

Spooner Area Chamber of Commerce

General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

8:00 AM | The Depot Room at Spooner Civic Center

Call to order: Ted Schmitz, President - Ted called the meeting to order at 8:04am

Introductions: Each person will introduce themselves and what business they're representing

Treasurer's Report: Mark Olson, Treasurer - Mark gave the financial report. Dues received increased for 2026. Jack O'Lantern looks like a break even after expenses are paid. We are caught up with city and room tax.

Executive Board Report: Michelle Martin, Secretary - Lisa Barnett gave a report. Strategic planning, operations, text alert program, room tax was approved for 2027. All board members were given binders. Jacks a Hack chair is open for helpers. Michelle gave a marketing report, Bryanna gave a membership update. Burch Barn is confirmed for Food & Wine Tasting. April 29, 2026. - Lakeland Family Resource Center will be the recipients for 2027.

Old Business:

- Chamber Connections Events:
 - December 16 - The Dock Coffee (5-7 pm)
- Lunch & Learn with Embrace & Lakeland Family Resource Center
 - October 28, 2026 - Lakeland Family Resource Center (11:30-1:00)
- Text Message Communication Program: Emily is going to work with Jessica on getting this going.
- Spooner Semiquincentennial Update: Liberty Ball October 17 from 5-8pm.

New Business:

- 2027 Membership Drive: Membership information went out October 1st, 111 members and 83 prospective members. Due by December 1st to be included in the Spooner Book. Chamber dollars information was sent as well. 15,000 copies are printed and distributed state wide.

Committee Reports:

- Marketing Committee:
 - Met Monday - Reviewed room tax budget, have some funding left to spend in social media campaigns, 3 boxes of Spooner Books left so will contact with 5 star marketing. New website live on November 1, 2026. For the 2027 Spooner Book - RFP (request for proposal - design, printing or both). RFP open until next marketing meeting. Maybe adding a sticker page.
- Membership Committee:
 - Bryanna gave report.

Upcoming Events:

- Jack O' Lantern Festival (October 9-10, 2026)
 - Pumpkin Run, Zombie Run, Bar Crawl, Kids Zone
- Ladies Night (November 23, 2026)
 - Monday of deer season before thanksgiving. 6 or 7 prizes

Other Business:

- First Dollar Visits: If you know of any new businesses or businesses that have changed hands, please let Bryanna & Lisa know so they can schedule a First Dollar Visit. They do not need to be chamber members to qualify for a First Dollar Visit.

Member Updates:

- Washburn Co. Tourism: Rodeo tickets went on sale on Monday - Cranberry Fest was last week, over 400 people attended marsh tours. Gabby is the new marketing director.
- SASD: School district is launching a survey - going to 700 mailboxes. Will approach the financial deficit. 1.7 million dollar deficit. Cut 10% off of all budgets district wide already. Good news - District report cards, paying off the highschool dept from 20 years ago. Spooner school had 92 open enrollments.
- Lakeland Family Resource Center: Boo HaHa - October 28, 2026 - Washburn County Fairgrounds - 3-6pm.
- Economart - New self check outs
- Railhouse Junction - Gun Bingo on November 1st
- North of Eight Marketing & Design - Working on becoming knowledgeable on AEO - how to get websites and media to come up in ChatGPT.
- Businesses trick or treating on Halloween from 4-8pm.

Adjourn: Mary Benson/Emily Gall made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 am.

2026 GENERAL MEETINGS:

January 7 – Classrooms A&B

February 4 – Classrooms A&B

March 4 – Classrooms A&B

***April 8 – Classrooms A&B (Changed due to Spring Break for Spooner)**

May 6 – Classrooms A&B

June 3 – Classrooms A&B

July 8 – Depot Room at Spooner Civic Center

August 5 – Depot Room at Spooner Civic Center

September 2 – Depot Room at Spooner Civic Center

October 7 – Depot Room at Spooner Civic Center

November 4 – Depot Room at Spooner Civic Center

December 2 – Depot Room at Spooner Civic Center