

CICKBER CICKER

The Newsletter of the Waynesburg Area Chamber of Commerce Phone: (724) 627-5926 • Fax: (724) 627-8017 E-mail: wbgchamb@greenepa.net

♦ GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ♦

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 1999 12:00 Noon

NOVA CARE, INC.
East High Street Extension Across From Pizza Hut

TOUR THEIR NEW REHABILITATION FACILITY

Bring your swim suit and try out the new Aquatic Therapy Pool or bring your sweats and try out the exercise equipment.

Lunch will be provided by Nova Care in cooperation with Pizza Hut.

This promises to be a very fun and interesting meeting – Don't miss this one!

MISS PENNSYLVANIA VISITS GREENE COUNTY



Miss Pennsylvania and Craig Younken

Miss Pennsylvania, Mayra Acosta was a guest of Greene County on March 3rd and 4th. She visited the local schools and read to the children as part of Read Across America. Cyprus Amax Coal Company - Pennsylvania Operations and Community Bank sponsored her stay here and Jackie and Rudy Marisa opened their home to her. The children enjoyed meeting a celebrity and had an opportunity to ask her questions such as her favorite color, favorite musical groups and if she liked wolves!

The Search Is On

Do you know someone who personifies the word 'entrepreneur?' If you do the firm of Ernst & Young wants to hear from you. They are looking to recognize and honor outstanding entrepreneurs through their annual awards program. Their aim is to help entrepreneurs gain the recognition they deserve for their contributions to Western Pennsylvania's economy, encourage future entrepreneurs, and ultimately enhance the region's business climate. If you know someone who would qualify for this honor, please contact the Chamber office to receive a nomination blank. The winner will be selected in May and honored at a gala awards dinner on June 25. The program identifies outstanding entrepreneurs - those whose ingenuity, hard work and perseverance have created and sustained successful and growing business ventures.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

At last month's General Membership Meeting, Jack McCracken introduced Dr. Shannon Vissman, owner of Vissman Therapeutics Inc., a physical therapy clinic located at 325 East High Street. Dr. Vissman presented a check for his 1999 dues to President Mary Pruss and became a member. Welcome to Dr. Vissman and his staff, we are glad to have you aboard.

ALLTEL Plans Special Olympics Sponsorship for Summer 1999

In January, Alltel announced that it has furthered its commitment to community service by becoming a Gold Sponsor of the 1999 Special Olympics World Summer Games to be held in Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill, N.C. this summer. The 1999 Games are an event for youth and adult athletes with mental retardation, which will include competitions in 19 sports including basketball, cycling, gymnastics and tennis. The Games will involve approximately 35,000 volunteers, 7,000 athletes and 2,000 coaches form 150 countries. An estimated 400,000 spectators are expected to attend. All these numbers make the Special Olympics World Summer Games the world's largest multisport event in 1999. In addition to the World Games in North Carolina, many states across the country will hold state and area Special Olympics Games this summer. To help promote Special Olympics on a national level, Alltel has taken its newly formed relationship with NASCAR driver Phil Parsons one step further. The Number 10 ALLTEL Parsons Racing Chevrolet will carry the 1999 Special Olympics World Summer Games logo during the upcoming Busch Grand National Division racing season. On a local level, Alltel will be looking to incorporate Special Olympics into its local market activities, so keep an eye out!!

WAYNESBURG WENDY'S RECEIVES HONORS

The Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers located in Waynesburg recently walked away a winner at the annual Awards Banquet for West Penn Foods, Inc. The local store, which was up against ten other stores in Washington, Fayette and Westmoreland counties brought home three awards. The General Manager Doug Patterson and the entire management team and crew needs to be proud of their achievement. Way to go team!!!

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF THE WAYNESBURG AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

February 24, 1999 Golden Corral Steak House

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary C. Parkinson - Honorary Member, Gloria Richter - Pizza Hut, Denise Yackmak - Trader's Plumbing & Heating, Ray Chaney and Merle Williams - Alltel, Ruth Enci - Area Agency on Aging, Lenny Evansck - Food Bank Guest, Shirley Stockdale - Clerk of Courts, Chad Moore - First Federal, Timothy Hawfield -Waynesburg Boro Police, Suzanne Huffman -Communications Development, Kay Laskody - Mountainview Gardens, Raeyny Lund - Greene County Industrial Development Authority, Jeanine Henry - University of Pittsburgh Small Business Development Center, Dr. Shannon Vissman - Vissman Therapeutics, Jack McCracken - Mc-Cracken's Pharmacy, Richard Scott - Scott Enterprises, Frank Pecjak - Pecjak's Sunoco, Millie Wonderling - Bowlby Library, Steve Barret - Greene County Messenger, Ed Hyjurich - Laurel Bank, Mike and Doreen Klipsic - Castle Victoria, Pauline Crumrine -Nova Care.

