



CLARION CHAMBER CHRONICLE

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MAY/JUNE 2010

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Fore!

The 5th Annual Delta Contractors & Design, Inc. Bi-Chamber Golf Outing was very successful. This joint endeavor between the Clarion Area Chamber of Business & Industry and the Redbank Valley Chamber of Commerce strives to strengthen and expand business and good neighbor relationships in a relaxed setting.

We want to Thank these businesses for their outstanding support.

Title Sponsor - Delta Contractors & Design, Inc.

Major Sponsors - Clarion County Community Bank; First United National Bank; Northwest Savings Bank and S & T Bank

Beverage Sponsors - Charles P. Leach Agency, Inc. and Community First Bank

Bottled water provided by Pennsylvania American Water Company

Cart Sponsors - A-Plus Mini Mart; Bish Chiropractic Center; Creative Custom Cabinetry; Heeter Lumber; Jamie Lefever (Redbank Valley Chamber President); Loyal Order of Moose Lodge # 366; Newbie Wheel Alignment, Inc.; Shirey Overhead Doors; Snug Harbour Restaurant; Donna Oberlander, State Representative; and The Jewelry Shop

Hole Sponsors - A & P Gaming; Acey Rental; Alcorn Funeral Home; B & W Smith Excavating; B.J. Snyder, MD & Associates LLC; Bauer Truck Repair; Burns & Burns Associates, Inc.; C & A Trees Unlimited, Inc.; Captain Loomis; Clarion Ford-Mercury & Clarion Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep; Clarion Hospital Foundation & Clarion Hospital; Eagle Contracting Inc.; Francis J. Palo, Inc.; J.M. Smucker Company, LLC (Inc.); John & Shirley Milliren; Kriebel Wells; Liberty Street Church of God; May's Gas and Coal; Mealy Excavating & Construction, Inc.; Milliren-Hoak Insurance Agency; Nolf Chrysler Dodge, Inc.; Pennsylvania American Water Company; Redbank Valley Subway; Ron Seidle Chevrolet-Cadillac; RRR Roadhouse; Tom's Riverside # 773; and WRC Senior Services.

Skill Prize Donors - Clarion Area Chamber of Business & Industry; Clarion Oaks; Colony Homes; Community First Bank; DBI, Inc.; Delta Technology Solutions; Fairway Casual Dining (Holiday Inn of Clarion); Francis J. Palo, Inc; Hampton Inn; Holiday Inn; RRR Roadhouse, S & T Bank; Sapphire Moon Healing Arts Center; Structural Modulars Inc.; Subway (Clarion-Walmart); and Wellness Health Options (Dr. Melissa Riley & Jessica Reisenger)

Special Thank You's - Sapphire Moon & Healing Arts (Jennifer Keth) and Wellness Health Options (Betty McKisson) for offering chair massages before everyone tee'd off!

A Very Special Thank you to Clarion Oaks for donating a "Single Membership" for the Grand Prize and RRR Roadhouse for lunch and the outstanding Steak Dinner!

To the committee members - Jamie Lefever, Jake Gentile, Ty Poster, Bryan Smith and to Larry Bussard and Paula Cupples (Clarion Chamber Staff) for a GREAT OUTING!

See you next year on April 29, 2011.



Business Spotlights: *Shedding light on what you do...*

Shreffler's Snack Shack

Shreffler's Snack Shack located at 1552 Route 322 in Kossuth, PA has been in business for 25 years. They sell soft serve ice cream and fast food. They employ 10-15 part time employees and opened up April 1st.

For more information contact Bonnie E. Shreffler at 814-797-1601.

Clarion Psychiatric Center

Clarion Psychiatric Center has been in business for 21 years and employs 90 full time and 35 part time employees. They are an inpatient mental health care facility for children, adolescents and adults. They also offer day treatment for children and adolescents.

For over 20 years Clarion Psychiatric Center has helped people effectively manage Anxiety and Panic Disorder, Depression, Suicidal Thoughts or Actions, Extreme Anger and Aggression, Patients whose emotional disorder is complicated by a dependence on drugs or alcohol, Bipolar Disorder, Paranoia, Schizophrenia/Hallucinations/Delusions, Attention Deficit Disorder and Family Conflicts.

