 in membership dues. The organization paid \$297.00 for the November luncheon, plus \$108.00 for the extra meals. No donations were made.

The balance in the certificate of deposit is \$1,568.64.

Kathy requested approval of the November treasurer's report; motion to approve made by Jennifer Tiffany; seconded by Rodney Hatfield; treasurer's report approved.

Secretary's Report

Dorene Miller reported that the organization has sixteen (16) paid members. Members were asked to e-mail their business logo to her at highcomlib@aol.com so that it can be included on the website.

Membership dues—along with a completed 2011 application—must be submitted by the end of February, or the business/organization will be deleted from the EHBA website. The 2011 application is available at all meetings and on the website at www.easthillsbusiness.com.

Old Business

The Holiday Party was held at Ambrosia Fine Dining on December 9th, with thirty (30) members in attendance.

It will not be necessary to hold an election, as all new nominees declined to be placed on the ballot. Rodney Hatfield respectfully declined to serve as vice-president in 2011. Therefore, Kathy asked for a voice vote on the following slate of officers:

- President: Kathy DePra
- Vice-President: John Riccilli
- Secretary: Dorene Miller
- Treasurer: Chris Fisher
- Membership Chair: Veronica Hordubay

(The position of membership chair may be vacant in the near future; members will be notified if it becomes necessary to appoint a new chairperson.)

The officers were approved by a voice vote; none opposed.

New Business

N/A

Requests for Donations

No donations are being considered at this time, due to budget constraints.

Vice-President's Report

John Riccilli asked if the organization would like the monthly speaker to be limited to members only, or be opened to non-member presentations. It was decided that the monthly speakers should be members only.

John informed the members that two (2) roundtable events will be held in 2011.

January's Featured Speaker

Kathy introduced Mr. Tom Fleming, Superintendent, Richland School District. Mr. Fleming spoke about his experience as a host for Mr. Lee, a middle school principal from China, in the school administrator exchange program. The program's goal is to create trust and partnerships between Chinese and American educators. Mr. Lee observed classes and attended a school board meeting. Mr. Lee also enjoyed several social events, such as a reception at Sunnehanna Country Club which was sponsored by JARI, a luncheon hosted by Pitt-Johnstown where Mr. Lee met several Chinese students, and a basketball game in Philadelphia.

Mr. Fleming will travel to China in April, where he will spend a week in Beijing, and then a week with Mr. Lee, his family, and students. Mr. Fleming discussed the Chinese education system that he'll encounter, and how it differs from the United States. He gave the following examples:

- 60 students in each classroom.
- Lecture format; students learn by rote.
- Children learn English in third grade.
- No extracurricular activities, such as sports, music, and drama.
- No special education system.
- No computers in the schools.

- A test in ninth grade determines which high school the student will attend.

At the conclusion of his presentation, Mr. Fleming asked for the members' help with ideas on American-made items that he can take to China for Mr. Lee.

Upcoming Events

John Riccilli announced that the next meeting will be February 17th, 12:00 noon, at Ambrosia Fine Dining; speaker to be announced.

Give-Aways

Free lunch: Sherry Lohr (First National Bank)

Starbucks Gift Bag (donated by Dorene Miller for Holiday Party): Don Cowie (AXA Advisors, LLC)

Johnstown General tickets: Jennifer Tiffany (Chamber of Commerce), Chris Fisher (First Commonwealth Bank), Beth Jeschonek (First National Bank), and Mike Chermonitz (Tribune-Democrat).

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned without a motion at 1:14pm.

Minutes submitted by:

Dorene Miller, Secretary

Date: February 16, 2011