

FEBRUARY 2009

CHAMBER CHATTER

The Newsletter of the Waynesburg Area Chamber of Commerce

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www.waynesburgchamber.com

To provide services and programs that will increase the success of member businesses and organizations and enhance the economy and quality of life in the Waynesburg Area. To remain a politically unbiased and enthusiastic resource to our members and the community at large.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

THE TAX CREDIT THAT PAYS YOU BACK

Discover how participating in the **Educational Improvement Tax Credit** (E.I.T.C.) program can provide small and large businesses a break on PA corporate and individual taxes and help your local community at the same time. Bettie Stammerjohn, Executive Director of the Community Foundation of Greene County and Thomas G. Milinovich, CPA, CFP will provide information about the E.I.T.C. program and the benefits of participation for Greene County businesses and residents.

LUNCHEON MENU BY FIRE CATERING

PARMESAN CRUSTED TILAPIA FILETS • ALMOND CITRUS RICE • SALAD WITH ASSORTED DRESSINGS • ROLLS AND BEVERAGE
ITALIAN MASCARPONE CREAM CAKE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2009

First Baptist Church • Social Hall
Corner of High & West Streets • Noon to 1:00 p.m.

R.S.V.P. 724-627-5926

COST PER PERSON \$10.00, PAYABLE AT THE DOOR OR CAN BE INVOICED

February Business After Hours & Open House

The Chamber has moved into a new office space next door to the Greene Saver. We have finished settling in and would like to welcome members to come and visit the new space.

Wednesday, February 18th, 2009
4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

New Chamber Office at
143 East High Street

Stop by for networking, hors d'oeuvres
and a door prize drawing.

We've Moved!

Please update your mailing records with our new address – 143 East High Street.



2009 Membership Directory

Enclosed in this newsletter is an advertising form for the 2009 Membership Directory. Don't miss this excellent members-only advertising opportunity. The directory will be distributed to over 300 members and another 100 will be included in relocation packages, visitors guides and new member packets throughout 2009.

Member Info Needed For Chamber Newsletter

Would you like to see your business profiled in the monthly Chamber newsletter, "Chamber Chatter"? If so, please send a few paragraphs about your business to the chamber at waynesburgchamber@windstream.net. Photos and logos are encouraged! And the best part is that it is FREE!!!

Mark Your Calendar

The annual Golf Outing will be held on Friday, May 8th at Rohanna's Golf Course. Mark your calendar now and start gathering up a foursome. This event always promises to be a good time full of networking, great food, prizes and fun!

It's Time To Print "The Greene Book"

You may have seen the green "Welcome to Waynesburg" book that is published by the Chamber of Commerce. It is time to print the third edition of the book as supplies are nearly depleted. Village Profile, a company that works with Chambers across the country to produce this type of book, will once again be working with us to complete this project. Village Profile has its own sales staff that will work from our office for a few weeks to complete the advertising sales for the project. We are expecting to begin this process in late April or early May. Information will be sent directly to you and the sales staff will be in touch with you. If you have any questions about this project or would like to reserve your space, please contact the office. This publication is distributed by the Kirby Welcome center, the Tourism office, the Chamber office and is available on line. 20,000 of the full color, high gloss books will be printed and will have a shelf life of three years. This is a great opportunity to support the Chamber and your community while promoting your business. The book contains information on our area and lots of beautiful color photographs. If you would like to see the most recent book, visit the Chamber website at www.waynesburgchamber.com where a link can take you to the publication.

New Representatives

Rev. Philip Elliott

First Baptist Church

Kiperly Whitlatch

Ketchem Construction

Sister Audrey Quinn

Salvation Army

Joe Throckmorton

Waynesburg Giant Eagle

Eleanor K. Chapman

Waynesburg Lions Club

David Huggins

Peacock Keller

Jim Sands

Vocelli Pizza

Alan Johnson

Ryerson Station State Park

New Websites

Creative Mindset

www.creativemindset.net

Mike's Wheel Alignment

www.mikeswheelalignment.com

Cinderella Project

Hospice Care Corp. is a Non-Profit organization. That is located at 102 Carmichaels Plaza, Carmichaels Pa.

In the spring, Hospice Care Corp. will sponsor the "Cinderella Project". This Project is a community outreach program sponsored by Hospice Care for young ladies that would like to attend the prom.