Clarion Psychiatric Center is "committed to excellence in the ethical provision and understanding of behavioral health services". They are open 24 hours a day 7 days a week and offer free confidential assessments and referrals.

If you have any questions contact Susan LaBruzzo at 814-226-9545 or fax at 814-226-9622. You can also visit their website at www.clarioncenter.com



Robert V. Burns Funeral Home

Robert V. Burns Funeral Home has been in business for 43 years and is a family owned and operated funeral home. They provide compassionate care that only a family can offer. The professional staff is completely committed to helping each family celebrate the life of their loved one in a meaningful way.

They offer a traditional service, memorial service, graveside service, direct burial, direct cremation, and forwarding of remains to or receiving remains from another funeral home. A complete general price list is available at your request.

Robert V. Burns Funeral Home offers a variety of burial and cremation merchandise in their display rooms. Their merchandise includes a wide range of caskets, burial vaults, cremation urns, urn vaults, burial clothing for men and women and veteran flag-cases. They also offer memorial items such as a register book, prayer cards, personalized memorial folders, and acknowledgement cards. The funeral home also offers life tribute videos, life journey candles, memory portraits, and Thumbie M J memorial jewelry.

Robert V. Burns Funeral Home offers many veteran programs. They are participating in the Cell Phones for Soldiers project and have become an official drop off site for old cell phones to help troops stay connected with loved ones. The funeral home has been selected to become an exclusive, certified "Veterans & Family Memorial Care Provider." To see benefits for veterans visit www.rvburnsfuneralhome.com.

If you have any questions contact Rollie Burns at 814-226-6500 or fax at 814-226-4867.



Card Check Bill Creates Coercion in business

Chambers of Commerce across the country are against a proposed bill that would change the way unions are able to organize. This bill is the "Employee Free Choice Act," which many are simply referring to as the Card Check bill. Three components make up the Card Check bill: eliminating the private ballot, government arbitration and control, and harsh new penalties for businesses.

- ***Elimination of the Private Ballot***

Currently, protected by law, employers have the right to vote for or against unionization in a private-ballot election. Under the Card Check bill, if more than 50 percent of workers at a business sign a card, the government would have to certify the union, this would lead to the elimination of the private ballot election, even if workers want one.

- ***Government Intervention***

If a union becomes certified, the business and the union only have 120 days to reach a contract agreement. If they exceed 120 days, the government will step in and create a forced arbitration. Basically, a panel of government arbitrators who may not know the inner workings of the business can decide on the terms of a contract without the input of the company or its employees.

- ***Unfair Punishment of Businesses***

Lastly, if the Card Check bill is passed, businesses (not unions) could suffer from some harsh new penalties for violations during the union recognition process. This could be costly to small or medium sized businesses who may not know the proper procedures with unionizing campaigns set by the National Labor Relations Act.

To find out more about the effects of the Employee Free Choice Act, please visit www.pennsylvaniaprosperty.org and click on the Federal Issues tab.

A win-win opportunity for your business & Girl Scouts Western Pa.

"Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania is creating a world where every girl's voice is heard and honored with respect, her talents nurtured, her spirit supported and her beauty affirmed; a world where every girl has adults in her life who care and guide her in traveling her chosen path, and where every girl's story leads to fulfillment of her vision," according to Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania's (GSWPA) vision statement. Did you know that your business can help make this vision come true, while significantly reducing its state tax liability? By taking advantage of the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC), businesses can direct their tax dollars to local non-profit organizations that focus on education rather than sending tax dollars to the capital.



The EITC says that the Pennsylvania Public School Code will authorize tax credits for businesses that make contributions to educational improvement organizations or scholarship organizations. This means that businesses can reduce their tax liability if they support organizations like GSWPA. The tax credits are equal to 75 percent of its contribution, up to a maximum \$200,000 per taxable year, and can be increased to 90 percent if the business agrees to match the same amount two years in a row.

