

Westside Association Meeting Minutes - Jan 2-2014
Meeting called to order by President Connie Drexler @12:00
Approval Dec 2013- minutes passed (Gary/Maribeth)
Treasurer's Report- none

- Chamber Report:
 - 33 very active economic prospects
 - healthcare
 - cosmetic distribution center
 - retail
 - international distribution
 - restaurants
 - 670 new jobs created through Nov 30-2013
 - 6.1% unemployment
 - Upcoming Chamber Events
 - AM Oshkosh- Jan 23- Oshkosh Public Museum
 - Business Expo -Oshkosh Convention Center Jan 30- 10AM -7PM
 - Business after Hours- Jan 30- Oshkosh Convention Center-4:30PM- 7PM
 - Economic Outlook Breakfast- Feb 11- Oshkosh Convention Center
 - Business after Hours- Feb 20- Robbins Restaurant
 - Business Day in Madison- Feb 6

New Business:

- new Westside website is ready to launch
- annual meeting- January 16-2014
 - LaSures- 7:30AM
 - development panel,
 - over 30 registered as of Jan 2
- Slate of officers for 2014- motion to accept - (Lori/Mike)-passed
 - President- Connie Drexler
 - Vice President- Robin Jennings
 - Secretary- Kathy Hanson
 - Treasurer- Phil Hergert
 - Directors:
 - John Anderson
 - Cindy Bonhert
 - Pam Schubert- membership

Guest Speaker: Winnebago County Literacy Council- Tina Schuelke and Danielle Cagney

- in existence since 1989
- executive director- Terri Hansen
- funding:
 - grants
 - donations
 - United Way
 - Oshkosh Community Foundation
- located on 3rd floor of the Oshkosh Public Library
- Receives no support from county--Private Non profit
- able to make decisions without city/county/state approval
- need for services is growing
- 164 learners this past year
- Learners come from all walks of life- some are new to this country, some have never learned to read or write English, even though it is their first language
- 2013- offered 15 classes vs. 6 in 2012
- community partners:
 - World Relief
 - United Way
 - Community Foundation
 - Advocap
- 20,000 adults in Winnebago county cannot read/write past 3rd grade level
- 100's of refugees are underemployed
- World Relief expects 150 new refugees in 2014
- people with low literacy skills is growing
- Programs
 - Adult Basic Education (for people where English is their 1st language)
 - Education-for people where English is a foreign language
 - Family literacy
 - Individual tutoring- allows flexibility
 - homework help available at FVTC
- Road to Work- for Refugees
 - Advocap Grant-
 - serve at least 50 per year for 3 years
 - 60% attain employment
 - Job Club- every Tuesday- rotating subjects (12 total)
 - Difficult to transfer -education/ degrees/certifications from foreign country to the US
- How to help:
 - volunteer
 - funding- donate
- Meeting adjourned at 1:10PM

