

CHAMBER CHATTER

The Newsletter of the Waynesburg Area Chamber of Commerce

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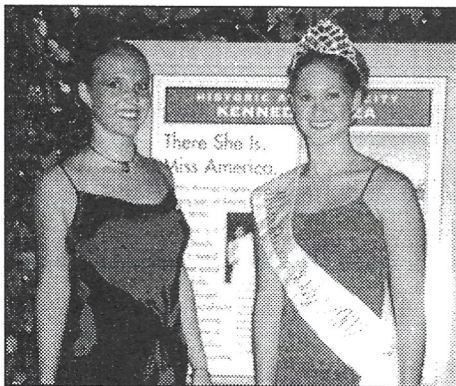
E-mail: wbgchamb@greenepa.net

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.

Miss Rain Day Attends Miss America Pageant

Walking the boardwalk at Atlantic City a few weekends ago was just about the same as walking down High Street at lunch time when you ran into lots of folks you knew. Two buses from Fox Charter Service joined numerous others from the area to cheer on Waynesburg's own Miss Pennsylvania, Autumn Marisa in the Miss America Pageant. Autumn held the title of Miss Rain Day 1997 and several former Miss Rain Days made the trip to cheer her on. While Autumn did not become the new Miss America, she gave Waynesburg something to be very proud of! Congratulation Autumn and thanks for the memories.



Miss Rain Day 2001 – Angela Bertugli and Miss Rain Day 2002 – Rachel Burack on the Boardwalk at the Miss America Pageant.

October is Local Chamber of Commerce Month



PROCLAMATION

LOCAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MONTH
October 2002

WHEREAS, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 240 Local Chambers of Commerce, representing more than 200,000 businesses, work with dedication and pride to promote business, community and the well-being of all Commonwealth citizens; and

WHEREAS, since independent, nonprofit chambers are made up of individuals and organizations united to advance the economic, financial, industrial and civic interests of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania remains first in its commitment to forming partnerships that draw upon the best that business, labor, education and government have to offer; and the Local Chambers of Commerce are instrumental in the fulfillment of that goal; as well as to the Commonwealth's sustained economic growth and advancement; and

WHEREAS, it is important for the residents and businesses of our great Commonwealth to recognize and appreciate the countless contributions that Local Chambers of Commerce have made in enhancing the quality of our lives.

THEREFORE, in special recognition of the tremendous contributions that our Local Chambers of Commerce make to our citizens and our Commonwealth, I, Mark S. Schweiker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim October 2002 as LOCAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MONTH in Pennsylvania.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this sixteenth day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand and two, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

Mark S. Schweiker
Governor

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President's Letter

This would have been a great year for a Chamber of Commerce in a community several times the size of Waynesburg. However, we have never measured ourselves in comparison to others. Our standard is the commerce and character of this community. Let's look at what the Waynesburg Area Chamber of Commerce accomplished this year.

In the year that we recently celebrated at the Annual Banquet,

- We gained 40 new member businesses, bringing us to a total of 274. (Our Executive Director's stated goal is 300 by year end).
- We published a four-color 36 page view book for the Waynesburg area, fully funded by advertisers.
- The Revitalization Committee spun off into a new not-for-profit, *Waynesburg, Prosperous and Beautiful*, which is well on its way to recognition as a Pennsylvania Downtown Center Project. This will focus serious resources on High Street and the surrounding blocks.
- The Chamber office was renovated with new, visible signage and furnishings, on time and under budget, giving us a Chamber office that reflects the quality of the organization.
- The Chamber, with assistance from Kiwi Fence Co., repaired the "Welcome to Waynesburg" sign at the fairgrounds and collaborated with reporters from *The Herald Standard* to publish a major color feature about Waynesburg.
- Events such as the Christmas Parade, the Golf Outing, the Miss Rain Day Pageant, and the Educational Scholarship Essay Contest all showed the professionalism of our staff and the creativity and hard work of our volunteers.

The Chamber accomplished a lot more than the above, but those are the highlights of the highlights. The point of listing all these accomplishments is to show how, taken together, your Chamber's actions have produced a stronger business climate and a healthier and more livable community. In my view, that is what Chambers of Commerce are commissioned to be about.

