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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TRENTON CHAMBER HOLDS ANNUAL DINNER

Barneveld – The Trenton Area Chamber of Commerce held its annual dinner meeting on January 25 at the Holland Patent American Legion. Nearly 50 people attended the event. A social hour was held with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar and a chance to network. Then guests enjoyed a family-style dinner.

Following the meal President Debby Leiker updated everyone on what the chamber has been doing. There was a financial report and a reminder that the 2011 membership drive is underway. Members are asked to submit their dues by February 1 in order to be included in the new member brochure.

Website designer Veronika Freeman gave an update of the site and encouraged members to check their listing for accuracy and let her know what changes or updates need to be made.

Carol Buczek spoke briefly and recapped the Business After Hours programs that were held in 2010. There were four events, one each quarter which is the chamber's goal. Buczek encouraged businesses to consider sponsoring a BAH to promote their business and help fundraise for the chamber. Any business interested should contact President Leiker as soon as possible to get on the schedule.

There was an update on the Visitor Information Center by Fitz Hardiman. He noted that the VIC had a pretty successful year and there are always advertising opportunities available for brochures and signs in the center. The sign out front is also available for rent.

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Hardiman also recapped the Fuel Raffle that recently concluded. The winner was Bill Bandyh of Barneveld who chose the fuel oil. About \$1000.00 was raised from the raffle.

Members are reminded to take advantage of the “Smarten Up” program run by the chamber. Jack Fox highlighted the program and explained that members can be reimbursed up to \$20.00 if they take an educational course that will be used to improve their business. Requirements, eligibility and more information can be found on the chamber’s website: www.trentonchamber.com The program was started in 2010 and so far no one has taken advantage of it.

And the night capped off when President Leiker announced that the Endowment Program would be continued in 2011. Last year for the first time, the chamber gave away \$500.00 to a member who applied for the fund. The Tent Gallery was the winner with the money to be used toward a website for the company. This year, applications for the Endowment must be turned in by March 1 and the winner is expected to be announced at a spring Business After Hours, with the date to be determined. The Endowment information and application are on the chamber’s website or can be obtained by contacting Leiker via e-mail at trentonchamber@aol.com Don’t miss out on this opportunity for free money for your business.

The chamber is pleased to welcome three new businesses: Total Body Fitness, Adirondack Insurance Services, and Heywood Blueberries & Greenhouses.

At the regular monthly meeting in January it was voted to suspend the newsletter so be sure to keep an eye on the chamber website for events and news. The chamber meets the second Thursday of each month at 8:30am at the Trenton Municipal Building in Barneveld. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

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