????? Chamber of Commerce (CC) President, Hank Jacoby, opened the brown bag, working lunch meeting on Thursday, December 18 by conducting a quick review of reorganizing efforts being made by the CC since the November meeting. Jacoby repeated his themes of transparency and accessability. The 25-30 attendees were encouraged to ask questions and to expect answers from CC Board members. In addition, Jacoby emphasized the importance of one-on-one efforts by CC members to bring guests/potential members to future meetings.

After brief reports from the Treasurer and Finance Committee, comments were made by Board members concerning oversight of CC operations and finance. Special emphasis was put on strategies to make sure that past mistakes are not allowed to occur in the future. Because of past problems in administrative areas, the CC found itself in arrears with both the federal and state governments for payroll withholding taxes. According to a detailed treasurer's report, the amount owed to the Indiana Department of Revenue has been caught up but $6701 is still owed to
the United States Treasury.

After hearing from a representative of The Crusade for Children and Judy Johnson of The Washington County Community Foundation regarding fund raising through payroll deductions, a check in the amount of $10,700 was presented to Salem Police Chief, Scott Ratts, for the Shop with a Cop program. Johnson took the opportunity to point out how successful payroll deduction programs can be for fund raising. According to Johnson, the money provided for children's Christmas gifts was a result of payroll deduction programs at John Jones GM City in Salem and Tele-Media Solutions in Pekin.

Jacoby then guided the meeting in a different direction by reviewing four core community values identified at the November meeting:

- Historic events and presence.
- Focusing on our youth.
- Locally owned businesses.
- Small town charm.

At this point, Jacoby facilitated a brainstorming session identifying obstacles to developing the aforementioned core community values; a lively discussion ensued with several interesting perspectives set forth.

In other business, Marji Morris of Awareness Washington County (AWC) offered the use of the AWC building on Joseph Street as a meeting place for the CC.

Jacobi announced that the CC website is in the process of being updated with a more user friendly application and a modern look.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting adjourned on time at approximately 1pm.