

Greater Garden Valley Chamber of Commerce

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

6:30 pm

Attendees (Members): Chris Garza (Kinetico Water Systems), Leslie & Ruben Lazo (GV Lavender Farm), Wendell Loban (Individual), Scott, Price (Crouch Merc), Bonnie Raper (Wish Granters) Jennifer Schmitt (Crouch Merc), Mary Thompson (Crafty Sweets), Kyle Trone (Medicap & GV Market), Samantha Turnbull (Mountain Scoops), Kraig Wees (Individual)

Attendees (Guests): Steve Raddigan

Jennifer Schmitt, President, called a meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Pledge of Allegiance recited. Review of previous minutes (December 9, 2025) Samantha Turnbull motioned for approval, Wendell Loban seconded motion. Minutes approved.

President's Report given by Jennifer Schmitt.

- **NYE Lantern Lighting Recap** - We sold 500 lanterns and had people looking to purchase more day of the event. The 2026 Lighting will need additional lanterns purchased. The fire department was a wonderful addition to the event, the hot chocolate and hot dogs were great. Thank you to Kraig Wees, Scott Price, John & Samantha Turnbull for going the next day to pick up the lanterns that were strewn around town. We need people dedicated to clean up after our events.
- **Spring Festival 2026** - The Crouch Merc is still debating if they will host the Spring Festival as it cost them \$17,000 to host the Fall & Spring Festivals last year. If any other business is willing to host, please let us know or if a group of businesses wants to chip in financially to co-host that would be wonderful. These events are great for the community but require non-chamber funding as the chamber doesn't have the capital to host these events. We will revisit this at next meeting to see if anyone else is willing to host or if we forgo.
- **2025 Fourth of July Extravaganza Cost:** Last year's Fourth of July cost the chamber \$21,000.
 - Fireworks: \$12,000
 - Bobby Dee Keys (Live Music): \$5,000
 - Advertising: \$2,500 (SWITA reimbursed \$2,187.50)
 - Misc Costs: \$1,500
- **Fourth of July Fundraising Goal - \$25,000.** In celebration of 250 years we want to make this the biggest Fourth of July celebration ever.

Vice-President's Report given by Scott Price.

- **Wish Granters Presentation** - Bonnie Raper & Kraig Wees - As of January 1, 2026, Wish Granters is officially serving Boise County. Wish Granters is a non-profit that grants wishes for the terminally ill. Kraig Wees has joined the Board to represent Boise County. There is no state funding so they rely on grassroots fundraising. Wishes & Wine will be held in May. Ladies Day Out will be in the Fall. These are great fundraisers. If you know anyone that deserves nomination or if you would like to volunteer to help at a Wish Granters event you can reach out to Bonnie.

Treasurer's Report given by Mary Thompson. **Bank Balance as of 1/13/26:**

- January & February are busy with renewals

Monthly Income:

- Lantern Sales: \$2,365
- **INCOME: \$2,365**

Monthly Expenses:

- Storage (Jan): \$85.00
- SWITA - Website/Social Media (November): \$87.50
- Membership Refund requested by Long Horn Restaurant: \$250.00
- **EXPENSES: \$422.50**

- **2025 Annual Report - See attached document**

Secretary's Report given by Samantha Turnbull.

- **Paint & Sip** was a successful event. 28 participants, with only two chamber members present. Lots of interest in us hosting another Paint N'Sip. Mountain Scoops sponsored the event which allowed the chamber to raise \$300. Garden Valley Lavender Farm is interested in hosting the next Paint N' Sip in spring.
- **Social Media Update (October - December):**
 - Chamber Website (www.gvchamber.org) had 2,381 unique visitors with the calendar being the most visited page after the homepage.
 - Chamber Facebook: 216,514 views, Reels continue to be the most popular. Lantern Lighting Reel had 16,075 views which is wonderful. We are consistently hitting over 1,500 views per post.
 - Chamber Instagram (@gardenvalleychamberidaho): 994 followers, 36,992 views, Reels are the most viewed content style.
 - Since having our two paid influencers we have had a huge number of un-paid influencers visit Garden Valley and feature us, which helps bring tourists which brings money to local businesses.
- **Winter Influencer** will be in town January 23-25th. She found her own lodging and will be visiting with her family. The only scheduled activity is a day at Terrace Lakes, which they graciously donated passes for the pool.

