

Kingston and Area Home Business Association Monthly Business Meeting
Saturday, October 14th, 2000 8:30 a.m.
The Crossroads Restaurant, Frontenac Mall

Minutes

Present: Christine Peets, Sylvia Doran, Paul Grass, Alex Kilpatrick, Ida Koopman, Ken Koski, Patricia Lalonde, Judy Lawless, Mary and John Platt, Heather Simpson, Dan Wilson, Sherrill and John Wright, Steve Harker (guest), Rob Fonger, Dave Metzler, Bruce Henderson (guest), Susan Nelson, Sandra Durant, Ron Dickenson, David Kempson, Harvey Schachter (guest speaker).

1. Opening Remarks and member introductions.
2. Election of new Secretary for KAHBA: there were no volunteers or nominations. Judy Lawless was asked to take the minutes for this meeting.
3. President Christine Peets, pointed out that "Guest/Member spotlight speaker" had been added to the Agenda. She asked for approval of the Agenda as amended. It was moved by Paul Grass, seconded by Patricia Lalonde that the Agenda be approved. – CARRIED.
4. There were no Minutes from the September 9th meeting presented for approval.
5. **Old Business:**
 - 5.1 Christine made mention again of the survey being done by Canadian Home and Micro Business Federation. You can find them at www.homebiz.ca.
 - 5.2 Christine also told us about receiving correspondence from Sandy Ross, a business communications specialist in London, ON, who is trying to build a "Homepreneur Network" and is looking for a representative from KAHBA to be part of the network. More information can be found on her website: www.execulink.com/~sross.
 - 5.3 Seminar on Financing Home and Small Businesses Update: Peter Schell called to say that he couldn't make it to the meeting, however, he wanted to thank those who have already registered for the November 4th seminar. The bankers are all in place and we should encourage friends and colleagues to attend at the Kingston Independent Nylon Workers Union Hall on the morning of Saturday, November 4th. The cost is \$25.00 for KAHBA members, \$30.00 for non-members with advance registration and an additional \$5.00 if registering at the door.
 - 5.4 Kingston Chamber of Commerce "alliance" update: Nothing has happened yet. Christine is still trying to set up a meeting.
 - 5.5 Other Old Business:
 - 5.5.1 Alex Kirkpatrick informed us that the hall where he had planned to hold the Halloween Party was fully booked for October and the only dates left for November were the 3rd, the 10th or the 17th. He asked if we would like to book one of those dates and perhaps make it an early Christmas Party. It was mentioned that the Little Cataraqui Conservation Centre has a good and inexpensive hall to rent as well. Paul Grass suggested that we stick with the original venue this time and book November 17th. It was agreed. We will have a social hour from 6:30 to 7:30 followed by a potluck dinner. A dish for two to three people should be brought and guests are also welcome. Cost will be \$5.00 per person to cover the hall rental.
 - 5.5.2 Dan Wilson, as Webmaster, reminded us all to check our information on the website directory and let him know if there are any errors.
 - 5.5.3 Because our guest speaker had another commitment he asked to speak at this time:

Harvey Schachter from the United Way spoke to us about how the United Way relates to us as home-based businesses. They support 31 agencies and donations are divided among them, however, you can choose to give only to certain agencies if desired. The United Way is in the process of changing the way the money is allocated and they use volunteers to check on agencies more frequently to make sure they are still worthy of funding. They will also allocate some funds for capacity building for new agencies to come in. To do this, they have to improve their fund raising and are trying to build a connection to micro businesses. Harvey pointed out that the United Way does not do a formal door to door campaign so if you are approached at home for a donation, you should check it out carefully before giving. Pledge sheets and brochures were handed out.