This program runs from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 and up to \$14.5 mill has been available for these type of improvement projects. The filing date is July 1 for first year applications and May 15 for renewal applications. GSWPA would love to help you fill out your application or extend to you further knowledge on this subject. Call them at 412.594.2212 to speak to someone who can help. Remember, Girl Scouts are the youth of this nation.

Clarion Hospital Presents "I Love Clarion"

Celebrate the Nation's independence with your community at the Clarion Hospital "I Love Clarion" event, sponsored in part by Pennsylvania American Water Company. The event will take place on Saturday July 3, 2010 at Clarion University's Memorial Stadium. Gates will open at Noon for Clarion Loves Talent and live music will begin at 7 p.m. Food and beverages will be available for purchase starting at Noon. This year The Wrangler Band will be performing top 40 country hits, 80's classics, and classic rock for your entertainment at 7 p.m. Be sure to stick around after the show as Cartwright Fireworks puts on an amazing display at dusk.

Raffle tickets are on sale now at the Chamber office and through our board members. Any members wishing to sell tickets should contact the Chamber office. Five lucky winners will be rewarded with cash prizes ranging from \$500 for first place to \$100 for fifth place. Raffle proceeds benefit the fireworks display.



Clarion Loves Talent

This year "Clarion Loves Talent" will take place immediately preceding the Clarion Hospital "I Love Clarion" event on Saturday July 3, 2010. The event will be held from noon. to 5 p.m. at Clarion University's Memorial Stadium. Anyone living, working, or attending school in Clarion County is eligible to submit a video of their talent and be considered as a finalist. Categories for performers include:

Future Stars: Ages 6 and under
Rising Stars: Ages 7 to 12
Teen Stars: Ages 13-18
Super Novas: Adults
Constellations: Group Acts

To register, submit a completed registration form along with the \$5 entry fee to the Chamber office by June 15. Include a family friendly digital copy of your act with submission. If a live audition is desired please contact the Chamber office. You may also submit your act electronically at events@clarionpa.com. For more information please visit www.clarionlovestalent.com.

Rules:

All performances/acts must be "Family Friendly." All contestants understand that the stage for the competition on July 3, 2010 will be limited in size (lowboy/flatbed size is 8'6" x 29') and equipment. Due to time constrictions, any act that has a set-up and strike time longer than 1 minute will not be accepted.

Prize Donors

The Bathtub & Kitchen Sink
The Carpet Barn

General Sponsors

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FL Crooks
S&T Bank

Trophy Sponsors

Clarion House Bed and Breakfast
Michelle's Cafe

Get to Know our Summer Interns

Deji Kayode

Deji is interning at the Chamber this summer. You may recognize him from his first event "Casino Night". Deji is a Clarion University senior majoring in accounting. He was born in Nigeria and moved to Clarion in 2001. When he is not helping with the Chamber, Deji enjoys spending time outdoors and reading books. Deji plans to graduate from Clarion next year and become an accountant.

Brian Klingensmith

Brian is our newest intern at the Chamber. He is a senior at Clarion University where he studies communications with a concentration in public relations. Brian was born and raised in Plum Borough, a suburb just outside of Pittsburgh. In addition to studying communications, Brian is the Public Relations Co-Chair for the University Activities Board at Clarion. Brian plans to graduate from Clarion in the spring of 2011 and hopes to enter an exciting branch of the public relations field.

Welcome New Members

The Clarion Area Chamber of Business and Commerce is proud to welcome our newest members.

Allen and Denny Pierce

Blair Hill Rustic Furniture:

4169 Route 36 Leeper PA, 16233

814-744-9913

briarhill@verizon.net

Tanya Tommasi

Picture This T's:

625 Main Street Clarion PA, 16214

814-227-8118

Picturethists.com

Sandra Howard

Independent Beauty Consultant:

814-226-4907

www.marykay.com/showard1231

Ginna Gemmill

Lavender Green Farm:

564 Little Germany Rd. Knox PA 16232

703-470-2074

www.lavendergreen.com



If you know anyone who may be interested in becoming a part of the Clarion Area Chamber of Business and Industry please contact Tracy Becker at 814-226-9161.

