



www.florencechamber.com
541-997-3128

Why I Am a Chamber Ambassador

By Pattie Panther



I was recently asked why I enjoy being a member of the Florence Area Ambassadors. My answer: "Why Not?"

It has been a great experience for me! Maybe it will be for you too, especially if you love promoting our wonderful community and its businesses like I do.

Being an Ambassador is a great way to meet and greet members of our community. Chamber Ambassadors get to conduct ribbon cuttings to welcome new businesses, attend functions to show our support of existing businesses, and support our Chamber of Commerce in general.

I also enjoy volunteering at our Chamber office and at community functions where we get to welcome visitors to Florence and tell them about all the exciting, educational, inspiring places to go and things to do. If you're a fan of Florence with a couple of hours to spare, consider becoming a Chamber Ambassador.

Each year the State Chamber Ambassador Convention is held in a different city in Oregon, and it is always a fun learning experience. The Ambassadors hosted that convention three years ago and it was a great success. And thanks to Chamber underwriter, Three Rivers Casino and Resort, we were able to show off our town, restaurants, shops, and the fun activities available here. We received many letters from the cities that attended, complimenting our community and our event. This year's convention is in September in Lincoln City, and your Chamber Ambassadors will be there promoting the Florence area even more!

Did I mention that the Ambassadors would love to have new members? Come join us! For more information contact Chamber director Cal Applebee at 541-997-3128 or Cal@FlorenceChamber.com

Pattie Panther is a 25-year resident of Florence and has volunteered as an Ambassador for four years

Underwriters

2014-2015

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The Siuslaw News

Be sure to thank these members for their investment in our community!

Florence Area Business Beat

A service of the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce

APRIL 1, 2015 UPDATE

Welcome New Members!

Call or visit these new Chamber members and tell them you're glad they joined!

All Creations Construction - 125 Sandpiper Ct. Florence. 541-590-0288. General contractor specializing in woodworking, and remodeling bathrooms and kitchens.

Coast Jewelers - 1220 Bay Street #100, Florence. 541 997-7676. www.jewelersflorenceor.com One-of-a-kind and custom-designed fine jewelry. On-site jeweler for custom repairs and fitting.

Eagle Home Mortgage - 2039 North Coast Hwy, Newport. 541-265-9880. www.eaglehomemortgage.com/newport. Provides conventional, FHA, VA and USDA loan programs.

Natural Dentures - 1647 12th Street Florence. 541-997-3344. www.naturaldentures.com. The Natural Dentures team and Shawn Murray love working with the community of Florence.

If you'd like to know more about the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce and what it can do for you, call 541-997-3128 or e-mail Cal Applebee at Cal@FlorenceChamber.com

Meet Our Distinguished Sponsors

101 Things To Do

101 Things To Do has been a recognized, leading regional publication for many years. Since 2010, Nate Kaplan and Judy Adams have owned the coastal edition, *101 Things To Do, Western & Coastal Oregon* where Nate handles sales and distribution and Judy handles the editing, graphic design, and layout. Both are members of the Florence Rotary Club.

In addition to working on the magazine, Nate is an accomplished drummer with the popular Miles To Go Quartet which performs locally at City Lights Cinemas. He also plays frequently with other musicians in Eugene and in Florence.

Judy, a resident of Florence for several years, is involved in several theater productions with the Last Resort Players and the Florence Playhouse. She also sings and has performed with the FloTones and The New Folksters. She currently co-owns It's About Time Productions and is a mosaic artist, using stained glass to cover pretty much anything that isn't nailed down.

With 2014 being a banner year for *101 Things To Do*, Nate and Judy recognized the significance of supporting the local Chamber and we are proud to introduce them in their first year as a Distinguished Sponsor.

Driftwood Shores Resort & Convention Center

Distinguished Sponsor Driftwood Shores Resort has been one of the Oregon Coast's premier lodging destinations since 1977. Driftwood Shores has been a valued Chamber member for many years and for the last several years, one of our Distinguished Sponsors!

Driftwood Shores represents Oregon Coast lodging at its best by offering a spectacular ocean view from every room, ten miles of unobstructed beach, indoor aquatic center with heated pool, oversized whirlpool spa, plus water features for kids of all ages. The recently remodeled Surfside Restaurant is open seven days a week serving breakfast, lunch, dinner, and offers banquet facilities for up to 120 people.

Megan Busalak enthusiastically handles convention services; and Sue Keys recently joined them as general manager, bringing several years of destination marketing experience on the Oregon coast with her. Stop in, say "hi" to Sue and Megan, thank them for their support of the Chamber, and check out all the great services and facilities they can offer you, your business, or your out-of-town guests!

Oregon Pacific Bank

Oregon Pacific Bank has been serving the financial needs of Oregonians for more than 35 years, offering a variety of banking services. They are committed to providing outstanding and relevant service through meaningful personal relationships with clients.

Established in 1979 as a State Chartered Bank and a member of the Federal Reserve System, Oregon Pacific Bank is headquartered in Florence, Oregon, with branches in Roseburg, Coos Bay, and Florence. Oregon Pacific Bank offers a wide array of financial services including traditional banking; business, real estate and consumer lending; trust and asset management; and brokerage services.