President Mary K. Pruss called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. Introductions were made around the room. On a motion by Kay Laskody, seconded by Chad Moore, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written. On a motion by Jack McCracken, seconded by Shirley Stockdale, the Secretary's Report was approved as presented. Treasurer Richard Scott reviewed the Financial Report and on a motion by Chad Moore, seconded by Suzanne Huffman, it was approved as written.

OLD BUSINESS: President Mary K. Pruss presented the committee sign up sheet and passed it around the room. She encouraged members present to sign up to help with committee work. There were no additional old business items brought from the floor. NEW BUSINESS: She introduced Lenny Evansck, a Bonor Scholar from Waynesburg

Evansck, a Bonor Scholar from Waynesburg College who is working with the Greene County Food Bank as a service project. He announced that on March 27th the Food Bank will sponsor the "March to end hunger," a two mile work to raise monetary support for the Food Bank here in Greene County. He encouraged the businesses present to recruit employees to participate as a team to walk and raise money. The walk will begin at the Waynesburg Armory and wind through the college campus and football fields. Prizes will be awarded to the top three fund raising teams. He also announced that the Food Bank has moved into it's new facility on Rolling Meadows Road. President Mary K. Pruss also reviewed the policy for members to place information into the monthly Chamber Chatter newsletter. She encouraged those present to send in items on awards, new positions, etc. that they would like to publicize to other members. In addition, one advertising space remains open as well. Jack McCracken introduced Dr. Shannon Vissman who recently opened Vissman Therapeutics. Dr. Vissman joined the Chamber today and was welcomed by a round of applause.

SPEAKER: Timothy Hawfield, Waynesburg Borough Police Chief was introduced by Mary K. Pruss. He presented a history of police activity in Waynesburg. The first written record available was published in the Waynesburg Republican newspaper in 1855. It stated that James Cosgray, Constable, was paid 'per arrest'. He also gave a list of charges that could be charged by the Burgess - the forerunner to the District Justice. They were very humorous. He pointed out that in 1869 it was against the law to play cricket (baseball) within the borough limits. He has not found where that law was rescinded. A gentleman who was known as "Sparky" was the most arrested person in Waynesburg History being arrested usually for public intoxication.

On a more serious note, the force currently has eight full time officers and they make up the only police force in the county with the exception of the Pennsylvania State Police. At one time they had eleven full time officers, this was made possible with grant money. The force must always "sell themselves" to the public because the force is at the mercy of the public. The State Police will always be here but the local police forces are in place due to public desire. As a result of this, they are constantly evaluating themselves, their performance and their image. All officers pledge to conduct themselves in a fair, professional and appropriate manner at all times. Each officer is trained in field sobriety and Waynesburg has a reputation in the area of being a "tough" place for drunk drivers. Cameras are mounted in most patrol cars, they help officers when on duty alone as the first thing a suspect is advised of is the fact that they are being recorded. They collect evidence on drunk drivers and protect against officer misconduct. The force operates on a limited budget which is stretched as far as possible. They always strive to do the best job they can do on the resources they have. They are active in the Drug Task Force, the Women's Shelter and will soon be a part of Waynesburg College and Margaret Bell Miller Middle School. The children at the Middle School are of an age when they reach many crossroads in life and the hope of the force is that by going to lunch with the students and making themselves approachable, the children may feel more comfortable in turning to them and possibly staying out of trouble. Parking enforcement is a big issue for the force, they have a parking officer whose responsibility it is to turn over parking spaces for potential customers. They plan to reline the parking spaces in the Spring and gain 8 to 12 spaces by doing so. Shoplifting signs are posted around town and as a result, there has been a decrease in shoplifting crimes.

Sheila Barger announced that the Raider Basketball Team is doing very well and has a big game on Friday night. She asked that business help show their support of the team by placing signs in their windows, messages on their billboards, etc.