If you have prom dresses, shoes, and accessories and would like to donate them, please contact Kim Riley at Hospice Care Corp. (304) 864-0884 or 1-800-350-1161 or Cassandra Niemiec at 724-966-2656. Donation of door prizes is also welcome for the attendees. The event date will be published at a later date.

The dresses, shoes, and accessories will be sold to local high school girls who want to go to the prom, but may not be able to afford it other wise. Prom dresses will be sold for as little as \$5.00.

The profits from the event go to help Hospice patients.

New Emails

Bob's Chem Dry

rcbeatty@windstream.net

Creative Mindset

contact@creativemindset.net

Salvation Army

audrey_quinn@use.salvationarmy.org

Giant Eagle

joe.throckmorton@gianteagle.com

Waynesburg Prosperous & Beautiful

dmack@waynesburgpa.org

Peacock Keller

david.huggins@peacockkeller.com

Pre-Paid Legal Services

ljdille@gmail.com

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How Can the Chamber Help You?

The benefits of belonging to the Chamber are many. A very important one is the opportunity to network with other chamber members and employees of those members. The old saying, being in the right place at the right time, still holds true in today's electronically connected work place. The old fashioned method of meeting someone, shaking their hand and introducing yourself is still more beneficial than an electronic greeting.

The Waynesburg Chamber of Commerce holds several luncheons, after hour events and committee meetings that provide the member with that opportunity. You can potentially come in contact with hundreds people over the course of the year who could potentially become new clients or customers.

The newsletter and eBlasts are another great way to utilize your membership in the Chamber. News and photos are always needed to fill the pages and the main subject of each issue is YOU! Submit information, it's as easy as sending an email.

Participate and help sponsor events and gain a ton of exposure! All participants and sponsors are listed in the newsletter and on the Chamber website for a year. The website is another wonderful membership benefit. It houses an electronic membership listing by service and alphabetically. The site is used frequently by fellow members, residents and visitors.

Remember that the Executive Director is a notary and can do notary work at no charge for members. This can save you money in fees and time in making appointments. Just stop by the office anytime. (Not permitted to handle car titles).

Member to Member Discounts are another great member benefit. The membership card entitles you to discounts being offered by fellow members. The card will list the discounts that are available and being offered for all of 2009.

And the largest financial benefits is access to health insurance through Chamber *Choice*. This program has saved health insurance dollars for many of our members and their employees. Chamber *Choice* uses the power of many small Chambers forming one larger group to negotiate favorable rates which will help you manage your finances.

These are just a few of the ways that the Chamber can help you in these difficult economic times.

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Health Plans for All Business

Members in the Spotlight

Dr. Benson Takes Reigns as New Year Begins

New ED Medical Director, Board Certified in Emergency Medicine

On January 3, Dr. Scott Benson, assumed the medical directorship at Southwest Regional Medical Center's emergency department. Dr. Benson replaced Dr. Michael Owens, who left last month to assume a position in North Carolina.

Prior to working with Southwest Regional Medical Center, Dr. Benson was an emergency physician for Monongalia General Hospital in Morgantown, WV. He is board certified in emergency medicine and is a Fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians. Dr. Benson is a clinical instructor for the WVU Department of Emergency Medicine and Medical Director of EMS for Monongalia County WV.

"I am so impressed with the progressive environment of the emergency department and I look forward to being part of it all," shared Dr. Benson. "There is incredible commitment from the doctors, staff and EMS providers in the county to offer the best care possible for this community."

One of Dr. Benson's first goals is to fine tune the EXPRESS CARE program in the emergency department. This program is designed for those seeking care for less severe ailments such as colds, flu, sprains, strains and ear infections. The goal is to have patients in and out in less than an hour. Many EXPRESS CARE patients are treated by a physician assistant and overseen by the attending emergency department physician. In addition to Dr. Benson, two new full time physician assistants will be starting later this month.

"We are very committed to making EXPRESS CARE the best that it can be. We pledge to offer fast, convenient and, most importantly, quality care for our community," continued Benson. "We are grateful to the community for the success of the program and appreciate the support offered throughout this transition."