6. **New Business:**

6.1 **Bridges to Better Business Seminar:** Peter Schell informed Christine that KAHBA has made up the core of participants so far and he is grateful. Christine asked Ron what to expect at this seminar, since he had attended last year. Ron said there would be several work groups with a facilitator where you could bring up any problems and questions. Lunch is provided and there is a keynote speaker in the afternoon. Paul Grass mentioned that he found it to be an excellent place for networking. The seminar is on Thursday, October 19th and registration is still open for a cost of \$50.00. If interested, contact Peter Schell at KEDCO.

6.2 **Promotion during Small Business Week:** Christine told us that she is trying to get articles on KAHBA in the Whig and Kingston This Week during Small Business Week, which begins on Wednesday.

6.3 **Publicity/Promotion:** Christine also said that KAHBA will have an ad in the Whig's "Women in Business" section that will be similar to last year, but replacing the graphic with a picture of Christine, Judy and Heather (Tina was unable to make it to the photo shoot). If there is extra space, we may also get an article printed as well, again similar to last year. The cost will be \$225 plus GST.

6.4 **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Heather Simpson reported that our total revenues so far this fiscal year were \$1,400.00, expenses were \$291.21 giving us a Net Income of \$1,108.79. Our current bank balance to October 14th, 2000 is \$2,713.21. She had no problem with the expenditure for the ad in the Whig's Women in Business paper. Heather moved that we spend \$225 plus GST for the ad and it was seconded by Dan Wilson – CARRIED.

6.5 **Membership Report:** As Tina was unable to make the meeting Heather did a brief report on membership. The number of new or renewing members is down from this time last year and she encourages us to invite anyone that we meet who has a home-based business to join.

7. **Members' Forum:**

7.1 David Kempson reminded us about computer viruses, especially if we are using Microsoft products, suggesting that we should go to the Microsoft site and download the virus information/remedies available. He also reminded us to make sure that our virus checkers are kept active and up-to-date and, if using cable or other high speed servers, a fire wall is a good thing to have. He told us of a virus that Queen's University experienced that came through the signature block where it would not be noticed the way a suspect subject line, or unknown sender might be. We should avoid putting our names on lists for site updates, etc. David also advised us not to spend money buying Windows ME because it only works with certain hardware and may not work on older machines and the only way to find out if it works with yours is to try it and then it can't be returned. It also backs up only Microsoft products and it backs up often without deleting previous backups so can quickly clog up your hard drive.

7.2 Paul Grass said that he has purchased extra spaces for the Masters of Networking Book Tour at the early registration price of \$7.00 if anyone is interested. The deadline for early registration was Wed. Oct. 11.

7.3 Judy Lawless reminded us of her new business as a Mary Kay consultant and mentioned that there are new Christmas gift packages available as well as products for men.

- 7.4 Alex Kirkpatrick said we should contact him for health maintenance for the winter
- 7.5 Don Gale suggested that anyone attending the seminar at the Nylon Workers hall should check it out to see what they think of it as a possible alternative meeting venue.
- 7.6 Rob Fonger gave praise to John Platt for solving his electrical problems quickly and efficiently.
- 7.7 Heather mentioned that Susan from the Royal Bank had put on ad on behalf of KAHBA in the "Royal Advisor"
8. **Member Speakers**
- 8.1 Sylvia Doran, a representative for House of Lloyds/Christmas Around the World told us how the business came to Canada and about the wonderful quality and unique gifts and decorations that she sells from her (catalogue) store. She also does home parties and offers good bonuses for hostesses. She had a small display of lovely product samples.
- 8.2 Ida Koopman, Ida's Gift Baskets, also had a great display of some of her baskets and told us of the different types and prices. She can make to order with whatever products you choose and does free delivery within Kingston/Gananoque.
9. 50/50 draw was won by Alex Kirkpatrick in the amount of \$22.00.
10. There was some discussion about having our next meeting on November 11th but it was agreed that if we had a very short meeting without any speakers we could all be out in time to attend Remembrance Day services if we wished.

MEETING ADJOURNED. NEXT MEETING NOVEMBER 11, 2000