Oregon Pacific Bank has a generous legacy of giving back to the community through charitable gifts, countless volunteer hours, and sponsorships



Photo Credit: Chantelle Meyer and Siuslaw News

It was elbow-to-elbow as dozens of friends and patrons packed the house at Mon Ami on Thursday March 19 when Cindy Wobbe and Diane Marti hosted the March Business After Hours. Showcasing the new menu for the Deli brought a lot of smiles and satisfaction to everyone in attendance and attendees found deals on antiques!

of many worthwhile causes. They are committed to continue their legacy of support in the communities they serve. That is why the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce values them as a Distinguished Sponsor and thanks them for their support!

Noon Forum - Drama and Politics

Attendees at the March 19 Noon Forum were treated to a special presentation by C.R.O.W.'s cast for Once Upon a Mattress, and an informative presentation on the proposed a \$35/yr. increase in the County's vehicle registration fee proposed for the May 2015 ballot. Western Lane County commissioner Jay Bozievich and county engineer Bill Morgan presented a Powerpoint explanation of the measure. More information can be found on the County's website at: <http://www.lanecounty.org/Departments/PW/TransPlanning/Pages/vrf.aspx>.

The Chamber's Noon Forums are held at Three Rivers Casino and Resort and are free and open to the public. Lunch is \$11.75. Check the Coming Events section on this page for details.

Promote Your Business? BAH!

After 5:00 p.m.—that's when the real business gets done!

It's called "Business After Hours." BAH for short. And in this context, "BAH" isn't some dismissive phrase. Quite the opposite, in fact.

Meeting, greeting, networking, sharing business tips, getting updates on the latest local business news, and visiting with colleagues who can boost your business (and whose business you can boost)—that's what happens after 5:00 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of each month in Florence.

And the public and Chamber members are all invited!

Business After Hours are sponsored by a different Chamber member each time, and each event has a casual, open-house feel. The Chamber does not charge members a fee to host or promote the event.

As a Chamber member, hosting a BAH is an opportunity to (re)introduce and show off your business to the public. Attendance varies, but typically averages around 35 to 45 attendees. The Chamber Ambassadors typically attend and can assist with hospitality.

Generally, the hosting member creates a festive feel with food and beverage (alcoholic or non-alcoholic - host's choice), and sometimes with live music. Typical hours are 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., but can vary. Hosts often offer product samples, discounts, door prizes, and/or informational presentations to make the event even more fun. Ribbon cuttings for new businesses, new locations, or remodeled locations also may be incorporated into a Business After Hours.

To draw more people to the event, the Chamber posts these events on its website and Facebook page, here on the Business Beat page, and within the weekly Blast e-mails. Members are encouraged to advertise independently, and promote among customers and within their contact lists.

Come learn more about the businesses in Florence. Never say "Bah!" to BAH! For more information on hosting or attending a Business After Hours contact Chamber director Cal Applebee at 541-997-3128 or Cal@FlorenceChamber.com

Coming Events

For even more information on other exciting local events, visit www.FlorenceChamber.com/Calendar.

NEW! Florence First Friday

Come enjoy live music, dinner, shopping, art, and more from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the first Friday of the month in Historic Old Town and the Antique District!

Noon Forum: Chamber members and the public are invited to the Chamber's Noon Forums on the third Thursday of each month at the World Market Buffet at Three Rivers Casino. Lunch is \$11.75. Come enjoy food, friends, and fun! Meet area business leaders and find out what's going on in the Florence business community!

April 16: Come meet our 2015 Rhododendron Court!

May 21: Andy Marohl from Siuslaw Middle School presents his students' Lego Robotics class.

Business After Hours:

Chamber members and the public are invited to Business After Hours, an opportunity to network at a local business, exchange business leads and tips, and learn about the business that is hosting. These fun networking events are generally held on the first and third Thursday of the month:

- April** None currently scheduled
- May 21** Florence Regional Arts Alliance
- June 4** Laurel Bay Gardens
- June 18** Banner Bank

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS

- May** Chamber Board of Directors election—get involved!
- May 6:** Rhododendron Court Showcase
- May 15-17:** 108th Rhododendron Festival



July 4: Fireworks Display in Old Town, Wings & Wheels Fly-in/Car Show at Florence Airport

September 11-13: Rods 'n' Rhodies Invitational Car Show
12, 13: Citywide Garage Sale—FEC and everywhere

October 3 Oktoberfest—FEC
11 Chowder Festival—Old Town

November 11 Veterans' Day Parade

December Florence Holiday Festival

Get the Chamber's Membership Advantages

- Networking
- Business Tips
- Cooperative Promotions
- Preferred Trade Status

Join the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce! • www.florencechamber.com • 541-997-3128

Have some good business advice? An event to promote? A story about your Chamber membership? To get an article or notice published in Business Beat, e-mail Cal@FlorenceChamber.com by the third Friday of the month. Publisher: Cal Applebee, Executive Director. Editor: Scott Steward, Creative Wave Marketing Solutions.

Come See What We See!