

After cocktails, icebreaker and a delicious meal, Jeff Gendron introduced State Representative, Jeff Mursau.

Mr. Mursau reported on the following issues:

Teachers' & Health Care education loan forgiveness programs as incentives to locate in rural areas

[www.ruralwisconsinmatters.com](http://www.ruralwisconsinmatters.com)

State of Wisconsin financial situation

Tourism challenges for the last couple years

Broadband problems & optimism in the legislature

Logging issues with endangered species

League of municipalities

Entrepreneurship project for local youth to expand business climate of area

Registration for off road bikes and other vehicles so trails can be realized

Next Jeff Gendron introduced Clark Caine of Caine & Associates Accountants, who spoke to the members of these issues:

179 depreciation highlights

Tax bracket fears

Traditional IRAs Vs. Roth IRAs

Earned income credit

Identity theft

Obama care

Employee/Independent Contractor government crackdown

Yvette Marshall, principal of the Coleman elementary school, gave a short talk on the need for new playground equipment. She shared information on the Saputo Grant and other fund raising efforts. After raising \$35,000.00, they still need \$5000.00 to realize the completion of the job, thus she asked the businesses to consider donating to the fund.

Noelle Spreeman from Bay Cities Radio introduced herself and accepted the secretarial position.

Vern Christopherson gave a brief treasurers report revealing approximately \$6000.00 in the checkbook, before the banquet.

Gary Gluth reported on the progress of the association as follows:

Scholarship - asking to increase the amount

Shop Local raffle starting the end of March - bid members to help sell tickets & asked for committee members

Recruiting members for "Business person of the Year" award committee

Shared some marketing advise he learned - making up a short commercial for your business - to use when you meet someone new

Asked members to check the website to make sure that the information listed there is correct and up to date

Placemat advertising & other association benefits

Jeff Gendron informed the members of the upcoming Quarterly meetings:

February 18<sup>th</sup>

May 19<sup>th</sup>

August 18<sup>th</sup>

Afterwards the 50/50 raffle was drawn. Jackie Yoap won and contributed the total + a gift of her own to the playground equipment.

Bucket Raffles were drawn next. Winners were:

Tractor from Beaver Machine - Rosie Nowak

Rum Basket from Keller Williams - Tami Zeitler

Coin Collection from Peshtigo National Bank - Doug Polomis

Walking Stick from Honey Do Contractors - Gary Gluth

Cheers Gift Certificate from Krueger Custom Homes - Jennie Pillath

Gift Certificate from Bob & Laura's - Jeff Gasser

Power Up Lubricant from Bill Mongin - Scott Fuele

Katie's Sub mini sub tray from Katie's Subs - Doug Polomis

Cougar Country Business Association \$50.00 Gift Certificate - Trevor Bushmaker  
Cougar Country Business Association \$25.00 Gift Certificate - Paula Seewald  
Cougar Country Business Association \$25.00 Gift Certificate - Sue Christopherson  
Picnic Basket Set from Yesterday & Today - Rosie Nowak  
Flashlight from Manske's North Woods Sporting Goods - Gary Gluth  
Honey & Maple Syrup package from Patz's Honey & Maple Syrup - Rosie Nowak  
Can Coolers from Paul's Portables - Carl DeGroot  
Dental Package from Dr. Gasser Dentistry - Cindy Wenzel  
Gift Packages by Thoune Heating & Simply Charming - both to Sandy Ermis Becker  
Gift Package from Gendron's Implement - Jeff Rymer  
Gift Certificate from Scott Fuelle Painting & Sandblasting - Cindy Wenzel  
White Potato Lake Outfitters Wind Ornament - Paula Seewald  
Drill Bits from Hare it is Creative Marketing - Rosie Nowak  
Leather Handbag from Hare it is Creative Marketing - Rosie Nowak  
Winter Garland from Coleman Floral - Ann Fuelle  
Gift Package from North Woods Flooring - Scott Fuelle

The association adjourned for networking and navigating home in the snow.

Respectfully submitted,  
Franny Makos