

**CENTRAL WISCONSIN CONTRACTOR'S ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES**

NOVEMBER 4TH, 2011

President Georgine Pagel brought the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m.
Introductions were made.

Speaker – Senator Pam Galloway, Wisconsin's 29th Senate District

Highlights of what has been going on in the legislature:

We have been trying to create an optimum environment for jobs in the State. I believe that Government does not create jobs; it creates a friendly atmosphere for job growth. Unfortunately the Dept of Commerce has been more concerned about regulation than job creation. We have been working to eliminate the old Dept of Commerce and create a new WI economic development corporation. We have reduced the deficit and actually created a surplus without raising taxes. In doing so, we are sending a message to the business community that we take fiscal responsibility very seriously.

One bill that we are working on is tort reform. This bill would hold the line that the manufacturer of a harmful product is responsible for the damages caused by the product rather than suing everyone. We are making sure that employees can take their Health Savings Account from job to job. There is a bill that will modernize the telecommunications industry in the State. We also passed a bill lifting the cap on loans to small businesses from \$200,000 to \$500,000.

Castle Doctrine – Property owners had an obligation and a potential liability to unwanted trespassers. Under this new law you wouldn't have an obligation to an unwanted trespasser. If they are injured while trespassing on your personal or business property you will not have an obligation or liability to their safety. We thought this was a business friendly piece of legislation.

Venture Capital Bill – this will help grow businesses in the technology sector. Gogebic Mining Bill – The Gogebic mine will create 700 jobs related to the mine itself (Ashland and Iron Counties) and 2800 indirect jobs. There are some environmental concerns and tribe concerns that need to be worked out but the intent of the bill is to streamline the approval process to allow those jobs to be created sooner rather than later. The Senate has a mining committee focused specifically on this piece of legislation.

Rural Enterprise Zones – A business that retains jobs in an Enterprise Zone (less than 5,000 and 5,000-30,000 in population) is eligible for tax credits if they make a significant capital investment in property located in one of those zones.

Senator Galloway's district office is located in the Radenz Insurance Building in Rib Mountain. Everyone is welcome to visit her if they have any further questions.

General Business

- 1) Meeting Minutes – posted on website for your review.
- 2) Charitable Donations – last month we discussed the amounts to be donated. We will get out an e-mail vote next week to get a quorum for the donations (one vote per company). We have about \$8,000 in the checking account so we are comfortable financially for making the donations.
- 3) Membership Drive – Bring a guest in December and you will be entered for a \$50 drawing. If that person becomes a member you will be entered for a \$100 drawing.
- 4) Next Month's Speaker – The December speakers will be Jeff Zriny & David Eckmann from the Chamber of Commerce.

Motion to adjourn by Chuck Lawrence, seconded by Steve Peter. Meeting adjourned by President Georgine Pagel at 7:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Holster, Secretary.