

GOUVERNEUR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
53 HERM TOWNE ROAD

Gouverneur, NY 13642

315 287-0331

www.gouverneurchamber.net

Agenda

Regular Meeting: April 6, 2026

Minutes of March 2, 2026 Meeting

Treasurer's Report:

Correspondence: We received April 2026 Elks Club Newsletter, Ad from Cornerstone Services (our March Business of Month), Cornell Cooperative Ext. ad for Team Building Program Packages, NNY Community Foundation Publication, Vanderbilt Minerals Chapter 11 Notice, an Oriental Trading magazine and \$20 gift card and several emails.

Committee Reports: DBA for February includes 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. New Businesses are Key Bank and Custard Cottage (flowers needed)

Old Business:

New Business: Award of Merit: Walton's Auto Service (Rick Walton)
Banquet Planning: new banners ordered, dinner prices received
tickets received
Farmer's Market Planning for 2026: Update from Morgan Leeson
New MOU signed with Gardenshare and Village Permit Rec'd
Christmas Lights for Village Park
Insurance Policy Changes: Controlled Substance Exclusion
Directories are ordered and 'in print'
Festival of Anniversaries in May: Vote on Leadership Role by
Chamber, Permit Requested (Church St not closed)
Flag Day Planning
Winter Blast for 2027: Thoughts?
Student of the Month of March is Violet Blair of Digital Media
Design II
Business of the Month of April is Bonaparte Pharmacy

Next meeting: May 4th

Gouverneur Chamber of Commerce

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Minutes of March 2, 2026 Meeting

The March 2026 meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was called to order at 7:59AM by President Brooke Plowman. Attendees were Executive Director Donna Besaw, Vice President Donna Lawrence, Directors CJ Fitzgerald, Melissa Simone, Ray Babowicz, Dianne Cocco, Connie Stowell, Michelle Blackburn, Kayla Ciambra, Emily Bush, Mickael White, and members Dave Spilman from Town of Gouverneur, Rachel Hunter from the Tribune Press and Joe Fitzgerald.

The meeting started with a discussion on Farmer's Market and Gardenshare. We discussed whether we may stay with Gardenshare or venture out on our own with the handling of the farmer's market. We are unsure of the business we may lose if we are not considered a farmer's market and cannot handle some of the payment methods. We will ask questions later in the meeting when Carlene Doane and Erin Cuseo arrive.

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

Executive Director Donna Besaw gave the treasurer's report with \$7468 collected in dues and advertising and expenses totaled \$1927 leaving a balance of \$15,295 in the checking account. CJ made the motion to accept the treasurer's report and Ray seconded, the motion carried.

***Correspondence:** Donna Besaw reported that the Chamber received a March Elks Club newsletter, email from a music group 'Bobcats' who will be in the area in July, we received Oriental Trading magazine and several miscellaneous emails.*

***Committee Reports:** The DBA list for January shows new businesses Ward Woodworks and Strandz of Gouverneur, Folkwell Farms of Dekalb Jct and Durham Custom Contracting of Harrisville.*

***Old Business:** Giant Check to be used during presentations was received and brought to the meeting. It has the Chamber insignia in the upper corner.*

***New Business: Banquet Planning:** We discussed buying advertising to promote the banquet and also to advertise and promote the **Award of Merit** as only one new nomination was received thus far. Brooke will set up a meeting for March 30th or 31st with the committee to*

come up with a winner and we will get the tickets ordered and decide on dinner. Donna B thought the price should be increased for dinner as we are very low cost currently. Michelle made a motion to increase our dinner price to \$30 if the selections remain around \$25 from the Elks, Donna L seconded and motion carried. **Festival of Trees Committee** met, and Brooke sent out an email of the decisions made so far. The times, theme days, the sponsors drawing the winner of their tree on the last night of the festival and possibly showcase the business and tree that garnered the most votes were some of the suggestions they had. **Christmas Lights for Village Park** was again tabled until the next meeting. The village DPW doesn't have a suggestion for us yet. **Membership Progress:** Melissa handed out a list of unpaid members and everyone is urged to contact and encourage these businesses to join. **Resignation of Tim Reddick** was received with regrets. We will keep our eyes open for possible new directors. **Festival of Anniversaries** in May was discussed. The list has gotten quite large now and there seems to be a lot of interest. The Garden Club has 'handed over the torch' to the Chamber to continue the planning. We will get the permit from the village and get the word out through advertising, posters, etc. We will change the name to **Celebration of Anniversaries** and will run it from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Participants can come and set up a table, hand out advertising or informative facts about their business etc. **Farmer's Market** was again discussed when Carlene and Erin came from Gardenshare. We questioned how much we may lose in participation if we cannot accept some of the programs. They can get us the figures but Erin explained that we can include craft vendors and others as well, they just need to be in a segregated side of the park and they cannot accept the 'tokens or checks' that the Farmer's Market accepts. With that news, Connie made a motion to stay with Gardenshare per their Memorandum of Understanding and we will invite others to the market on the 'craft' side. Michelle seconded and the motion carried. We will keep the same fee for the crafters as the farmer's market vendors pay - which is \$70 for the season and \$20 for a 'day vendor'. The application is online with Gardenshare starting April 1st. We received an offer to **Advertise in Local Food Guide** by Gardenshare. Ray made a motion to buy a ½ page ad for \$300 and pay \$50 extra for color. Donna Lawrence seconded and the motion carried. **Student of the Month** of February is Logan Hill of Electrical Technologies and **Business of the Month** of March is Cornerstone Services. This meeting was adjourned at 9:05.

Respectfully submitted:



Donna Besaw

Executive Director