Join the member to member club and be rewarded

The Clarion Area Chamber of Business and Industry is attempting to try a new idea. We would like to include with our newsletter a coupon page that would offer Chamber members and the employees of those businesses the chance to save money, while helping to support fellow Chamber member's businesses.

For example, if you are a restaurant owner, you might want to submit a coupon valid for 10 percent off all purchases over 20 dollars. Meanwhile, the owner of a shoe store submits a coupon for buy one get one with any pair of shoes. These coupons are all compiled together to save you, a member of the Chamber, money on your personal ventures. Meanwhile, you are marketing your store to more people.

If you would like to submit a discount for The Clarion Area Chamber's discount list please call 814.226.9161. Together we can spark the region's economy by supporting each other as Chamber friends.

Thank You to our Renewing Chamber Members!

As of 6/2/10

Borough of Clarion

Clarion County A.B.A. T.E.

Clarion Trinity Development Co.

Destinta Theatres

Elder Signs Company

Fowler's Taffy

Kagome's Concessions

Kentucky Fried Chicken

Keystone Community Education Council

Smather's Real Estate, Inc.

M & B Services

Mazzocchi Realty

Molnar's Concessions

Natale's New York Style Pizza

Staples, Inc.

The Foxburg Inn

The Inne at Five Pointe

Veolia Waste Services

Wendy's

Upcoming Meetings & Events

June 8	Summer Orientation - CU	1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Carlson Library, Level A
June 9	Lavender Green Farm Tours **Call Aimee Myers Cotherman, 814.227.7480 to book your tour & for more information		
June 10	Penn DOT Meeting	10:30 a.m.	CACBI
June 10	Board of Directors Meeting	12 Noon	CACBI
June 10	Summer Orientation - CU	1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Carlson Library, Level A
June 10	Representative Donna Oberlander's	6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.	Clarion Memorial Park
June 12	Clarion County Farmers Market	8:30 a.m. to Noon	Courthouse Parking Lot
June 15	Chamber Day on Capitol Hill	8:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.	Harrisburg
June 15	Summer Orientation - CU	1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Carlson Library, Level A
June 16	Lavender Green Farm Tours **Call Aimee Myers Cotherman, 814.227.7480 to book your tour & for more information		
June 17	Summer Orientation - CU	1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Carlson Library, Level A
June 17	PA House Transportation Committee Hearing	2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Hart Chapel, CU
June 18	Juneteenth Celebration	11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Hart Chapel, CU
June 18	Ribbon Cutting Ceremony	2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Barnes Center
June 19	Clarion County Farmers Market	8:30 a.m. to Noon	Courthouse Parking Lot
June 22	Explore... Education, Job & Career Expo	11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Clarion Mall
June 22	Summer Orientation - CU	1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Carlson Library, Level A
June 23	Public Relations/Website/Media Committee Meeting	10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	CACBI
June 23	Lavender Green Farm Tours **Call Aimee Myers Cotherman, 814.227.7480 to book your tour & for more information		
June 24	Summer Orientation - CU	1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Carlson Library, Level A
June 24	Chamber Member Mixer ***Joint mixer with Clarion, Franklin & Oil City Chambers***	5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Deer Creek Winery
June 26	Clarion Forest VNA 2010 Golf Outing	8:00 a.m. to 2:00p.m.	Hi-Level Golf Course
June 26	Clarion County Farmers Market	8:30 a.m. to Noon	Courthouse Parking Lot
June 30	Lavender Green Farm Tours **Call Aimee Myers Cotherman, 814.227.7480 to book your tour & for more information		

Quotes of the Month

"Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing." - Mother Teresa

"Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." - Martin Luther King Jr.

"To give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift." - Steve Prefontaine

Order Your ALF 2010 Glasses

The time has come to order your Autumn Leaf Festival signature glasses and tumblers. This years ALF theme is "Celebration of Nature". The glasses will feature the logo seen to the right.



Your order form is enclosed within this mailing and should be returned to the Chamber by 6/25/2010. Glasses will arrive in early July.



