

May 21, 2009

**Howard County Million Dollar Club Luncheon  
General Membership Meeting  
Thursday, May 21, 2009**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

President, Debbie Nagle, called the meeting to order at 12:00. The meeting was held at "That's Amore" Restaurant, Columbia, Maryland.

Debbie Nagle read the mission statement. She also informed the club that, open membership of past members who qualified for membership, could still join the club by May 31, 2009 with no late charge.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Gretchen Conley distributed read and distributed the Treasurers report, and it was accepted as read.

**MINUTES**

Minutes from the April 2009 meeting were read by JoAnn Alexander, and accepted as read.

**GUEST SPEAKER**

Pam Klahr, President & CEO Howard County Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Klahr presented to the club, with an overview of the Chamber of Commerce's role and advocacy in facilitating the success of businesses in Howard County. The Chamber of Commerce acts a "watchdog" in the business community.

**Highlights:**

- Legislation pending that all new houses will have to have sprinkler systems
- County Residences – Turf Valley – Grocery store
  - Some residences don't want it because of the anticipated increase in traffic. 5,000 signatures have been collected – which is the required number of signatures to qualify for a referendum.
  - There are approximately 274,000 residences in Howard County.
  - The Chamber of Commerce is working on legislation to have the number of signatures required for a referendum increased.
- Downtown Columbia
  - There is a lot of vacant space in downtown Columbia
  - There is a need to get downtown Columbia reinvigorated; the plan will help housing also.
  - Pre-submission legislation – suggesting that anything that is planned to be developed will require a public hearing with residents around that development.
- Energy Re-Regulation
  - Trying to keep the state from taking over
  - Have residential energy co-op – huge savings

- Must be a member or company has to be a member to be a part of the energy residential co-op. Can sign up for \$37.
- BRAC
  - First building has been completed.
- Networking
  - Created organization - Out-placed Professional Network
  - Allows for networking for jobs, line up with recruiters
  - Young Professional Network -Getting young professionals to feel that they matter.
  - The Baltimore Ravens have become members of the Chamber of Commerce and hosted a meeting on their field, Wed, May 20; three hundred (300) people were in attendance and lunch was served in the Owner's Box. Matthew Stover talked to the group about "Trust and Teamwork".
- The Chamber of Commerce
  - 40 Years Old
  - Resources available
  - Work with schools and community college
  - Membership to Chamber of Commerce is \$240 per individual.
  - Membership privileges – if your business or residence is not recycling, can form a co-op for business recycling.
  - Small business council

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted: JoAnn M. Alexander, Recording Secretary