The next meeting will be hosted by Nova Care on March 24th. On a motion by Chad Moore, seconded by Richard Scott the meeting was adjourned at 1 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melody Longstreth Chamber Coordinator

KIDS CORNER

Katie Rohanna, daughter of member Greg and Mary Rohanna of Jefferson, has been selected by Filer Sadlek Unit 954 Legion Auxiliary to attend the Americanism



Katie Rohanna

Youth Conference. The conference is sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary National Organization and will be held April 8-11 at Valley Forge. This year's conference is entitled "Freedom Encourages Success" and is designed to develop leadership skills as well as

educate the participants about our country. There will be students from across the U.S. at the conference. While there, a "Swap Meet" will be held at which participants will trade items that represent the area that they came from. The Greene County Tourism Agency has donated tokens with our county logo on them and the Chamber of Commerce has donated postcards featuring Greene County scenes for Katie to trade. Katie is a sophomore at Jefferson Morgan Jr./Sr. High School. She participates in Chorus, Marching Band, Concert Band, Academic League, Knowledge Bowl, Science Olympiad, Yearbook, SADD, Drama Club and Student Council. The Chamber wishes Katie a wonderful and memorable trip and we've asked Katie to send us update upon her return.

NEW LAW FOR UNCLAIMED AND ABANDONED PROPERTY

Barbara Hafer, State Treasurer would like to bring to your attention a law many businesses are not aware of and would like to offer the Treasury's help in ensuring that your business is in compliance with the law. The law is the Disposition of Abandoned and Unclaimed Property (Act No. 248 P.L. 1057 72 P.S.\$1301.1 et seq), which the Treasury administers. The vast majority of businesses in the State are subject to the act, which requires that all holders of unclaimed property must file a report by April 15 of each year. Unclaimed property includes uncashed payroll or accounts payable checks, unredeemed gift certificates, credit balance, uncashed dividend checks, and stock or unredeemed coupon bond principal or interest held for seven years or longer. Other types of unclaimed property also exist and identified based on the type of business that generates them. If a company is not in compliance, the law provides for audits and for the imposition of penalties and interest charges. Ms. Hafer has made it her policy to encourage compliance through education, rather than punitive measures, whenever possible. If you are concerned that you may not be in compliance, the State Treasury office encourages you to contact them to learn how you may achieve voluntary compliance. Please call the Bureau of Unclaimed Property at 1-800-379-3999. You also may communicate with them by e-mail (mvessella@tre.state.pa.us or fax, 717-787-0432, and you will find additional information about unclaimed property and the law on the Treasury Department web site, www.treasury.state.pa.us.

Tax Free Shopping Logos Available

Tax free clothing shopping static cling logos are available in the Chamber office for



local businesses to display in their storefronts. These attractive logos help keep local residents shopping locally by reminding them that in the state of Pennsylvania, clothing is not taxed. If you would like to receive

one or more of these attractive logos, please call or stop by the Chamber office.

Greene County Tourism Guides

The Greene County Commissioners would like your input on the current Greene County Guides. Did they represent the area well, what would you change before the next printing, what should be added, deleted? These are questions that the Commissioners would like to have your input on. Please send your responses, good, bad and otherwise to the Chamber Office at 19 South Washington Street by the end of March.

Waynesburg College Announces Annual College Dinner Theater

The Waynesburg College Alumni Council cordially invites the public to the annual College Dinner Theater, Saturday, March 27. This year, the students will perform *The Dining Room* by A.R. Gurney.

Dinner will be served in Benedum Hall at 6:15 p.m. The cost is \$15.00 per person. For reservations and information regarding dinner selections, contact the Alumni Office at 724.852.3256.

In addition to the dinner theater, two additional performances will be held March 25 and 26 at 8:00 p.m. There is no admission charge.

BIG RIDE ACROSS AMERICA

The Big Ride Across America is an fund raising event of huge proportion for the American Lung Association. 3,250 miles of fund raising to be exact! Nemacolin resident, John Morgan will be the only rider from Southwestern Pa. making the trip. John, at age 49, has been named the "Miracle Man" by beating the odds of serious illnesses, ailments and serious accidents. He must raise \$7,000 in donations to the Lung Association before beginning the trip in July. Not to mention he must spend hours a day in preparation for this grueling trip. Chamber members can support John in this worthy and life changing quest by contacting the Chamber office to obtain Rider Support forms. All donations go directly to the Lung Association as John is fully providing for all of his costs during the journey. Hopefully when John returns he will provide us with a report and tales from the trip.!! Good luck John.

