

GOUVERNEUR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

53 HERM TOWNE ROAD

Gouverneur, NY 13642

315 287-0331

www.gouverneurchamber.net

Agenda

Regular Meeting: October 6, 2025

Minutes of September 8, 2025 Meeting

Treasurer's Report:

Correspondence: We received October Elks Club Newsletter, Ogdensburg Command Performances postcard on Coming Attractions, sent letter of support for Town of Gouverneur Block Grant request, received Oriental Trading magazine and the usual emails

Committee Reports: DBA's for August show new businesses: Foodie Paradise, One More Chapter, Ravens Nest and Nails All Pretty of Gouverneur, Chey's Luxe Boutique of Harrisville, KNK Cycle and Radiant Relaxation of Rensselaer Falls, Understanding Basics and Safe T House Home Inspection Service of Hammond and Wildcraft Farms of Russell. They were sent membership welcome letters

Old Business: Pumpkin Fest Report
Farmer's Market Report

New Business: Christmas Parade: Number of Cookies Purchased Last Year
School Volunteer to Wear Costumes?
Parade Route?

Festival of Trees: Update on Santa's Village Progress

Trunk or Treat: Update on Planning – Helpers Needed?

Student of Month should be starting soon

Business of Month of October is Cargill

Next meeting: November 3rd

Gouverneur Chamber of Commerce

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Minutes of September 8, 2025 Meeting

The September 2025 meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was called to order at 8:00AM by President Brooke Plowman. Attendees were Executive Director Donna Besaw, Directors CJ Fitzgerald, Melissa Simione, Dianne Cocco, Connie Stowell, Michelle Blackburn, Mickael White, and members Rachel Hunter of the Tribune Press, Dave Spilman from Town of Gouverneur, Miki Hopper of Gouverneur Museum, Emily Bush of Emily's Flower Shop, Mayor Ron McDougall, Joe Fitzgerald, Jackie Prashaw. Ray Babowicz and Christian Gillan are excused.

The minutes of the August meeting were approved by a motion from Connie and seconded by CJ.

Executive Director Donna Besaw gave the treasurer's report with \$200 collected in dues, merchandise sales and a small donation. Expenses totaled \$815 leaving a balance of \$13,744 in the checking account. Donna Lawrence made the motion to accept the treasurer's report and Michelle seconded; the motion carried.

Correspondence: Donna Besaw reported that the Chamber received a September Elks Club newsletter, a sponsorship opportunity from St Lawrence Co Chamber and several other advertisements, emails and magazines.

Committee Reports: The DBA lists for June & July show new businesses: Sweet Creations by Lindsey, Shockrula Art Studio, Tappyhaus, Echo Valley Contracting, Railroad Market, B & N Liquidations and One More Chapter of Gouverneur, Chelsea Lauren Photography and Stumped in Harrisville, From Ground Up in Hermon, Kyleighs Nail Salon in Rensselaer Falls, Clary's Bait & Tackle in Edwards, Artful Sprout in Star Lake, Grass River Bait & Tackle in Russell, S & S Brothers in Dekalb Jct. They will all be sent welcome letters shortly. Connie will take flowers to Legacy Crane LLC as he is the newest member of the Chamber. Flowers were taken to Nola on Main at their grand opening.

Old Business: Farmer's Market Update from Melissa is that the postcards have been selling pretty well and some shirts. There are usually around 8 vendors, but the barber has not been there the last couple weeks. Nibbles food truck expressed interest in attending bi-weekly next year and possibly Larry Hollie to play music, again, next year.

New Business: Christmas Parade: We discussed the time being 3:00 – 5:00, same as the reindeer attendance. Parade will commence at 5:00. Michelle, Brooke and possibly Christian will do line-up this year. We'll buy cookies from the three bakers that are members, Lindsey Mandigo, Heather Sands and Tara of Curious Kitchen. Donna will let us know at the next meeting how many cookies we purchased last year. Diane will contact Mr. Bango about the horse & buggy rides again. We will again invite Bowhall's to help with the cookies & hot chocolate. Brooke has contacted the school to see if a student or students would be willing to wear the costumes we have and mingle with the children. We have a grinch and a reindeer costume. School has just started so we'll see if we get a response before next meeting. We'll discuss it more later as the police chief mentioned at an earlier meeting of the parade route being changed or updated.

Festival of Trees was briefly described and posters handed out to distribute. Donna Lawrence sent the letters out on Friday so the businesses should get them today. **Pumpkin Fest** has another meeting on Thursday 9/11 at 9AM for anyone able to attend. The event is held on September 20th & 21st from 10:00 –

4:00 both days. The pumpkin drop is Sunday as well as the car show. Food vendors both days will be available as well as other events going on for families to participate. **Trunk or Treat** was discussed, and Melissa is doing Little Red Riding Hood as our theme. Donna Besaw made the motion to purchase up to \$300 in candy Donna Lawrence seconded and motion carried. Brooke offered to hand out cider that evening as well, CJ made a motion that 10 gallons of cider be purchased, Donna Lawrence seconded, and motion carried. **Gouverneur NY Forward Grant** was discussed as the chamber received some phone calls and an email about the displeasure of some businesses not being aware of the grant and now, how it is proposed to be distributed. Brooke was very informative and has advised that there is no final decision made yet as New York has the final say. There are meetings coming up on September 24th and September 25th and anyone interested is encouraged to attend. The 24th of September is for public engagement and September 25th is for local planning. 7.3 million in proposed projects were sent to the state and they will narrow it down to 3.4 million dollars which is the allotted grant. **Student of the Month** will resume this month, and **Business of the Month** of September is Weekes / Dier Insurance Agency. The next meeting is scheduled for October 6th. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20.

Respectfully submitted:

Donna Besaw
Executive Director