

Legislative updates from Representative Bourne, inclement weather affects annual Festival

President Victor Angulo opened the Oct. 11 meeting of Girard Chamber of Commerce, held at Doc's Soda Fountain with Carlinville Area Hospital as breakfast sponsor.

Following Pledge, prayer and approval of previous minutes, guest speaker Avery Bourne addressed those attending, with a brief overview of recent actions taken by lawmakers, including: the subject of budget passage; backlog of bills; school funding reform; and the subject of township consolidation. Bourne announced her Litchfield office was now located at 207 North Main Street.

Todd Babcock briefly reviewed the weekend Pumpkin Festival, minimized by weather conditions and a date change for this year, which produced a very slim profit to its sponsor, the Chamber. All agreed opening the "Pumpkin

Chunkin" event to children was a success. As interim Chamber treasurer, Babcock also submitted the treasurer's report, which was met by approval. On a motion by Babcock, seconded by Jeanette Earley, unanimous approval came to donate \$500 plus the Festival profit to the new Community Center.

In brief review, Babcock updated that the Center's 20 year lease had been approved by the city; the last of the electric is to be installed; the building should be open in a month or so on a limited basis rental (kitchen area is yet to be completed); 13 new commemorative bricks have been placed; sodding and shrubs are to soon be added, shrubs donated by Chamber.

The Center may possibly be used as a shelter in the case of a major emergency event, with Emergency Management coordi-

nator John Earley monitoring its use for that purpose.

In other announcements, North Mac District #34 Superintendent Dr. Jay Goble has requested the school become a member of Chamber; Juanita Rule reminded Chamber an event must be scheduled to sell many new items which have been donated by Dr. Robert Jenkins, with proceeds to benefit the Chamber of Commerce Education fund's annual scholarship, distributed annually to a deserving high school senior.

It was announced Quilting in Aisle 3 has opened in Girard on the north side of the square; Bob Ernest commended the city for the square's micro-surfacing improvement project.

Darren Burnett spoke for Pleasant Hill Village Dinner Auction, set for Saturday, Oct. 21 at the Virden Knights of Colum-

bus Hall. "Haunt the Hill" will take place Oct. 26 at Pleasant Hill, and the Festival of Doors at the facility is coming up for the holidays.

Peggy Giles will contact Ministerial Association to invite a representative to attend Chamber meetings and update the group. North Macoupin Kiwanis will sponsor Breakfast With Santa Saturday, Dec. 9, and will begin collecting for their annual "Coats for Kids" drive for Dec. 9 distribution.

Also attending the meeting, Chamber secretary Deb Burnett, Dottie Dambacher, Phil Garner, Cathy Pierson, Millie Burgess, Bill Giles, Kevin Patrick, Wally Pocklington, Marissa Joyce and Janice Smith.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 a.m., with the next meeting scheduled for 7 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8, at Oak Leaf Country

Club, sponsored by Burgess and Son Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning.



State Representative Avery Bourne