UPCOMING EVENTS

OI COMMITTED IN LINE
Mar. 25-27 . Spring Play - Performing Arts
Center, Waynesburg
Mar. 25-Apr. 16 . Art Exhibit - Performing
Arts Center, Waynesburg
Mar. 27 Walk-a-Thon
Proceeds Benefit Food Bank
for more info: (724) 627-9784
Mar. 27 UPHA Horse Show
Greene Co. Fairgrounds
for more info: Judy (724) 852-5216
Apr. 8 Greene Co. Vet Health Fair
Greene Co. Fairgrounds
Apr. 9 Camp Ground Open
Ryerson State Park, for more info:
(724) 428-4254
Apr. 10 Lamb Sale
Greene Co. Fairgrounds
Apr. 10 . Spring Concert - Performing Arts
Center, Waynesburg
Apr. 10
W.A. Young Foundry, Rices Landing
for more info: (724) 966-2416
Apr. 10 Ramp Feast 11-5 p.m.
Mason-Dixon Historical Park
Contact Connie: (304) 879-5500
Apr. 3 "Hesperus" - Performing Arts
Center, Waynesburg
Apr. 17 First Day of Trout Season
Ryercon State Park
Apr. 18 Antiques Fair
Greene Co. Fairgrounds
**Provided by Greene County Tourism Pro-
motion Agency for more info call 627-TOUR.
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Upcoming Seminars

"Cutting Tool Technology and Their Applications" Erie, Pa. - June 3rd and 4th, 1999. An intensive two day seminar which will provide an excellent introduction to cutting tool applications for those who may have learned theory but have no application experience. It is also useful for cutting tool salesman, supervisory staff, maintenance personnel and machine operators. For further information contact the Chamber Office.

TIME

"Time is what we want most but what we use the worst." William Penn, Stateman

The founder of a highly successful company was asked what it took to succeed. "The same thing it took to get started," he replied, "a sense of urgency about getting things done." The people who make things move in this world share this same sense of urgency. No matter how intelligent or able you may be, if you don't have this sense of urgency, *now is* the time to start developing it. The world is full of very competent people who honestly intend to do things tomorrow, or as soon as they can get around to it. Their accomplishments, however, seldom match those of the less talented who are blessed with a sense of the importance of *getting started now!*

Retirement Plans Are For Small Businesses Too

by Jeff Widdup, Financial Advisor

A tax-qualified retirement plan offers employees an attractive means of saving for retirement and is an effective way for employers to get tax benefits. Unfortunately, small businesses don't always offer their employees any retirement plan at all due to the common misconception that such plans come with high costs and heavy administrative demands. Instead, employers encourage their employees to establish individual retirement accounts (IRAs).

But IRAs alone aren't always enough to help these employees retire comfortably, and small businesses are in danger of losing employees to larger businesses which offer more attractive benefits packages.

. In order to attract and retain valuable employees, many small businesses now offer employees a Simplified Employee Pension (SEP IRA), SIMPLE IRA, Profit Sharing Plan or Money Purchase Pension Plan. These plans are relatively simple for the employer to establish and operate, and they needn't overextend the resources of a small business. The employees enjoy a vehicle for tax-deferred growth of assets for employees.

The Simplified Employee Pension IRA, or SEP IRA, is very popular in the small business community because employer contributions are fully discretionary each year, and employers may take a deduction for the amount contributed on behalf of each employee. The contribution, if any, is not taxable to the participants until withdrawn. The selfdirected SEP IRA offers employees the ability to accumulate more assets than possible through a Traditional IRA and to choose investments that meet their specific retirement needs.

The SIMPLE IRA is a salary deferral plan structured to eliminate many of the complex administrative requirements often associated with 401(k) plans. The SIMPLE plan allows for employee salary deferral contributions of up to the lesser of \$6,000 or earned income, made on a pre-tax basis. The required employer contribution can take the form of either a 3% match or a 2% non-elective contribution. While the burden of funding the plan is shared by employer and employee, the employer gets a tax deduction for the entire amount contributed on behalf of each employee. Investment earning accumulate tax deferred until distributed from the plan.