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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2002
Noon to 1:00 p.m. • Golden Corral Steak House

SPEAKERS: BARBARA L. WISE, PLANNING AND COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST
 TOPIC: COMMUNITY ACTION SOUTHWEST'S "OLDE FASHIONED CHRISTMAS EVENT"
 ELECTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS THIS MONTH

Networking Opportunity - Bring Your Business Cards for Door Prize Drawing

ANNUAL BANQUET APPRECIATION

The Annual Member Meeting and Banquet saw another evening full of good food, awards, entertainment and networking. The event could not be possible without our sponsors. A big thank you goes out to:

Gold Program Sponsor

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Braden Run Animal Hospital
Winner of Write Idea Business
Plan Competition)

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Fax 724-852-4049
Dental Office
10 employees

Visual Communications Associates

Mr. Daniel Morris
290 Fordyce Run Road
724-5640

WELCOME NEW REPRESENTATIVES

**Medina R. Moore, Membership
Coordinator for Area 001
Girl Scouts of Southwestern Penna.**

P.O. Box 784,
Morgantown, WV 26501
304-291-2743
email: mmoore322@aol.com

Members Move Into New Spaces

Community Action Southwest recently moved into new space located at 58 East Greene Street next to Pecjak's Sunoco.

THANKS

Thank you to Waynesburg Wendy's for providing a Tee-shirt and four combo meal coupons to be used as the door prize for the September General Membership meeting.

Members Welcome New Additions



Carol and Rob "Bopper" Howard of Just Rob Construction recently welcomed a little girl into their growing family. Mia Alizibeth arrived on September 10th weighing in at 7lb 10oz and 19 1/2 inches long. She has two big brothers awaiting her at home. Congratulations Carol and Robbie.

EDUCATIONAL FUND DONATIONS

Two chamber members recently made donations to the Educational Scholarship Fund. Thank you to Harry and June Anderson and Milliken and Throckmorton Funeral Home for their continued support of this worthy Chamber project.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- October 19 & 20 - Waynesburg College Homecoming Weekend
- October 19 & 20 - Harvest Festival - Greene County Historical Society
- October 19 & 20 - Target date for open house at the restored Log Courthouse
- October 23 - General Membership Meeting - Golden Corral Steak House - Noon
- November 2 - Social Service League Craft Show - Waynesburg Central Elementary
- November 8 - Veteran's Day Parade - Downtown Waynesburg
- November 11 - Office closed for Veteran's Day
- November 13 - Board of Directors Meeting - Groovy's - Noon
- November 16 - Greene County Memorial's Harvest Ball - Nemaocolin Woodlands

BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINEES

The Nominating Committee has confirmed a list of ten nominees as directed by our By-Laws for this month's election. Five positions will be filled and the remaining five nominees will be kept on file to fill any board vacancies that may occur during 2003. The election will take place at the October General Membership Meeting on October 23rd at the Golden Corral Steak House. If you are unable to attend, you may submit a sealed ballot by contacting the office at 627-5926.

The nominees are:

Don Chappel - Greene County Industrial Development

Allen Brady - Experience Works

Lisa Wheeler - Ryerson Station State Park

August Berry - Big Brothers Big Sisters

Chuck Trump - First Federal Savings & Loan

Kathleen Gregg - Greene County School to Work

Penny Ketchem - Individual Member

John Glass - Observer-Reporter

Brenda Yingling - Yingling Insurance Agency

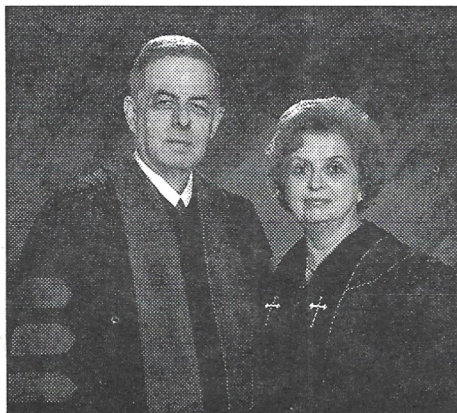
ANNUAL BANQUET HONORS

At the annual Membership Banquet, held October 12th at the Waynesburg Elks, four membership milestone awards were bestowed on Chamber members for 20 years of continued membership in the Chamber. Waynesburg Agway, H & R Block, Behm Funeral Home and RAG American Coal were honored and presented with an engraved plaque to display in the place of business. In addition, a special award was presented to Gene Yost & Son Drilling and their team for their part in the mine rescue at Quecreek Mine. Their expertise and determination to rescue the men played out in front of the nation this past August. A posthumous Distinguished Service Award was presented to the family of Richard "Dick" Walton of Walton Financial for his work in the community. Several letters of recommendation were submitted to the Chamber on his behalf outlining his contributions to the area. The



Richard "Dick" Walton

2002 Distinguished Service Award was presented jointly to Rev. Dr. Richard E. Visser and his wife, Rev. Carol E. Visser of the First Baptist Church in Waynesburg. They will share in the duties of co-grand marshal of the Christmas Parade and are the first husband and wife team to share in the Chamber's Distinguished Service Award. Also recognized was Miss Rain Day 2002, Rachel Marie Burack, for being Greene County's first ever triple crown winner by being chosen as Miss Riverfest, Miss Rain Day and Bituminous Coal Queen all in the same year. She will also serve as a co-grand marshal for the Christmas parade along with the Vissers.