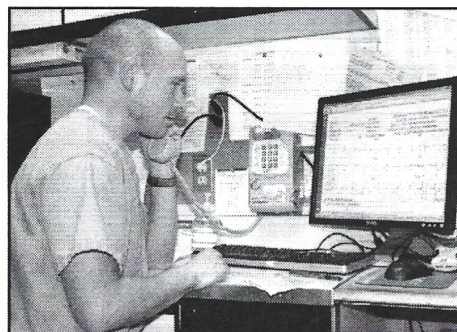
Another goal is to fully implement a new STEMI (ST Elevated Myocardial infarction) Management System in conjunction with EMS Southwest. The STEMI Management System is a program designed to significantly reduce the time it takes for patients experiencing a heart attack

to receive appropriate treatment during the critical early stages, when treatments are most effective.

The program allows EMS Southwest providers to wirelessly transmit EKG's to the physician at the hospital before even leaving the patient's home. The physician will direct the paramedic as to the best option for treatment. If a heart attack is suspected, plans will be made to facilitate the patient's admission to an appropriate treatment facility for catheterization. Although chest pain is one of the most common complaints of patients presenting to the emergency department, only 10-15 percent of patients with chest pain are actually suffering from a heart attack.

"I have worked with the STEMI Management System for a very long time and have seen it save many lives," shared Benson. "Greene County will be one of the first counties in the state to offer this level of care."

Southwest Regional Medical Center is a 69-bed community based hospital with a full service emergency department. In January 2008, EXPRESS CARE was added as a service of the department. EXPRESS CARE was established to treat sprains, strains, flu, colds, ear infections and other minor ailments. Most patients are in and out in less than one hour.



Dr. Benson reviews an EKG received via the STEMI Management System.

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Rev. Bernice King, Daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to Speak Feb. 17 at WCCC

Presentation sponsored by Saint Vincent, Seton Hill, WCCC & the Community Foundation of Westmoreland County

Three area colleges are sponsoring a presentation by Rev. Bernice King, the youngest daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., at 7 p.m., Tuesday, February 17 at the Westmoreland County Community College gymnasium, which is open to the public.

As part of a celebration of Black History Month, King will present the keynote address, "To Whom Much is Given, Much is Expected." The event is sponsored by Saint Vincent College, Seton Hill University and WCCC with a grant from the Community Foundation of Westmoreland County.

King began her public speaking career at age 17 when she addressed the United Nations in her mother's place. An ordained minister, she is the author of "Hard Questions, Heart Answers," a collection of her sermons and speeches.

King has spoken at the White House and in venues across the United States and abroad. A graduate of Spelman College, she holds a master of divinity and law degrees from Emory University. She worked as a law clerk in the Fulton County Juvenile Court system.

She has served as mentor to fifth grade girls at an inner-city Atlanta elementary school. She has coordinated non-violent conflict resolution conferences, taught a yearlong leadership development course at an Atlanta church and conducted a class on race relations at Mississippi College.

King has been featured on such shows as "Oprah," "BET Talk with Tavis Smiley" and the "Judge Hatchett Show."

A book signing will follow the presentation.

General admission is \$5 and tickets are available by calling 724-925-6890. Saint Vincent, Seton Hill and WCCC students and faculty will be admitted free with ticket. College students should contact the following offices at their campuses for tickets: SVC Office of Campus Life, 724-805-2094; SHU Office of Activities and Commuter Life, 724-838-4213 and WCCC Events Services, 724-925-6890.

PFEW Battles "Doom & Gloom!"



An exciting, one-of-a-kind program open to all area 10th and 11th grade students will be celebrating thirty-one years of quality educational opportunities for Pennsylvania youth this summer. That program, Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week (PFEW) is completely funded, taught and staffed by practitioners from the Pennsylvania business and industry community.

With all of the economic doom and gloom lately, PFEW has taken on even greater importance and significance. Said John Trombetta, president & CEO of the Foundation for Free Enterprise Education that presents PFEW each year, "I have rarely seen young peoples' attitudes more cynical or discouraged about business and business people as I do when talking to students these days. The mismanagement at some of our major financial institutions, coupled with what might normally simply be a downturn in our economy, has led to widespread mistrust and negativity among our youth in business generally. Fortunately, PFEW can completely transform those attitudes after a young person spends seven days with some of Pennsylvania's outstanding business men and women."

What John says is proven by the survey results of the 2008 PFEW graduates. Of the nearly 1,800 who attended, 94.4% indicated that PFEW had changed their perception of business; 96.4% reported that PFEW would be helpful in choosing their career; 97.9% reported that they had a better understanding of the American free enterprise system; and a whopping 98.8% indicated that their scholarship sponsors' money had been well invested.