The Profit Sharing Plan is a qualified retirement plan that allows for discretionary tax-deductible contributions of up to 15% of total compensation paid to all eligible employees. All contributions are made by the employer and the percentage contributed

can vary from year to year. With this plan, the employer retains the flexibility of excluding some part-time workers while the employee enjoys an employer funded benefit plan that offers the ability to accumulate more assets on a tax-deferred basis than possible through a Traditional IRA.

A Money Purchase Pension Plan is a qualified retirement plan established by an employer to allow for a tax-deductible contributions of up to 25% of each participant's total compensation. Employers thus benefit from the ability to contribute a greater percentage of compensation than is available in most other plans - an attractive advantage for the employer who may be attempting to maximize the dollars contributed on his or her own behalf. Like the Profit Sharing Plan, this plan allows the employer to retain the flexibility of excluding some part-time workers and the employee to enjoy an employer funded benefit plan that offers the ability to accumulate significant assets on a tax-deferred basis.

As you can see, there are many options for small business owners looking to provide a tax-deferred, employer-sponsored qualified plan. By establishing a retirement plan, you can effect a dramatic difference in tomorrow's standard of living for yourself and your employees.

Jeff Widdup is a Financial Advisor with Legg Mason Wood Walker, Inc., a diversified securities brokerage and financial services firm that is a member of the New York Stock Exchange, Inc., with offices located at 60 West High Street, Waynesburg.

Chamber Choice

Health Plans for Small Business

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- ☐ LEARN more about Section 125 pre-tax premium deduction.
- ☐ CALL your personal Chamber *Choice* representative for a no-charge, no obligation diagnostic check-up.

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RELAY FOR LIFE

On May 15-16 at the Waynesburg Central High School the American Cancer Society will hold its "Relay for Life, a Team A Event to Fight Cancer." It is a celebration of Life, it's about a community taking up the fight, it's about raising awareness of cancer. The concept behind the Relay for Life is simple . . . in a festive, overnight environment, teams of individuals take turns walking or running around a track, relay style, usually for twenty-four hours straight. It is a noncompetitive, team-building event for the entire community. The Relay for Life is the signature event of the American Cancer Society and is held in every state in the nation. Brochures are included in this months newsletter asking each member to plan to have a team participate from their business. If you are an individual member or a small business with only one or two employees, you are invited to become a part of the Chamber's Team. Just give us a call and we'll sign you up! Please consider building a team from your business. We know that you would not only build workplace spirit and have a great time, but you would be helping the search for a cure for cancer.

March To End Hunger

On Saturday, March 27th the 4th Annual March to end Hunger, sponsored by the Corner Cupboard Food Bank will take place. Not only does the march enable the Food Bank to raise necessary funds to provide supplemental food boxes to our low-income Greene County neighbors, but it creates an awareness of hunger problems in the County. Director, Sheila Christopher, is inviting Chamber businesses to take part by sponsoring a team or making a tax deductible donation to the Food Bank. The three mile march will begin at the Waynesburg Armory and wind through the College campus and practice fields. These walks are a great way to show your community support and build employee teamwork.

On Sunday, March 21st, Waynesburg
Pizza Hut is sponsoring a buffet from noon to
2 p.m. to raise money for the Food Bank
March to End Hunger. The buffet will be all
you can eat for \$5.49 with twenty percent of
the proceeds during that time being donated
to the Food Bank March. If you can not walk
in the March or even if you can, come out and
have lunch to help this worthy cause.

CHAMBER CHATTER INPUT

If anyone would like to submit articles to be printed in the newsletter, we would love to have your input. The deadline for each month follows:

March 10th

April 5th

May 10th

June 7th

July 6th October 12th

August 9th November 8th

September 7th 8th December 6th

Inserts are also accepted, however there is a charge of \$65.00 to help cover the additional postage. Approximately 250 8 by 11 1/2 folded inserts are required. Deadlines for the inserts are the same as above. Please phone ahead to be placed on the schedule for inserts.

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That's why we make decisions locally.

After all, we're not just serving customers;
we're looking out for our neighbors and friends.

National City.

FOLLOW YOUR OWN LEAD.



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70



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WAYNESBURG AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Please be sure to share this newsletter with others in your place of business.