Rev. Dr. Richard E. Visser and wife, Rev. Carol E. Visser.

WriteIdea Southwestern Pennsylvania Women's Business Plan Competition

The University of Pittsburgh Small Business Development Center (SBDC) announces that Braden Run Animal Hospital is one of four women-owned businesses from Southwestern Pennsylvania to hold the distinction of being the first winners of *WriteIdea*, a unique business plan competition for women. Dr. McMillen was recognized at the Waynesburg Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Member Banquet during the Special Community Awards portion of the program held on Saturday, October 12th, 2002. Greene County:

Braden Run Animal Hospital
(Anita L. McMillen, V.M.D.)

- The practice provides medical, surgical and emergency care to all types of animals in Waynesburg and surrounding areas. Braden Run Animal Hospital is currently expanding its practice through the construction of a permanent animal hospital.



Left to right: Jeanine Henry, Anita McMillen, Barb Mistick (Director, NECWB), Jayne Houston (Associate Director, NECWB).

Seton Hill University's National Education Center for Women in Business (The Center) announced the winners Thursday, September 26th, Women & Co., a series of networking events for women, at the Christian W. Klay Winery in Chalk Hill. The Center administered *WriteIdea* on behalf of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) in an effort to accelerate the business start-up process of women entrepreneurs in the Southwest Region of Pennsylvania. The Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation provided matching funds for the project as part of their commitment to expanding ATHENA Powerlink™, a successful mentorship program that encourages economic growth by promoting and supporting women owned businesses through the use of advisory panels, into Southwestern PA.

The four winners, one business from Fayette, Greene, Washington and Westmoreland County, split a \$25,000 cash prize to help ensure their success and contin-

ued operation in this geographic region. A panel of judges comprised of members from the academic community, local economic development agencies and business owners representing the four counties selected the winning plans based on growth potential, innovation, management plan, job potential an overall viability.

"Women-owned businesses have been a major contributor in improving the economic climate of the entire southwestern Pennsylvania region," commented Ann Dugan, Executive Director of the University of Pittsburgh SBDC. "Our clients embody the American spirit of entrepreneurship and in turn have made the communities they serve better places to live."

Jeanine Henry, University of Pittsburgh SBDC Greene County consultant, proudly provided technical assistance and encouraged Dr. McMillen to enter the *WriteIdea* competition.

The University of Pittsburgh SBDC is part of the Katz Graduate School of Business Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence. The Mission of the University of Pittsburgh SBDC is to protect and strengthen southwestern Pennsylvania's growing business sector. This objective is accomplished through consulting and training programs that combine the information and expertise found in a university with the skills of a professional staff.

TOMATO CONTEST BENEFITS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Dr. Janson Chiropractic holds the annual Tomato contest and each year he donated all the proceeds to the Miss Rain Day Scholarship Fund. This year was no exception and when Miss Rain Day 2002, Rachel Burack, attended the award ceremony recently, she was presented with a check for over \$300 to be placed into next year's scholarship fund. The Chamber and the Miss Rain Day Committee would like to thank Dr. Janson for his continued dedication to helping raise scholarship money for the Rain Day contestants and for providing a great opportunity for local residents to showcase their gardening skills.

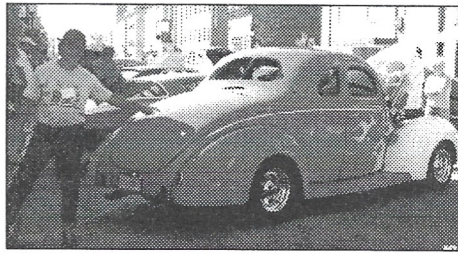


MEMBERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Ami Cree and Bill Karns have opened a Padgett Business Services office serving Greene, Washington and Fayette Counties. Padgett, a SmallBizPros company, specializes in providing financial reporting and tax consulting services to businesses with less than 20 employees. Padgett Business Services has the reputation of knowing what the owner-operated business needs. They look forward to providing this service to the small business community and are confident they can meet their financial reporting and tax needs. Cree and Karns' Padgett office offers a personalized monthly profit and loss statement, all payroll reporting, on-going tax planning and business consulting, along with pick-up and delivery service. Padgett clients also receive the benefits of Reality Check and Preventive Accounting, exclusive Padgett products. In addition, Padgett offers preparation services for individual, partnership, and corporate income tax returns. With the Padgett system, a small business owner has more resources to help him or her make smarter, more informed, strategic decisions. Ami Cree, a lifetime resident of the area, earned her Masters Degree from Waynesburg College and worked the past eight years with a Pittsburgh area financial group. She resides in Carmichaels with her husband Bill and their one year-old son. Bill Karns earned his Masters Degree from the University of Pittsburgh and has over twenty seven years experience in financial reporting and analysis for the retail, manufacturing, and distribution industries. His wife Kathy is an analyst for Mellon Bank. Since 1966, Padgett has provided financial reporting and tax consulting services to independent business owners throughout North America. Padgett has been ranked as the #1 small business accounting firm by Entrepreneur, Success and Income Opportunities magazines, as well as being ranked in Accounting Today's Top 100. The local operation is part of a network of over 400 independently owned and operated Padgett offices throughout North America. For more information, call Ami Cree and Bill Karns at 724-627-3800.



