

GOUVERNEUR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
53 HERM TOWNE ROAD  
Gouverneur, NY 13642  
315 287-0331  
[www.gouverneurchamber.net](http://www.gouverneurchamber.net)

## Agenda

Regular Meeting: May 4, 2026

Minutes of April 6, 2026 Meeting

Treasurer's Report:

**Correspondence:** We received May 2026 Elks Club Newsletter and an Oriental Trading magazine along with several miscellaneous emails.

**Committee Reports:** DBA for March includes new businesses: Black Lake Wedding & Party Rentals of Hammond, Rainbowtech Designs (Shari's) of Hailesboro, Sticks & Stones of Edwards, TS Hauling & Rental Services of Hermon, Peabody Meats, Ball General Carpentry and Rach's Spray Foaming of Gouverneur and Mintas Tallow Balm of Dekalb Jct

**Old Business:**

**New Business:** Banquet Planning: new banners picked up, ticket sales are good, speaker gifts ready – please remember door prizes, Directories & Banquet Program are expected to be ready  
Festival of Anniversaries in May: Updated Permit Received (Church St closed), Banner ordered  
Flag Day: Letters will go out soon. Order Flags (35 Dz last year) Permit Is Requested waiting on reply  
Winter Blast for 2027: Early Planning  
Students of the Month of April were Lauren Peacock of Building Trades and Niklas Tharaldsen of Heavy Equipment Operation  
Business of the Month of May is Hair by Helen

**Next meeting: June 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Gouverneur Chamber of Commerce**  
**53 Herm Towne Road**  
**Gouverneur, New York 13642**  
**315-287-0331**  
**Minutes of April 6, 2026 Meeting**

The April 2026 meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was called to order at 8:02 AM by Vice-President Donna Lawrence. Attendees were Executive Director Donna Besaw, Directors CJ Fitzgerald, Melissa Simione, Dianne Cocco, Connie Stowell, Kayla Ciambra, Emily Bush, Mickael White, and Morgan Leeson Farmer's Market Manager, members Dave Spilman from Town of Gouverneur and Gouverneur S & L President Stephen Jefferies.

The minutes of the March meeting were approved by a motion from Melissa and seconded by Dianne.

Executive Director Donna Besaw gave the treasurer's report with \$14,442 collected in dues and advertising and expenses totaled \$1,729 leaving a balance of \$28,009 in the checking account. Connie made the motion to accept the treasurer's report and Emily seconded, the motion carried.

**Correspondence:** Donna Besaw reported that the Chamber received an April Elks Club newsletter, Ad from Cornerstone Services, Cornell Cooperative Ext ad for Team Building Program Packages, NNY Community Foundation Publication, Vanderbilt Minerals Chapter 11 Notice, an Oriental Trading magazine and several miscellaneous emails.

**Committee Reports: The DBA list** for February shows new businesses Trash, Grass & More and Hot Mess Express of Depeyster, Oak Point Plumbing, Farmer Flanagan and JS Painting of Hammond, Wandas Handmade of Dekalb Jct, Red Beard Lumber and B A S E Property Services of Gouverneur. Our new businesses for the chamber are Key Bank and Custard Cottage. Emily Bush has offered to deliver the flowers for us from now on.

**Old Business:** Nothing to Report

**New Business: Award of Merit** is Walton's Auto Service. We feel the Facebook advertising helped a great deal with new nominations. **Banquet Planning:** Donna B reported that new banners have been ordered, dinner prices received and tickets received. Donna L reported that Joel Renault will now speak for the mines. CJ suggested Curran Wade come to talk about the lifesaver and the general feeling was agreeable. Donna Lawrence will handle flowers and has ordered the plaque. Our tickets are \$30 each and we pay the Elks Club \$25 per plate. We have 16 tickets handed out for Gold and Marble members as well as two for the Award of Merit recipients. Connie will handle the gift for the speaker and get some maple products. Donna L reminded the directors to bring something for the raffle also. **Farmer's Market:** Melissa and Morgan will get together to put things in motion. Donna B has received the permit for the village park and Dianne reminded Melissa that the vendors need their own insurance as they are not covered under the Chamber's insurance. We feel an article in the Tribune Press would help spread the word about vendors now being accepted this year as well as the farmers. Facebook advertising seems to work well also, and we will tell Pickers Dream and the Railroad Market as they seem very interested in the vendor portion of the market. **Christmas Lights for Village Park:** Until the village is able to remove the current lights and get some measurements, they are unsure how much may be needed. They do need replacement bulbs though for some of the commercial lights we purchased in the

past. TJ has the trailer set up but requested some totes to put Christmas decorations in and CJ purchased the totes. Donna L made a motion to reimburse CJ for the totes, Donna B seconded and motion carried. CJ also reported that the wooden Christmas decorations were in really bad shape so she took them home and will paint some and replace others, so they are ready for this Christmas. **Festival of Anniversaries** in May was discussed. The permit was received for the event, but Donna B did not ask for road closure. After some discussion, it was decided with food trucks there and children running around that it would be a good idea to ask the village to amend our permit and include Church Street closure. Donna B will contact the village. **Flag Day Planning:** CJ had invited village police chief Darren Fairbanks, but he was not able to attend. She reported that we need a new route as the village police don't have the manpower to close down that many intersections when the parade marches from the school. He would like to do line up on Trinity Avenue starting at the Rec Center. The route will be to march in front of the police station, turn left onto Main Street, march down to the Credit Union and turn left back onto Trinity Avenue. Donna B will make that clear in the letters that are sent out and CJ offered to do a map outlining the route to be included with the letter. We would like to make this a large event since it's 250 years for our nation and since there is no 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade or event locally that we are aware of. Dave reported that the village is donating \$1,000 and the town \$500 toward this event with 'no strings attached.' Discussion ensued about possible music on the bandstand, maybe a coloring contest for kids and we'll get the bounce house again. Donna B made a motion that we purchase \$300 in prizes for the games if the Rec Center will run them. Melissa seconded and the motion carried. We will again offer vendors to come at no fee. Connie will emcee the event, CJ and Christian will do line up for the parade, Donna B will bring the T-shirts, cozies and postcards to sell, we will possibly have an essay contest, Sheriff and State Police will be invited and Donna L will check on Lena the Lizard Lady cost. **Winter Blast 2027** was discussed for February. Donna Lawrence made a motion that we have the winter blast and CJ seconded. Motion carried. More discussion in June and July. **Student of the Month** of March is Violet Blair of Digital Media Design II and **Business of the Month** of April is Bonaparte Pharmacy. This meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted:

Donna Besaw, Executive Director