

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

Agenda

Regular Meeting: January 5, 2026

Minutes of December 1, 2025 Meeting

Treasurer's Report:

Correspondence: We received January 2026 Elks Club Newsletter, received 'thank you' cards from Grace Food Pantry and Baskets of Hope, received an ad offer from North Country This Week (deadline has passed), handed out 'thank you' letters to all that entered a tree in the Festival of Trees, thank you's also sent to Methodist Church, Jay Bowhall & family, Gouv Savings & Loan, MacFadden Dier, Northern Credit Union and Dave & Lisa from Community Center. We also received the usual emails and advertisements.

Committee Reports: DBA for December was just requested, so not received yet.

Old Business: Festival of Trees Update: 37 entries, mostly trees, droves of people attended! Much excitement for next year – any suggestions?
Christmas Parade: Well attended 95 stuffed animals given, cookies were correct amount and Rob Macaulay won 'best float'

New Business: Banquet Planning
Drawing for May Business of Month
Committee Assignments: Update the committee list (see back of this page)
Student of the Month of December is Damion Law of Automotive Technologies
Business of the Month of January is Riutta Chiropractic

Next meeting: February 2nd

Gouverneur Chamber of Commerce

Committee Assignments 2026

Any questions should be directed to our President, Brooke Plowman, since we do not appoint Chairmen on the committees

By-Laws:

*Tim Reddick
Ray Babowicz*

Membership:

*Donna Besaw
Donna Lawrence
Melissa Simione*

Award of Merit Committee: Pumpkin Fest Committee:

*Donna Lawrence
Melissa Simione
Christian Gillan
Tim Reddick
Ray Babowicz*

Flag Day Parade:

*Connie Stowell
Brooke Plowman
CJ Fitzgerald
Donna Besaw
Christian Gillan
Melissa Simione
Michelle Blackburn
Donna Lawrence*

Christmas Parade:

*Diane Cocco
Christian Gillan
Tim Reddick
CJ Fitzgerald
Ray Babowicz
Kayla Ciambra*

Banquet Committee:

*Connie Stowell
Dianne Cocco
Donna Besaw*

*CJ Fitzgerald
Donna Lawrence
Christian Gillan*

*Connie Stowell
Ray Babowicz
Christian Gillan
Brooke Plowman
Melissa Simione
Donna Besaw*

Publicity:

*Tim Reddick
Ray Babowicz
Shari Barnhart*

Trunk or Treat:

*Ray Babowicz
Melissa Simione
Kayla Ciambra*

Festival of Trees Everyone Is On This Committee

*Donna Besaw
Donna Lawrence
Michelle Blackburn
Melissa Simione
Brooke Plowman*

Gouverneur Chamber of Commerce
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315-287-0331

Minutes of December 1, 2025 Meeting

The December 2025 meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was called to order at 8:01AM by President Brooke Plowman. Attendees were Executive Director Donna Besaw, Directors CJ Fitzgerald, Melissa Simione, Dianne Cocco, Connie Stowell, Ray Babowicz, Michelle Blackburn, Michael White, Christian Gillan, and members Dave Spilman from Town of Gouverneur, Mayor Ron McDougall, Jessica Hentz and Stephen Jefferies of Gouverneur Savings & Loan, Kayla Ciambra of NY Pizzeria & Joe Fitzgerald.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved by a motion from Melissa and seconded by Michelle.

Executive Director Donna Besaw gave the treasurer's report with \$63 collected in dues and expenses totaled \$5,447 leaving a balance of \$6,662 in the checking account. Connie made the motion to accept the treasurer's report and Ray seconded; the motion carried.

Correspondence: Donna Besaw reported that the Chamber received a December Elks Club newsletter, a Thank You from Erin Cuseo and Gardenshare and we received several emails.

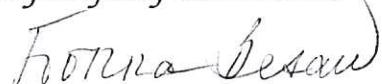
Committee Reports: The DBA lists for October & November were received late in November. Instead of sending 'membership welcome' letters so late in the year, we will add them to our mass membership mailing in January. New businesses were Iron & Relics Antiques of Harrisville, Rohe's Quartz, Ravens Nest and Chapter Forty of Gouverneur, Green Pinky Farm & Produce of Star Lake and Bylow Farms of Hammond.

Old Business: Advertising Festival of Trees was discussed, and Connie made a motion to spend \$350 on advertising in the Tribune Press, Ray seconded and motion carried. **New Trailer:** was discussed and we approved paying $\frac{1}{2}$ of the cost at last month's meeting if the village incurred the other half. The village sent a message and they agreed also, so the trailer was purchased.

New Business: Christmas Parade: Donna Besaw reported that the reindeer have confirmed coming, Methodist Church is available, permit was received from the village, and the cookies have been ordered. The Credit Union requested approval to use their t-shirt gun at the parade and Donna approved. After some discussion, Connie made a motion to increase Santa's pay to \$100 this year since he is also attending the Festival of Trees, Michelle seconded and motion carried. **Festival of Trees:** We have 35 trees decorated and two other entries - Fruit basket and Karate Lessons all available for winning during a drawing. The attendance was excellent last night with over \$900 collected in photos with Santa and sale of tree raffle tickets. We also collected a lot of food for the local food pantries and Friends for Pound Paws. Everyone really enjoyed Santa's village, a big thank you goes out to CJ & Joe Fitzgerald who organized and did much of the work on that. The Festival of Trees will run through this week also with the tree winners drawn on Saturday night before the Christmas Parade. We thought it would be a good idea to send 'thank you' letters to all businesses and organizations that donated a tree, Donna will send those out. Donna will bring a rocker for Santa to the gazebo that evening.

New Directors: Donna made a motion to appoint Jessica Hentz and Kayla Ciambra as new directors, CJ seconded and motion carried. Welcome Jessica & Kayla! **Committee Assignments** were discussed and since we do not appoint a chairman for these committees, questions and point of contact will be our current president, Brooke Plowman. We will also add a new committee for the Festival of Trees and all directors will be added to that committee. Kayla has agreed to also sit on the Christmas Parade Committee, Trunk or Treat and Pumpkin Fest Committee. Jessica will also be added to Pumpkin Fest Committee. **Student of the Month** of November was Lilah Stephenson of Criminal Justice. BOCES has a class where students can learn EMT and they also would like the local business input on what other classes they may like offered at BOCES to help the local economy. **Business of the Month** of December is DOT Physical & Family Health with Rachel Raven. The business drawn for June 2026 that was moved up to May has closed due to health reasons so we will draw from the new businesses at our January meeting to cover the month of May. The next meeting is scheduled for January 5th. This meeting was adjourned at 8:37.

Respectfully submitted:



Donna Besaw
Executive Director