



Meeting Notes

January 9th, 2026, 7 - 11 am

[2025 Goals](#) & [Handbook](#)

1. Committee Updates:

a. Business & Professional Development (Julie): Review Goals.

Stevie will be updating the goals, milestones, and tasks.

i. Discuss Task lists ([link to task lists](#))

ii. Discuss committee members

We need more, going to keep who she has, but need to add at least one consistent enough to act as backup for Julie.

iii. Lunch & Learn

Every third Thursday, from 12 - 1 pm at the Fire Station

01/22/26 - Annual Banquet

02/19/26 - City and County leaders, Molly from 4 CASI

(invite them to talk)

03/19/26 - Agriculture (Ag event) FFA, 4-H-Ext.

04/16/26 - Local Ad Options - KACH, Jack, Preston Citizen, PACOC

05/21/26 - Networking- business intros, Farmers Market last 15

Share biz summit info.

(we gather info and present)

06/18/26 - Capitalizing on Local Tourism- rodeo, sidewalks, parade,

Fair, booths. Volunteers - Lions, Kiwanis etc.

(we gather info and present)

07/16/26 - Business Planning/growth -- SBDC & 4 CASI

08/20/26 - Networking- business intros.

09/17/26 - Business Summit (see next section for details)

10/15/26 - Local Candidates

11/19/26 - Local Holiday Charitable Opportunities

(we gather info and present)

12/17/26 - no meeting

iv. Business Networking Summit

We discussed changing the format to create a business to business and business to community opportunity. Chamber Business Members can set up a booth at Robinson Building (or the new County Event Building if we get enough interest?) Have a sign up sheet for participants (QR code links to Google Form) The first hour (6-7 pm) is for businesses to enjoy light

refreshments and network with each other. The rest of the tie (7 - 9 pm) is open to the public to come and learn more about businesses, events, etc. The Chamber Board will advertise the opportunity to learn more about what businesses we have here in Franklin County.

v. Banquet - finalized plans

Leah Gilbert is providing Chicken Alfredo.

Dessert and charcuterie cups by Nats Treats (if she is available)

Greenery from Hemsley Ranch (call and ask Tonia Cole to duplicate what we got last year) The other decorations will be the same as last year.

Sponsored by Comcast/Xfinity. Stevie will add to FB events, day of posters, a frame poster, etc. and ask them to provide banners or posters to have up around the room. Cindy will track this money and make sure we are promoting it properly. We will use these funds for L&L until it is gone.

What time to set up? Tables, chairs, tablecloths, greenery, printouts,

Need to ask Kris to borrow her audio/video set up.

Marcia will talk to Fuller & Fuller to have someone there to accept.

Amy will talk to Cindy to get the award made.

Stevie will create digital and print materials

Day of materials:

- Aframe posters

- QR codes for Business Spotlight Form

- Comcast/Xfinity signage

- Program

- Digital Presentation and video/slideshow

- Name badges

- Business Member check list (updated and 2 copies)

- QR for Payment Options

So far, we have had 12 RSVP, giving us 24 so far, with us and +1, that will make just under 50, so we should plan for 75.

vi. East Idaho Business Journal

Add this as a standing agenda item. Board members can suggest a business that may be good to submit for spotlight in that journal. It is a great way to promote special events or showcase stories of our business members and promote the area to a larger audience. We submit a summary with contact information and they follow up. We can announce this and add it to the website and resource list so people can let us know if they have cool stuff going on. It is part of the Idaho State Journal and is sent out with the local paper quarterly (?) and circulates across SE Idaho.

For example; Valley Implement is celebrating 75 years, Arctic Circle changed to Tatters, etc.

b. Service Groups Outreach (Amber): Review goals.

i. Discuss task lists ([link to task lists](#))

ii. Discuss committee members Down to Amber and Jenny.

iii. Meetings: Going to twice a year

Recruiting Event in May (14th from 5-7) Groups set up booths at the park. More details TBD

c. Public Policy (Marcia): Review Goals

i. Discuss task lists ([link to task lists](#))

ii. Discuss committee members

iii Legislative Calls:

Starts January 21st, 7 - 7:30 am through Google Meet. (Marcia to confirm with Dan Garner)

Stevie will set up Google Meet and send out invites, including surrounding chambers to join. Marketing will post and include in email.

d. Member Relations (Melanie): Review Goals Didn't hit the goal this year, there was a plan that wasn't implemented well- each board member takes one new business to reach out to each month.

i. Discuss task list ([link to task lists](#))

ii. Discuss committee member Three members on committee, could use more.

iii. Recruiting process and follow-up Each board member will take one business to invite to join the chamber to build connections/relationships. Follow up 2-3 times in that month. If they don't join, we leave them be and try again the following year. Or later on, if opportunity presents itself to re-engage. Board members need to keep notes on who they have given a packet to, talked to, and other important things in the main spreadsheet. **This will be added as a standing agenda item** to be discussed and reassigned each month. Need to follow up with Ashley on helping with keeping the list maintained and adding new businesses from city council meeting agendas.

e. Marketing (Stevie): Review Goals

i. Discuss Task lists ([link to task lists](#))

ii. Discuss committee members

iii. Marketing Efforts

Paid advertising - Tourism. Stevie will look into grants to help cover costs for advertising in Yellowstone magazine.

Napoleon Fest 2029 planning timeline & checklist. We need to start thinking and planning for the next event. 2026's focus is on setting goals and timelines on how to make it all happen. Start to reach out to potential committee members.

Stevie is working on annual review for 2025:

Membership

- Total 109
- New 27
- Returning 82
- Service groups 45

Events

- Ribbon cuttings 6
- Legislative calls 7
- Lunch & learns 9
- Service meetings 4
- Business summit 1

Partnerships & Initiatives

- City of Preston
 - Shop Local First
 - Downtown Trick or Treat
 - Celebrate 125
- 4CASI
 - Chamber Champs (Invite Molly to a board meeting)
- Idaho SBDC
 - Business Summit
- SICOG
 - Business Summit
 - Grant Opportunities

2. Other:

a. Downtown Alliance Committee

i. Create Goals

- 1. [Review Talking Points](#)**
- 2. [Review Business List](#)**
- 3. **Timeline for engagement and feedback****

Stevie will add this to 2026 goals for tracking. All Board Members need to review the talking points & questions and business list (linked above). In February Board meeting, we will address any edits and finalize the talking points and assignments. Once that information is all collected, the board can determine whether to move forward or not.

b. Engaging Ag/Small Farm Industries

i. New category for business directory.

Stevie will work with Farmers' Market to create a map of self-serve locations.

Other opportunities: Thank a Farmer (Farm Bureau and Stokes)

Talk to Lance, Brittney and Riley about their ideas. Talk to others in the industry. Don't want to interfere or take away from what Farm Bureau or anyone else is doing. Invite for L&L (see notes in that section)

c. Business of the Year: Chamber Board Vote or public vote, or both?

Both

i. Best of Franklin Awards.

Runs the first two weeks in January. Have QR codes/links to Google Form where participants select their favorites in each category. Need to come up with prizes and terms & conditions (No incentivizing vote, etc.) Campaign in November.

ii. Board Selected Business of The Year.

Add this topic to the monthly agenda so board members can share information on businesses throughout the year and keep note of who is aligning with the criteria so we are making a more informed decision. Same timeline and criteria that we have been following. Except, nominations will not be open, everything will be based on our observations and discussions throughout the year.