50's FEST A BIG HIT



Just a few scenes from Waynesburg Prosperous and Beautiful, Inc.'s recent 50's Fest which proved to be a big success. Classic cars lined the streets as downtown Waynesburg turned back the clock to the 1950's. Merchants and residents alike joined in the fun!

Bowling Team Wins Second Place!

The Chamber bowling team participated in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl for Kids Sake held at Yanek Lanes in Jefferson. The event raised over \$7,500 for the newly opened Greene County office. Representing the Waynesburg Chamber were Miss Rain Day 2001, Angela Bertugli, Brian Longstreth of Waynesburg Wendy's, Catie and Susan Stoy representing Bill DeWeese's Office and Lindsey and Melody Longstreth representing the Chamber office. A great time was had by all!!



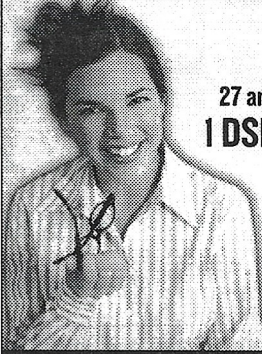
CHINESE AUCTION

At the Annual Membership Banquet, the Educational Scholarship Fund Committee hosted the second annual Chinese Auction, which was once again a success. The committee thanks everyone who donated items to be used in the event. All proceeds from the auction will be placed into the Chamber's Educational Scholarship Fund, which awards a \$1,500 scholarship annually to a Greene County student.

- Edward Jones Company
- The Greene Saver – Direct Results
- Lewis Limousine
- Lavern's Restaurant
- Greene County Education Center of Westmoreland County Community College
- Cathleen Lizza, O.D.
- The Corner Shoppe
- Kyowa America Corporation
- Experience Works – Green Thumb
- Waynesburg Sewing Center
- Morning Sun Catering
- Fox Charter Service
- Groovy's American Cafe
- RAG American Coal
- Hoyle Graphic Xpressions
- Bev's Body Works
- Specialty Herbal Products
- Special Events Commission
- First Federal Savings & Loan
- Shirley Stockdale, Clerk of Courts
- WANB Radio
- West Penn AAA Motor Club
- Scott Enterprises
- Modar's Cake and Candy Supplies
- Carol Lee Shop
- Merle Norman Studio & Boutique
- The Locker Room
- Edward Jones Company
- Rohanna's Golf Course
- Milliken & Throckmorton Funeral Home
- Harry & June Anderson
- Sam's Club
- Scotty's Pizza
- Ross Beauty Shop
- Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers
- Greene County Bassmasters
- National City
- Rep. Bill DeWeese
- First National Bank of Penna.
- Dr. Robert Interval
- Jan's Bit of Country
- Sugar Run Traditions
- Jay's Hallmark
- Giant Eagle
- Waddell & Reed
- Pam Bogucki
- Greene County Country Club
- Waynesburg Floral

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

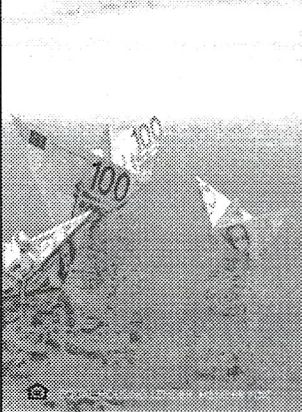
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 John Owen – Special Events Commission
 Renee Jones – Fox Charter Service
 Cory Grandel – Waddell & Reed
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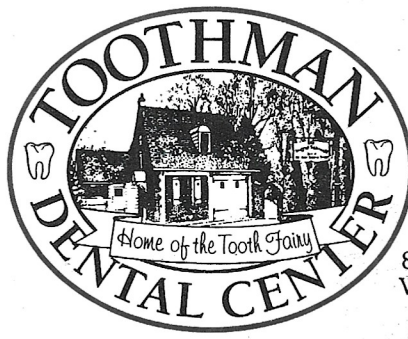
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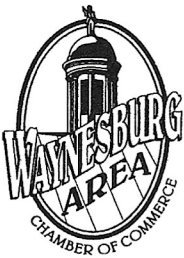
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