

## **Why should your Business be a member of the Fennimore Chamber?**

This is a great question, and one that I've discussed with fellow board members many times in our monthly meetings. For me personally, I am a Chamber member just because I can be and want to be. I'm also a Chamber member in Prairie du Chien and Platteville, and while on that note, their dues are at least double the amount of our dues here in Fennimore.

So besides being a Chamber member just to be a Chamber member, what are some advantages to a membership? I think the biggest one is the networking possibilities. I've met a lot of people in the community from other businesses at many chamber-sponsored functions, such as our Business After Hours. No matter what business you're in, it's always beneficial to get to know other local business people. Many businesses have seen a direct impact from a Chamber sponsored activity such as some free press from a Care-Call or a Business After Hours held at your business location, or even a referral from Linda Parrish to a tourist, who calls the week before looking to dine and lodge.

When we remodeled Fennimore Fitness, we asked to host a Business After Hours. Hosting this event allowed us to get a lot of people to walk in our doors and see what we had to offer. When the Chamber sold the gold cards, we were able to advertise for free on them. Those are just a couple of ways being a Chamber member has helped us. I know for sure those were well worth the small monetary price it cost of being a member of the Fennimore Chamber. One last note, the Chamber is always looking for more volunteer help and more committee chair-people. Getting involved on one of these committees is a great way to get your foot in the door or to volunteer your business as the next location of a chamber sponsored event.

By Brent Sheckler