



2020 LCV Chamber Auction "Cabin Fever" Support Letter

Dear Chamber Supporter:

As many of you know, your Lewis Clark Valley Chamber of Commerce has been working overtime since the earliest stages of COVID-19. We have proactively joined forces with local, state and federal government officials from the onset to make sure that Valley businesses were kept informed of the latest information and available assistance.

As the crisis unfolded, we worked closely with regional and national business associations to share and distribute resources with the goal of delivering available help where possible to struggling businesses and essential personnel. We worked to find personal protection equipment (PPE) resources for the business community and helped deliver pathways for Payroll Protection Program (PPP) financial assistance from the CARES Act.

Every day, your Chamber continues to search out solutions and work through the challenges of our local businesses. We are proud of the economic resilience Valley employers have shown in the face of very difficult times. Rest assured, your Chamber's will continue fight for LC Valley businesses throughout the current economic and community health recovery and into the future.

Following are some things you may not know. The Lewis Clark Valley Chamber of Commerce is funded entirely through membership dues and events. We do not receive any ongoing local, state or federal dollars to supplement our operations. As such, we receive no funding from your tax dollars. Throughout the pandemic we were not eligible to receive financial assistance that other organizations were given such as the PPP. To exacerbate the problem, approximately 50 percent of the Chamber's funding comes from a multitude of local business events we host annually. As you know, almost all large gatherings have been canceled or curtailed, leaving your Chamber operating with 50 percent less funds. Reduced funding has made it significantly harder to serve our members, but we have continued to do our best to provide the same level of support you deserve.

All that said, we have not given up! We are, however, cutting costs and expenses, taken personal financial reductions, and we have unfortunately had to let go one of our staff, which was very difficult. We are working to be as creative as possible when it comes to filling the budget void. As such, today we are excited to announce that we are bringing back the popular Lewis Clark Valley Chamber Auction. It has been a couple of years since the last auction, and this one will quite possibly be our most important ever.

As you can tell, it is not in our nature to ask for help or handouts, but we are confident that bringing back the Chamber Auction can help supplement our income to help keep our doors open and continue offering the level of service to the community that you have come to expect.

Thank you for understanding and we hope you will join us and help support this fun and exciting Chamber Auction. Let's do it!