

GOUVERNEUR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
53 HERM TOWNE ROAD
Gouverneur, NY 13642
315 287-0331
www.gouverneurchamber.net

Agenda

Regular Meeting: March 2, 2026

Minutes of February 2, 2026 Meeting

Treasurer's Report:

Correspondence: We received March 2026 Elks Club Newsletter, email from music group 'Bobcats' who will be in the area in July, an Oriental Trading magazine and several emails.

Committee Reports: DBA for January includes new businesses: Ward Woodworks and Strandz (she already joined) of Gouverneur, Folkwell Farms of Dekalb Jct and Durham Custom Contracting of Harrisville

Old Business: Giant Check for Presentations was Received

New Business: Banquet Planning:

Farmer's Market Planning for 2026

Festival of Trees Report on February Meeting

Christmas Lights for Village Park

Membership Progress: Melissa

Resignation of Tim Reddick as Director

Festival of Anniversaries in May: Update

Local Food Guide: Do we want to Advertise

Student of the Month of February is Logan Hill of Electrical Technologies

Business of the Month of March is Cornerstone Services

Next meeting: April 6th

Gouverneur Chamber of Commerce

53 Herm Towne Road

Gouverneur, New York 13642

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Minutes of February 2, 2026 Meeting

The February 2026 meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was called to order at 8:00AM by President Brooke Plowman. Attendees were Executive Director Donna Besaw, Vice President Donna Lawrence, Directors CJ Fitzgerald, Melissa Simione, Dianne Cocco, Connie Stowell, Michelle Blackburn, Kayla Ciambra, Emily Bush, Ray Babowicz, Christian Gillan, Mickael White, and members Dave Spilman from Town of Gouverneur and Joe Fitzgerald.

The minutes of the January meeting were approved by a motion from Ray and seconded by Melissa.

Executive Director Donna Besaw gave the treasurer's report with \$9642 collected in dues and advertising and expenses totaling \$1640 leaving a balance of \$9,755 in the checking account. Connie made the motion to accept the treasurer's report and Michelle seconded, the motion carried.

Correspondence: Donna Besaw reported that the Chamber received a February Elks Club newsletter, Thank You note from Friends 4 Pound Paws for the money and pet items received from the Festival of Trees, received Presbyterian Activities Calendar which was also entered on our calendar of events by Shari, Donna sent a letter of support to St Lawrence County Chamber for Destination Development Grant from NYS, received Oriental Trading magazine and several miscellaneous emails.

Committee Reports: The DBA lists for November & December show new businesses Seaway Honey Holes and Natures Tapestry Soap Co of Rensselaer Falls, McBride's Vision Professional Services, Fuller Cleaning, Sipz and CM Rummaged Oddities of Gouverneur and Dreythaler Farms of Harrisville. These new businesses were all sent membership letters in early January. Sipz of Gouverneur has joined the Chamber and Brooke will deliver flowers.

Old Business: Christmas Lights in Village Park were discussed but until the current lights are removed and assessed, we aren't sure how many are needed. We will address again next month. Purchase of a **Giant Check** to be used during presentations was discussed. Ray made a motion to purchase the presentation check, Donna Lawrence seconded and motion carried. Donna B will get one ordered. **Festival of Trees** will hold a meeting mid-February to start planning for 2026. Brooke will email the date and time to everyone, but mornings seem to be best. **Mission Statement** was discussed and ours is listed on the website. Donna B was not aware that we had one when she filled out an application with Price Chopper (about them paying dues to the Chamber).

New Business: Banquet Planning: The Elks Club has been sent a letter asking for dinner suggestions with prices. **Award of Merit** was also discussed. We will advertise in the Tribune Press mid-February and Mid-March with the deadline set at March 27th. We also discussed that the chamber may decide on the meal, and we hope to get the banquet tickets printed a little sooner than last year's timeline. It was too close after we got the tickets to try and sell them. We received a **Quote for Directories** of \$2,730 and Donna accepted their quote. **Farmer's Market** was discussed

and we will invite Erin Cuseo to next month's meeting as we have several questions about the market and the vendor qualifications. Donna reported that Shari said 115 **newsletters** were sent out for February, 56 were opened (49%), 12 were clicked on to go to our website and 59 had not been opened yet. This was the following day so we expect more will be seen. Great statistics to know. **Anniversary Celebration** is May 16th this year at the village park. Mickey Hopper is organizing as a **Festival of Anniversaries** because there is 80th year for the Garden Club, 140th for the library, 50th for the museum, 25th for Breast & Ovarian Cancer organization, as well as the Lions Club, Emily's Flower Shop, NY Pizzeria and 250th year for the United States as well. This is also Armed Forces Day and Mickey will see about Fort Drum attending. We will notify Shari that she can put something on our Facebook page in case there are other local businesses with a notable anniversary that would like to join. Dave Spilman commented that the **town & village are seeking a \$1,500 grant** they are in hopes of receiving and will award it to the Chamber for our Flag Day parade and festivities! **Student of the Month** of January is Autumn Tresidder of Cosmetology II and **Business of the Month** of February is Rustic Rise Sourdough & Supplies. This meeting was adjourned at 8:44.

Respectfully submitted:

Donna Besaw
Executive Director