

Moraga Chamber of Commerce General Meeting  
Friday July 31, 2009  
Written by Ellen Beans

Warm blueberry muffins and hot coffee welcomed the early birds at the Chambers' July 25<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Hacienda's fireside room. **Larry Tessler** opened the meeting at 8 a.m. by first welcoming three new members to the Chamber: **Zack Diestler** of the Willow Springs Church, **April French**, French Bookkeeping Services, and the Moraga Rotary, with **David Kruegal** as representative.

Larry reviewed the many projects, educational forums, and accomplishments of our Chamber in the past 18 months. To hear the list was inspiring to this writer! Larry reminded us that we have no paid staff, no executive director, so that all we have done has been because of dedicated Chamber members, some of whom own businesses and some who support the business community.

One accomplishment was a careful and thorough review and rewrite of the Moraga Chamber's By-Laws by the Board of Directors. These have been presented to the membership via email and website, and today, were passed, accepted, by those attending the July meeting.

Following the vote, **Neal McSherry**, Director of Ticket Sales and Operations, for St. Mary's College, described a comprehensive Gael Force program that is designed to help both the Moraga business community and the college athletic events. Neal stressed that in the past the college has asked the local business community for their support but has not given back to that community. This Gael Force Sponsor program is designed to be a 2 way street, with lots of opportunities for a business to put its name and service or products in front of hundreds of students, faculty, and others. To get more information and to get involved, call 631-4394 or email Neal at [nbm5@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:nbm5@stmarys-ca.edu)

**Wendy Scheck**, Chamber Treasurer, reported that we now have 123 paid members, and that in 2008 we gained 41 new members, and so far in 2009, 21 new members. Then she spoke about the budget, by saying that many chambers have many events with the goal of raising money for the Chamber's budget. This is usually because they have one or more salaried employees. However, our Chamber, with no employees, can meet its expenses with the membership dues and the money that came in from the Community Faire.

To date, our income is \$26,788 due to membership dues of \$15,485 and to the community faire, \$10,903. Wendy itemized our expenses to date, which totaled \$23,052. The difference between income and expenses finds the Chamber with extra funds totaling \$3,736. Anyone interested in looking at the budget details can contact Wendy at [wendy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:wendy@lamorindaweekly.com)

The rest of the meeting was devoted to addressing this question in small groups of 3-4 people: *What direction, or what actions and activities, should the Chamber pursue in the*

*next 6-8 months?* Ideas and suggestions were many, and were reported out to the whole group. This writer felt there were lots of positive and collaborative possibilities that emerged from this brief brainstorming session. Larry Tessler will compile a list of all the ideas, and present them to the Board for consideration.

The meeting was closed promptly at 9 a.m.