

**Manchester Area Chamber of Commerce**  
**Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**September 14, 2009**

**Present:** Ray Berg, Ken Ascher, Anita Herman, Ron Mann, Karl Racenis, Bonnie Greenwald, Carol Britten, Janet Larson, Jim Mann, Bill Chizmar, Kari Newman, Mark Ouimet, Carl Curtis, Sharon Curtis, Kim Ricket, Shawn Lewis-Lakin, Jody Flowers, Barry Allen, Peggy Allen, Siobhan Gorman, Kathy Roberts, Kevin Murphy, Michele Ingalls, Daniel Lai, Dianne Schwab

**Called to order 12:30 PM**

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve Kari Newman, second Jim Mann. Motion carried.

**Annual Meeting: Moderator, Carl Curtis announced current nominations (for two-year terms)**

- **President:** Ray Berg
- **Secretary:** Lori Fordham
- **Trustees:** Jody Flowers, Michele Ingalls

Carl thanked all in attendance to form a Quorum.

**Called for additional nominations.** None presented. Motion to close provided by Shawn Lewis-Lakin, seconded by Michele Ingalls.

**Election of officers and trustees with ballots. All stated nominations unanimously accepted.**

Kari Newman acknowledged Ray Berg's outstanding service to the Chamber.

Annual Meeting Closed.

**September General Meeting Program "Michigan Job Works" Anita Herman** available at CRC

Anita, now retired from Madonna University Career Center, and is sharing her time with the Community Resource Center to assist with those in need of job search skills. People separated from job or employment seeking assistance with applications, translating applications to resume and cover letters. Offering advice on search and resources. Chris Kanta, Anita Herman, Lisa Gaines Hardesty and Michele Ingalls are coordinating coaching session designed to help move forward with effective resumes, selling one's self vs. applying for a job. Will occur Sept. 22, 2009 from 7 – 8:30 PM in the Board Room in the Ackerson Building, FREE. For more information call 428-7722. One-on-One coaching, personalized preparation and searching. Michigan Works (Funded by the State) has many resources i.e. computers. Most jobs are posted online.

**Secretary's Report:**

Janet Larson taking notes on Lori Fordham's behalf. Motion to approve last month's minutes Kari Newman, second Sharon Curtis.

### **Treasurers Report:**

Motion to approve Bill Chizmar, second Jody Flowers.

### **Reports from Standing Committees:**

#### **Manufacturers**

Jeff Wallace unavailable, had last minute emergency.

#### **Membership**

**Sharon Curtis:** 99 members

#### **Website**

**Karl Racenis:** Community Calendar photos rotating to coordinate with upcoming event.

#### **DDA**

**Karl Racenis:** Design for Main Street being resolved – trees were causing delays for three years. State Representatives involved and channeling communications.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Oktoberfest planning update:**

*Special Thank you to Men's Club and Lions Club for wonderful job on River Clean up for clear passage of Ducky Derby.*

Lori Fordham is doing good job. School Administration ready for Bed Race Challenge and encourages additional participants. Volunteers are welcome. An ad will go in the Enterprise Thursday. Weather looks great! Outside inquiries are coming in. All events set: Men's Club antique car/tractor show, Kid's Corner, Farmers Market/Trunkapalooza, Bed Races, Ducky Derby, Kids bike races. Recommendations from last year implemented.

**Farmers Market:** Linda Milkey stepping down. Interested volunteers see Ray Berg. Event is important to the community and has grown while under the watch of both *Ron & Linda Milkey*. *Thank you for your years of service.*

### **New Business:**

**President's Report:** September 11 conference with Mark Ouimet and Michael Finney, Jackson Citizen-Patriot meeting. Discussed declining press coverage of Manchester. Mark Ouimet from Washtenaw County discussed how SPARK is working on doing a better job reaching out to businesses west of Zeeb Road. <http://www.annarborusa.org/growth-expansion/news-of-note/Index.cfm?i=2902>

The conference was to listen to feedback and input from schools, chambers, elected officials, government. State of Michigan lost its millionth job. Reaching out countywide in conversation to open dialogue, and implement changes benefiting local chambers and government.

The on-line publication *Concentrate* only covers six communities, but will be adding Manchester per discussion at September 11 conference. SPARK to help get word out about good things happening in Manchester, and will listen to our needs. Critical for government to create environment where all parties win.

*Ann Arbor Observer/Community Observer* is mailed only to Manchester Chamber members, due to expenses.

Ray Berg came across an 1842 newspaper commenting on similar frustrations, which suggested taking Manchester and Grass Lake to create a new county. History does seem to repeat itself at times.

Jackson Citizens Patriot came to us, expanding to cover Chelsea & Manchester. Ray met with Leanne Smith from the Citizen Patriot @ The Coffee Mill and gave them a list of topics. Manchester sports play in Cascade Conference and expanded sports coverage in the Citizen Patriot is desired. Ann Arbor.com will not cover Manchester.

Tune in or visit [www.48158.com](http://www.48158.com) to here Janet Larson every week on Wednesdays with Lucy Ann Lance show, 1290 Am radio at 10:20 AM. Discussing the Manchester Community news and events.

Daniel Lai stated the Enterprise/Heritage is now more regional with sports & hires freelance writers.

**Teacher Appreciation:** Chamber joins with Lions Club, Kiwanis and Optimist Club to extend nice breakfast as token of appreciation and welcome to a new and successful school year.

**Christmas in the Village:** Parking lot at Middle school pre-approved for parade. Parade route will start at Middle school and printed maps will reflect accordingly. Collecting names for vendors for advertisement and coordination of locations. Tecumseh Homefront ad will print October 1<sup>st</sup> - contact Ray Berg.

#### **Reminders**

**Oktoberfest – Saturday September 19<sup>th</sup>, purchase your Duck numbers at UBT, Citizens, The Village Tap, Ollie's Pizza or Andrews Family Chiropractic.**

**Boy Scouts start Coney night the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month.**

**Village elections tomorrow from 7 AM to 8 PM.**

**Sharon Curtis looking for volunteers for Halloween annual Carmel apples on the Mill Porch.  
428-9088**

**Adjourn 1:40 PM** Bill Chizmar, second Carl Curtis.

Respectfully submitted: Janet Larson