**American Business Club Newsletter - Thursday the 18th of January 2024**

Vice President Alan Walsh presided at today’s dinner meeting at the Iron Hill Brewery with ten members and two guests attending. No one joined by Zoom.

**Chapter News**

Vice President Alan Walsh welcomed guests Roberta Kornfield and Bonnie Giurlando.

We did not have a business meeting today in order to save time for our speaker.

**Amtryke news this week** - Pete Wengrenovich said that he picked up a used Amtryke from Ryley Nazario. It will be refurbished and be used in our ReCycle program.

**News from the Ambucs Board Meeting** – Kathy Kunkel resigned from the club in December 2023, made a $400 donation to Lancaster Ambucs, and was assigned Emeritus status. Gary Neff fulfilled his $4000 pledge to the Amtryke fund. We will hold a Winter Social at Decades on Thursday, February 8, 2024. We need help from all members to make the 2024 Golf Outing successful.

**Today’s Program**

Pete Wengrenovich introduced Larry Cohen CAPP (Certified Administrator of Public Parking), President of the Lancaster Parking Authority for the last 14 years. Larry and Pete have been friends for years. They often attend Phillies/Eagles sporting events in Philadelphia. Larry is also an author and considering creating a Movie/TV production from his books.

**Highlights:**

* Larry gave out copies of his books to two lucky Ambucs - Kevin Kornfield and Bill Saporetti. Bill will regift his book to another Ambuc. It was a very interesting read and will be available at the next chapter meeting.
* Initially Larry wanted to make a low budget movie based on his first book. Cost would be about

$3 million, and require him to pay 40% of the upfront cost. The remainder would come from investors. Larry abandoned the movie idea because of the financial risk.

* Another option was a TV pilot that could lead to a TV series. Larry envisioned a comedy that was a cross between Parks & Recreation and Parking Wars. He has hired an agent and signed a producer. The next steps are to develop the cast of characters, write a script, and film a pilot. Larry hopes to have the pilot set in Lancaster, but investors will make the final decision. The pilot would be sold to Netflix, Hulu, Amazon, or a similar enterprise. The pilot should be ready for sale in one year.
* The Lancaster Parking Authority is run like a small nonprofit business. The president reports to the Board of Directors of the Authority who are all appointed by the mayor. Larry said that LPA is best in class in the country. Parking cost in Harrisburg is $250 per month compared to Lancaster’s $70 per month. It is a matter of controlling expenses and increasing garage utilization. Covid forced some to cancel their parking contracts, but since Lancaster parking fees were low many decided to pay the fee instead of losing their parking spaces.
* Larry had some good suggestions to help Lancaster Ambucs attract new members. Emphasize the Lancaster Business Club instead of Ambucs. Find younger members at Lancaster Chamber mixers, and reaching out to other downtown business groups.

**Next Chapter Meeting Thursday, February 1st at the Lyndon City Line Diner @ 7:30 AM**

Kevin Kornfield will introduce Harvey Scolnick. Harvey is an air traffic controller in Lancaster.

**Upcoming Schedule:**

Wednesday, February 7 - Board Meeting at 7:30 PM at Tom Stephenson’s Office.

Thursday, February 8 – Ambucs Social at Decades, 438 N. Queen St. at 5:30 PM.

Thursday, February 15 - Dinner at Iron Hill Brewery at 6 PM, Kevin Kornfield will introduce Bob Atonishak with the PA Guild of Craftsman.

Bill Saporetti - Assistant Editor