

## MINUTES GREATER WOODBINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

July 15, 2008 [www.wccnj.org](http://www.wccnj.org)

**Attendance:** Julia Hankerson, Chris Hayes, Carol Saduk, Larry Holtz, Rhonda Keen, Tom Laughlin, Harry LaBov, Denise Kossyvakis; Guests: Manuel Gonzalez Jr., Manny & Teta Gonzalez.

**Treasurer's Report:** Motion to accept report: Denis/Tom – passed.

**Secretary's Report:** Motion to approve minutes of June 17, 2008 – Tom/Denise – passed.

The meeting began with awarding the 2008 GWCC Scholarship to Manuel Gonzalez Jr. Manny read his Scholarship Essay to those in attendance. Enclosed is a copy of his essay "What Woodbine Means to Me". A ceremonial presentation of the \$500.00 Scholarship check was made and pictures can be viewed on the GWCC website. Manny will be attending Broward Community College in Fort Lauderdale, Florida this fall.

Manny Gonzales Sr. is the coordinator for Woodbine of the Office of Emergency management and has offered to speak to the Chamber in the near future about Emergency Management in Woodbine and the county.

**President's Report & Announcements:** Julia made note of the accomplishments of the Chamber in 2008, including the highly successful Business Directory, a very successful Woodbine Family Festival, the flowers throughout the center of town, the dinner meeting & marketing seminar, and the fact that membership is at an all time high. These accomplishments were made possible by the hard work of the officers and members.

Julia stressed that we want the Chamber to continue in this positive direction. The Chamber is a professional organization whose mission is to make a positive business environment for its members. There is no room, not time for negativity, rumors or gossip. Progress has been made because of everyone working together toward our common goal of economic growth and the Chamber looks forward to continuing this progress.

The Chamber projects are done thru committees which report to the membership at the monthly meetings. Enclosed please find a list of current committees. Anyone interested in participating on a committee please contact one of the officers. All committees welcome participation. Committees are the place for members to have their ideas and input heard, and for any necessary discussions. Committees then bring their plans and decisions to the general membership at the monthly meeting, and if necessary for a vote from the general membership; in this way the length of the monthly meetings can be kept to a minimum.

### COMMITTEES AND THEIR FUNCTION(S):

**Beautification:** Investigates and coordinates projects that will enhance the beauty and attractiveness of the Borough.

**Budget:** Coordinates fiscal matters of interest and need to the membership.

**By-Laws:** Coordinates amendments to our by-laws.

**Education:** Coordinates seminars, workshops and speakers to be presented to the membership for the purpose of helping improve their businesses. (i.e. image, efficiency, productivity, etc.)

**Family Festival:** Held annually each June, the Woodbine Family Festival brings attention and excitement to Woodbine and our Chamber members' businesses by attracting residents and non-residents/adults and children to many fun activities, and a wide variety of vendors, churches and organizations that participate in the festival. The festival vendors and the festival ad book are the Chamber's largest fund-raising event of the year.

**Internet:** Coordinates the Chamber website ([www.wccnj.org](http://www.wccnj.org)), and provides information and advice to the Chamber Board, which facilitates informed decisions when promoting the Chamber and its member businesses via the Internet.

**Membership:** Actively works to increase the Chamber's membership rolls, and helps coordinate and make known to members the tangible benefits of their membership (i.e. new member welcome packet, member-to-member discount program, advertising, (via the Chamber website, the Festival Ad Book, etc.). Also maintains and updates the membership directory and posts upcoming Chamber events in the display cases in the Borough Hall entrance foyer.

**Networking Events:** Plans and organizes the chamber's two annual networking events; the end-of-summer BBQ/Picnic and the Christmas dinner/mixer in December. The members have the opportunity to meet, greet, interact and network with the other members in a fun, casual environment. Additional events may be on the horizon.

**Nominations:** Coordinates nominations and elections as needed.

**Scholarships:** researches, develops and coordinates a program to provide an opportunity for local students to earn a financial scholarship to help them with the expense of continuing their education beyond the high school level.

**Signs:** Works with the Borough, County and State, as required, to oversee the design, approval, purchase and placement of signs that warmly welcome people to the Borough of Woodbine.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Only committees with activity during the month will be reported on.

**Festival:** A post-festival meeting was held. This year there were all new chairs for the various jobs of the Festival. Chairpersons offered their own critique and suggestions for improvement for next year. Some of these suggestions are listed below:

- It was suggested that a Disc Jockey be hired instead of having a band. This way all types of music could be played and it would be interactive especially with children. And announcements could be made by the DJ.
- It was agreed that having more signs both lawn size signs and larger signs would be a good idea, and to also place them in larger radius of the Boro.
- The free raffle was well received. There were some logistical problems, which need to be addresses for next year.
- There were problems with some of the food vendor's compliance with CMC Health Dept., to avoid this situation next year; it was proposed to ask the Health Dept. Inspector to meet with the Chamber prior to the Festival, to insure and understanding of current regulations.
- There was excellent coverage by the Herald Newspaper both before and after the Festival.

**Internet:** Chairperson Tom Laughlin has been updating the website and has posted pictures that he took at the Festival and will be posting the Scholarship Winner information.

**Business Directory:** Please contact Carol Saduk if anyone has extra copies of the Business Directory, some of our distribution points are in need of copies.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

A request was received for the PRAC Ad Book for their 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala. A motion was made to take a \$50 ad; Carol/Tom – passed.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

There will be no August GWCC meeting. Members are asked to attend the Woodbine family Fun Day are being sponsored by the Chamber, the Woodbine Fire Company and the Sam Azeez Museum as a conclusion to the Smithsonian Exhibit.

Motion was made to adjourn: Chris/harry – passed. Meeting adjourned at 9pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carole Saduk, Secretary