

In attendance: 18 members plus 8 Board members.

Meeting was called to order by President Denise Schneider at 11:09 am.

**Minutes:** were reviewed by Denise from the previous August 12, 2025, meeting. The motion to accept the minutes was made by Tammie Whaley and seconded by Jack Vida. Motion carried.

**Financials:** Reviewed by Tammie Whaley. August showed a net loss of \$164.46, including \$1,650 for three liquor licenses (Downstairs, Upstairs, and Pavilion Bars) and \$3,140.93 for Member Appreciation Night. Steve Colvin moved to accept the financials; Bert Cowan seconded. Motion carried.

**Bell Jar Report:** was given by Jack Vida. The August monthly net increase was \$7,369. The following checks were written this month:

- \$150 – Oswego County Opportunities
- \$150 – Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County
- \$100 – Lewis County Opportunities
- \$100 – Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency
- \$75 -- Pheasant Forever
- \$2,263.08 – Ralston Supply for Bell Jar Tickets

The end of the month balance for August Bell Jar is \$37,951.68. The motion to accept the report as read was made by Steve Colvin and seconded by Rich Guarasce. Motion carried.

**Queen of Hearts Report:** was given by Flip Folds. The current game is up to week 15 with a pot of \$6316. Growing nicely, bringing in approximately \$500 per week. Flip informed everyone that contracts for out-of-town individuals are located behind the bar and encouraged continued ticket purchases.

**Membership:** Jack Vida read the names of 14 new members approved by the Board at this morning's meeting (see attached list).

Discussion followed about the number of members and how some events are highly attended, and we are pushing our limits in the bar. Flip Folds will be heading up a committee to discuss events and others on the committee will be Darlene Upcraft, Steve Fayette, Abbey Colvin and Karen Galloway.

Denise shared that when she and Don joined the Albion Fish & Game Club, they had to attend a meeting and stand up and tell why they wanted to become members. After that meeting, the Board will vote on their membership at the following meeting.

It was asked what our membership is at this time (approx. 1210) and it was also asked what the retention rate is of membership (lose approximately 90-100 members per year).

**Building report:** was given by Denise.

The area for the chicken cooker (Jack's Chicken Shack is complete and looks great. Much thanks to Jack Vida and Roy Narish.

Patio extension: Will be a spring project.

Drop down covering for back wall of pavilion: no update

Cushion flooring behind bar: Frank Salvett will provide samples for Abbey. Denise will explore a rotating carpet service as an alternative; a suggestion made during the meeting.

Cameras: Denise is looking into additional cameras and better Wi-Fi for the pavilion and upstairs.

Picnic Tables: Denise reported that the Board decided to order Commercial Lifetime tables from Home Depot at this time, rather than waiting until spring, in case of price increases. There will be a variety of 8 ft picnic style tables, round picnic style tables and 8 ft tables with chairs. This will allow for flexibility when setting up for a variety of events held in the pavilion. All the tables will be foldable. The cost will be below the pre-approval of up to \$8,000 given by the membership last month.

Steve Fayette recommended adding spray foam insulation to reduce ice buildup and cut energy costs. He'll provide Denise with contractor names.

**Events:** Denise updated on events that occurred since our last meeting.

- August 15<sup>th</sup>; the Member Appreciation Dinner hosted by the Board, Second Nature was the entertainment, and it was catered by Crystal from Richland Hotel. Everyone had a great time.
- September 5<sup>th</sup>; Vicky Gregory Retirement Party was in the Bar / Patio. A very large crowd came out to wish Vicky well. It was a wonderful evening.
- Fall Pitch started on September 2<sup>nd</sup> and run every Tuesday at 6pm until November 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Upcoming Events:**

- September 20<sup>th</sup>; Wounded Warrior Wild Game Dinner (noon-5pm), hosted by Bob Martin. Sherry Folds is doing a great job getting raffle items.
- September 27<sup>th</sup>; Witches and Warlocks Ball (6pm), hosted by Rachel Kessler. Shades of Sound DJ / Karaoke will be entertainment and there will be a food truck on site. There will not be a bonfire this year.
- October 4<sup>th</sup>; Turkey Shoot (noon-5pm), hosted by Aaron Wood.
- October 11<sup>th</sup>; Chicken and Biscuits Dinner (5-7pm) hosted by Steve and Abbey Colvin. Double V will be playing downstairs 6-9pm.

**Bar Manager:** Abby Colvin reported all is going well and had a health department inspection and we passed.

**Wellness:** Vicky Gregory reported four sympathy cards had been sent to members that had lost family members, three get well cards sent to members recovering from surgery and illness and one thinking of you card sent to a member.

**Old Business:**

Denise shared that last year there had been \$5,450 given to various organizations as donations. Year to date, over \$3,000 has been donated. We should be Loud and Proud of what has been given. She will make a list for the bar, so everyone can see how much and where we donate each year. She reminded everyone that she is still looking for a slogan for the club.

**New Business:**

Denise reported the following donation was approved by the Board at their meeting.

- \$500 – Fernwood Community Center

Denise is working with 2 Broke Mom's to get clothing for club members to purchase. They will have a QR Code which members will be able to order from. Denise shared that it is not the plan to make money off the sale. Bert Cowan asked if the information could be put on the website.

**Suggestion Box:**

Two suggestions this month, both asking for clothing to be sold for club members.

**Open Business:** Karen Galloway asked if the scheduling of events be less next year. Denise shared that no additional events were planned for next year. Karen specified the scheduling of outside events, which led into a discussion of the revenue the rental of pavilion and upstairs meeting room brings into the club. Also, a discussion

of how much is charged, is it enough? Denise will meet Florence Stevens (Rental coordinator) about the rentals and scheduling. Denise will investigate what other places in the area charge as rentals.

Steve Colvin moved to adjourn, seconded by Don Schneider. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 11:51 am.

Next meeting: October 12, 2025 at 11 am

Respectfully submitted by:

Darlene Upcraft

## **Membership applicants accepted at the September 14, 2025 Board Meeting**

### **Lifetime Members**

None

### **New Members**

Terry Adams

Summer Aubin

Barbara Burt

Hope Cimilluca

Mike Fiumano

Dean Goodnough

James Lawyer

Kim Lawyer

Paul Martini

Genny Miller

Michael Monnat

David Morin

Zach O'Mara

Terri Pins