

## **Triangle of Opportunity Minutes**

[www.triangleofopportunity.info](http://www.triangleofopportunity.info)

Date/Time: 10/27/11 - 6:00 pm

Location: Conklin's Barn Dinner Theatre  
Goodfield, IL

### Attendance

Lynn Rudin (and guest), John Birky (and guest), Jess Slager (and guest), John Replogle (and guest), Jim Adams (and guests), Andrew Wise (and guest), Karl Eschelbach, and Mary Eschelbach

### Location Barn II

The barn was built by Forrest Lemons in 1941. At first, it was used for showing cattle and Hampshire hogs, as well as a place to conduct sales. Forrest Lemons was a powerful force in agriculture in the area for many years. The barn became a Dinner Theatre in 1975 under the direction of Chaunce Conklin. Chaunce turned operations and ownership over to Mary Simon in 1995. The play we watched was outstanding.

### Minutes

Minutes from the previous meeting, held 9/29/2011, were reviewed. A motion was made to approve by John Birky and seconded by Lynn Rudin. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

### Treasurer Report

Co-treasurer Mary Eschelbach gave a report showing a balance of \$6,950.70. Motion by John Birky and seconded by Jess Slager to accept the report was made. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

### Updates on Previous and On-Going Business

We reviewed by-laws and informed group we would be taking a vote at the December Triangle meeting.

### New Business

Triangle Scholarship materials are ready to be released to schools. Once approved at December meeting, Andrew will send them to schools. We appreciate the work of Neill Keneipp and Julie Gray on the scholarships.

The Quarterly Agurban Report provided by Brad Glenn was reviewed. Of note, US economic growth has been positive for the last 8 quarters.

The results from the Illinois Rural Life Poll were shared. Of note, the lack of local employment seemed to be the biggest concern of most in rural Illinois.

School enrollment in rural communities was shared. Of note, many rural school districts saw an increase in school population for the first time in many years. This is a positive occurrence.

Discussion transpired regarding the Rural Community Economic Development Conference which is to be held on March 7-8, 2012. It is recommended that a member from the Triangle attend and share information upon return at the March or April Triangle meeting.

Powerpoint was shared from the Illinois Institute of Rural Affairs sharing information gathered from the Socioeconomic Study of Rural Trends, Illinois Rural Life Poll, and the Rural Survey Study. Charts were included showing how rural Illinois residents felt in regards to Quality of Life, Current Services, Local Economy, Education, Workforce, Health, Housing, and Public Services.

Website was shared from the White House Rural Council as well as latest information from the Council.

### Community News and Upcoming Events

#### Deer Creek

Village has paid for their water tower as of October's village board meeting. Community club hosted a fantastic Senior Dinner for Deer Creek and Goodfield Seniors. On October 29, the Community Club hosted its annual Fall Festival, complete with parade, goodies at the park, pictures of children in costume, vendor fair, bouncy house and balloon man. Annual PTA Pancake and Sausage Supper was held on November 12 at the Deer Creek Intermediate School. Over 2500 persons (approximately) attended. Fire department is enlisting new recruits. Deer Creek had a \$300,000 Little Lotto winner receive money at Casey's General Store last month. A number of young people recently moved into our community. All of the houses but one that were in banks' hands has been sold and new owners are repairing the homes.

#### Mackinaw

Casey's is progressing rapidly and may be open by Dec 1<sup>st</sup>. The Tumbling/Cheer facility in the Industrial Park is moving along and the outside parking and building are almost complete. The Halloween Parade was 10/30 in downtown Mackinaw, sponsored by the Lions Club and the Community Chest. There was a Community Planting Day 10/29 at Eastwood Park. A grant from Trees Forever Organization allowed the Village to purchase new trees for parks.

#### Minier

Christmas Parade is to be held in December.

Other communities will share out in December.

Next Meeting: Thursday December 8, 2011 in Armington, Illinois (Park District Building)

Karl Eschelbach moved and John Birky seconded a motion to adjourn. All members voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew S. Wise, President