



The purpose of the Murphys Business Association is to increase awareness of the greater Murphys area businesses, attractions, and special events, to promote a healthy business climate, and to encourage high ethics and professional standards.

VIRTUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES ~ August 6th, 2020, 8:30 am via ZOOM

8:33am Michelle call the meeting to order with Introductions:

Michelle Plotnik	Conrad Levasseur	Michael Summers
Louise Carniglia	Jody Jurgens	Shelby French
Lynnie Woishnis	Patty Schultz	Scott Frazier
Nick Chamulak	Steve Gonzalez	Ron Schaner
June Andona	Catherine Carnahan	Ken/Alchemy
Scott Klann	Christopher Butner	

Minutes: Michelle presented July Minutes. Patty motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Steve seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Posted on-line. Michelle mentioned that we are spending more on printing than expected due to Covid-19 related items.

Old Business & Updates:

Membership Renewals are a bit delayed as we work to create an online auto-renewal option that will allow people to make a one-time annual payment as they do now or set up quarterly auto-renewing payments. We hope to have it working later this month. Please help us out by renewing soon and saving us the time and cost of sending out reminders. Remember that we will be even more dependent on membership income this year so encourage your business neighbors to join us! And you don't have to wait for a renewal notice, you can go directly [here](#) to renew your membership now. Thank you to those of you who have already done so.

Irish Day Raffle Tickets: Patty Schulz from the Spice Tin, and our long time MID Raffle Coordinator, pulled the winning raffle tickets at last meeting and all the winners have been notified and checks issued. They were all thrilled plus receiving the cash instead of the trip. All good!

Local Businesses & Community Needs: Discussion of what our businesses and community are doing and what they need from the MBA right now. Please share your ideas and suggestions by email for board discussion and sharing with other members.

(The barrels look great on Main Street. It all looks much better than expected. Great job!)

County COVID Guidelines:

- June reminded us of the ABC guidelines for restaurants and non-winery tasting rooms: A meal & alcohol must be purchased together, on the same transaction. You can't sell a beer or glass of wine plus chips. A somewhat substantial meal must be purchased while enjoying an alcoholic beverage.
- FYI: Our County Guidelines are the same as the State's. It can be difficult to differentiate the guidelines (rules) and their suggestions. We need to work together as a community to all be on the same page, otherwise, it is confusing to our customers and we need to protect our town.
- What about enforcement? We've heard that some of you would like to see the County doing more to support businesses in understanding and complying with requirements and to enforce some restrictions regarding live music, and large gatherings where social distancing is impossible. Lots of concerns regarding a few businesses that are not following the County's guidelines.
- There were reports of live music, bring your own alcohol, and a restaurant still serving guests inside. Again, letters have been sent from the County educating them plus Merita has been

reaching out to these businesses. How can we work together in a positive manner so we are all following the mandated guidelines for safety and with the same GOAL: to keep all businesses open now and in the future.

- Nick stated if we wait for enforcement it will probably be a long time to come. Perhaps form another committee in an information campaign, with a personal, positive approach supporting our community working together. Michelle said, “We can’t wait for the calvary to come”, we need to help support and educate each other. Merita informed Michelle that we need to express our concerns to all district Supervisors as she is already aware of our concerns.

The Board of Supervisors will be discussing these issues on the 11th and, while our Supervisor, Merita Callaway, cannot join us today, she encourages us to share our ideas and concerns with the entire board via e-mail or by participating in the BOS meeting via Zoom.

- All Covid-19 Resources links are on our website <https://visitmurphys.com/covid-19-resources/>

New Business:

Arnold does not have an active Business Association, GABA (Greater Arnold Business Association) at this point. Ron brought to our attention that Arnold is all on their own and would like to be involved in MBA. Michelle reported that she had contacted previous presidents and members to offer help by the MBA but didn’t get much response other than one suggestion that Arnold businesses should just join the MBA. Ron volunteered to reach out to the community and former GABA members and see who would be interested in joining us. Thanks Ron!

Inside Murphys Project: This committee is headed by Scott Klann with Michelle Plotnik, Christopher Buttner, and Lisa Boulton. It’s an opportunity for locals and visitors to support the MBA and other local non-profits with an auto-renewing annual contribution that would make them a “Murphys Insider” with an annual fee of \$25. This will increase our revenue as we cannot be supported solely by our events at this time. It’s similar to a PBS or Public Radio membership that would give members a chance to support the organizations and projects of the MBA, Old Timers Museum, Murphys Community Club & Feeney Park as well as other groups. In return, we foresee being able to provide them with local information, early access to tickets, opportunities to participate in members-only events, and other benefits. The MBA attendees today all agreed with this project and supported it. Michelle wants to launch it immediately as the startup costs are slim. Excellent!

The Retail Committee (Nick, Christopher & Catherine) are working on additional promotions and fundraising ideas that they will be sharing with us next month. Christopher shared links as to how to increase our revenue at this time. The MBA will be sending out draft documents for everybody’s comments and review before our next meeting.

Announcements, Reminders, Events & Happenings:

- [Murphys Certified Farmers Market](#) continues Sundays from 9am-1pm through October
- Check out [FB Murphys Live Music](#) for all the **virtual** musical happenings in the area
- Post your events (virtual and otherwise) to our [online calendar](#).

Meeting adjourned at 9:56pm.

Our Next Virtual Membership Meeting will be on Thursday, September 3, 2020 at 8:30am via ZOOM unless there is a major change in the Covid-19 situation and gatherings are allowed.

We will be keeping our agendas short during this time of socially distanced virtual meetings but please feel free to let us know if there is something you would like to see added to the agenda or shared with our members during our weekly emails.