PFEW now runs five individual sessions in July and August. (Sessions held either at Lycoming College or Penn College, both in Williamsport, PA.) Each participant is assigned to be a member of a "management team" operating a computer-simulated

"company" for the equivalent of three years. During that time they make all of the decisions any real-life business person would make and these fledgling entrepreneurs work with balance sheets, profit & loss statements, market share surveys, etc. To add realism, they are competing against two other student "corporations" manufacturing and distributing the same product. (PFEW is designed to give every participant, in broad brushstrokes, an idea of what is happening in the world of business today and what needs to happen in order to create and maintain a "business-friendly" environment.) The students hear speakers from all over Pennsylvania talk about subjects including: Business and Finance, The Role and Relationship of Business and Government, Taxation, Labor Relations, Business Ethics, and much, much more. Does it work? Consider the following quote from Ms. Cathy Lee McNeill of Newtown Square who said of her PFEW week, "I can honestly say this was the most life-changing experience I have ever had – in the space of only one week, I feel like I have learned more than a year's worth of class at school!"

The Chamber is proud to support PFEW and encourages our local companies and civic organizations to provide sponsorship for our area students and, if possible, perhaps even volunteers for the sessions. (PFEW is totally taught, staffed and sponsored by the Pennsylvania private sector.) Each student attends PFEW on a fully tax-deductible \$525 scholarship (the actual value of the scholarship is \$1,500) which is provided by a local firm or organization. The students wear the sponsors name during the program and all scholarship providers are recognized in a variety of ways for their support. Students write to their sponsors following the program to report on what they have learned. PFEW is also an approved organization through the PA Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program through the Department of Community and Economic Development.

If you would like to learn more about this award-winning program and how you can help, please call the Chamber directly or contact John Trombetta, president & CEO of the Foundation for Free Enterprise Education which presents PFEW at (814) 833-9576 or e-mail him at john@pfew.org. Thank you!

Welcome New Members



Mr. Matt Eller, District Landman
Meagan Glenney
3157 Mt. Morris Road, Suite #102
Waynesburg, Pa 15370
724-705-0452
matte@dpspenn.com
meagang@dpspenn.com
www.dpspenn.com
Oil & Gas Leasing
13 employees
Referred by Dave Hook

VENABLE ROYALTY, LTD.

Mr. Patrick Van Ooteghem, Analyst
5910 North Central Expressway,
Suite #1470
Dallas Texas 75206
214-750-7508
Fax 214-750-6673
patrick@venableroyalty.com
www.venableroyalty.com
Energy Industry
5 employees

Join a Committee!

Now is the time to sign up to participate on one or more of the Chamber's committees. Belonging to a committee is a great way to network with fellow chamber members. Below is a list of committees, if something sounds interesting, give us a call and we'll add you to the membership list.

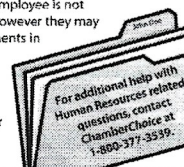
- Business Expo
- Membership Benefits
- Golf Outing
- Career Day
- Educational Scholarship
- Annual Banquet & DSA Awards
- Administrative Professional Luncheon
- Christmas Parade
- By-Laws & Polices
- Welcome Sign
- Fund Raising
- Long Range Planning

Question:

What is the procedure when an employee requests to see their personnel file?

Answer:

Employers should schedule a time for the employee to view their file when a company representative is present. The employee is not allowed to remove anything from the file, however they may request in writing to have copies of documents in the file. To avoid this becoming an administrative burden, be open with employees about the information in their personnel file and make sure they receive copies of discipline, performance reviews or other employment related activity at the time of the event.





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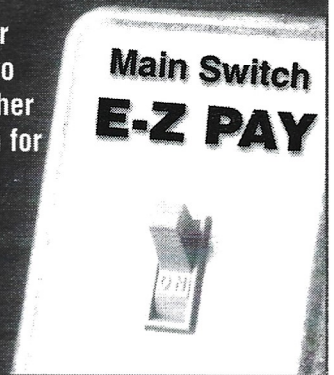
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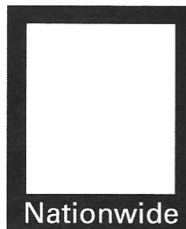
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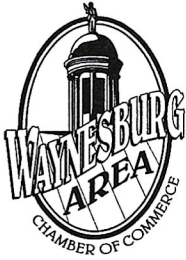
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Subway Plaza
Waynesburg, PA 15370

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diazr6@nationwide.com



**WAYNESBURG AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

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