Committee Reports - no current committees

Unfinished business - none

The election of At-Large Board Members No current openings

New Business:

- Wendell Loban - Since we are limited in how we use our SWITA money, why is the City of Crouch not hosting these events with us acting as sponsors? Jen Schmitt indicated that the chamber board tried to bridge this gap when they were voted in, however the City of Crouch has been unwilling to meet in the middle. It is encouraged the every chamber member attend City Council Meeting. Can we get some clarity on the updates to SWITA and how they fund events. Samantha to follow-up with SWITA.
- Ruben Lazo & Wendell Loban - How to make the Chamber Events Self-Funding. It is not fiscally responsible or sustainable to depend on individuals or businesses to foot the costs associated with these events.
- Car Show 2026 - Dale Bentley reached out to the Chamber to help them in bringing back the Car Show on August 29th at the park. They specifically would like help with covering the liability insurance cost and advertising. Liability Insurance for smaller events costs the Chamber around \$570. Vote next meeting on partnering with them.
- City of Crouch Elections - January 14th a new Mayor will be selected by the City Council and two new council members will be appointed. The notice was placed in the Idaho World in August that positions were open with 16 days to submit that application. According to Steve Raddigan the local radio station also announced these positions (no one in attendance listens to the radio or read The Idaho World). Nothing was posted on the City of Crouch website or on local Garden Valley social media community groups.
 - Questions were asked about how the council would be able to change the uses of the 2% Tax in City of Crouch to benefit the community events in a larger way. Special ballot vote would need to be held, but could be changed to include funding for community events.
 - 195 people are within the limits of the City and only those individuals can vote or hold a position on the City Council. Garden Valley has 364 full time residents with significantly more part time residents. There is a lot of disenfranchisement for those that do not reside in Crouch, especially the businesses that pay the 2% tax to the City. There should be a partnership between City and Chamber and we hope to accomplish that in 2026.
- Val Jones (via Samantha Turnbull) is collecting jackets and blankets until March. If you have slightly used items please bring them to GV Homes & Land or if you know someone that needs these items but won't ask please reach out to Val.

Motion to adjourn made by Samantha Turnbull. Seconded by Scott Price. Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Treasurer's Income & Expense Report (Activity Summary)

Income

Lanterns – \$2,365.00
Cash Donation Boxes – \$210.00
Fall Festival – \$720.00
SWITA – \$1,538.80
Membership Fees – \$12,856.00
Chamber Sponsors – \$16,500.00
Donations – 4th of July – \$4,315.00
Duck Sponsor – \$350.00
Spring Festival / 4th of July – \$2,100.00
Farmers Market – \$442.18

Total Income: \$39,115.98

Expenses

Scholarships – \$1,250.00
SWITA – \$768.75
Wendell Loban – \$218.25
Bart Hill (3rd Place Duck Race Winner) – \$50.00
Goffs Plumbing – \$1,442.35
Miller Enterprises – \$470.00
Bisbee Dumpster – \$275.00
Insurance – \$2,974.00
Kali Rust (Social Media Influencer) – \$723.23
Hello Meridian – \$899.00
Rock Dee House – \$4,495.00
Fireworks – \$11,901.31
Iliad Media Group – \$2,495.00
Ellie Mae and the Whole Damn Band – \$2,000.00
Amazon / Hobby Lobby / Dollar Tree – \$534.16
Samantha Turnbull (Reimbursements) – \$2,619.77
Jennifer Schmitt (Reimbursement) – \$2,140.00
Kelly Bonner – GVP (Phone) – \$124.64
USPS (Stamps) – \$26.94
Storage Fees – \$765.00
Lanterns (Paid) – \$662.25

Total Expenses: \$36,834.65