Chamber Day on Capitol Hill...Tuesday, June 15

Chamber Day is a joint collaboration between the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business & Industry and the Pennsylvania Association of Chamber Professionals (PACP). This is an opportunity for local chambers to come to the Capitol for a day of networking with other chamber professionals and insightful meetings with key state lawmakers and legislative staff on issues of importance to job creators and Pennsylvania's local communities. Tracy Becker and John Stroup will have the opportunity to represent our community by participating in an open roundtable discussion with peers and participate in a Capitol news conference. One of the topics for the news conference is the closing of the Owens Plant.

Statewide Hearings on Transportation Funding Crisis

House Transportation Committee Chairman Joseph Markosek and Republican Chairman Rick Geist announced on May 11 that they have scheduled seven hearings to discuss the nearly \$3.5 billion a year the state needs to maintain Pennsylvania's existing highway, bridge and public transit systems, and to take input on ways to develop sustainable transportation funding.

"By holding these hearings across the state, we can explain what we need to bring our large and aging transportation infrastructure up to day," said Markosek, D-Allegheny/Westmoreland. "This is one of the most pressing problems in Pennsylvania and I hope to hear from people who have innovative ideas. As I have said, all options are on the table."

"As the Legislature faces the challenge of adequately funding the Commonwealth's transportation system now and into the future, these hearings will provide constructive public forums for illustrating the true magnitude and urgency of the problem and for discussing the merits of proposed solutions," said Geist, R-Blair.

The House Majority Policy Committee and House Republican Policy Committee will be participating in the hearings at the invitation of Markosek and Geist, who are seeking bipartisan solution.

A hearing will be held in Clarion on Thursday, June 17 at 2:00 p.m. Topic: Issues affecting the North West Region (PennDOT Districts 1 and 10). Location: Clarion University, Hart Chapel Auditorium, 850 Wood Street, Clarion.

EXPLORE! Education-Job-Career Expo

The Clarion County Explore, Education, Job & Career Expo will take place on Tuesday, June 22, 2010 from 11:00a.m. to 8:00p.m. at the Clarion Mall. In an effort to respond to the current economy as well as to continue to meet the needs of community members and employers, the Expo will run differently this year. Contrary to previous years there will be no fee to obtain a table at the event. Donations to help offset the cost of the event are greatly appreciated.

Participants are also being sought. Participation in this event is crucial and provides an opportunity to network and meet with area businesses, service providers, as well as potential employees and students. Electric supply, internet access, refreshments and a catered lunch will be provided for up to two representatives per business. All businesses present at the end of the event will have the opportunity to win a variety of door prizes and a grand prize. Space is limited, so please be sure to complete and return a reservation form before Friday, June 18, 2010.

Casino Night, Great Success

The Clarion Chamber of Business and Industry would like to personally thank everyone for their help and support for the Bi-Chamber Casino Night that took place on May 15, 2010. The night was a great success and over 150 enthusiastic "gamblers" enjoyed a spectacular night of gaming. We thank you for your continued support of the Clarion Area Chamber of Business and Industry, our events, and your fellow members.

Thank You to our Sponsors

B.J. Snyder, M.D. and Associates
Bill Kersey Auto Body
Brad Johnson Nationwide Agency
Chad Shaffer, M.D.
Clarion County Community Bank
Clarion Ford-Mercury Sales Inc.
Colony Factory Crafted Homes
Community First Bank
Donna Oberlander, State Rep.
First United National Bank
Francis J. Palo, Inc.
John Truscott Auto Sales

Loyal Order of Moose Lodge #366
Milliren-Hoak Insurance
M+S Meats
Northwest Savings Bank
Redbank Valley Subway
S&T Bank
Snug Harbour Restaurant
Straub Beer
Shirey Overhead Doors
Structural Modulars inc.
Tom's Riverside

The Chamber and its mission...

Your Chamber of Business & Industry is a voluntary partnership of business and professional people working together to build a healthy economy and to improve the Quality of Life in our community.

MEMBER TO MEMBER NEWS

The Clarion Chamber of Business & Industry is anxious to hear about the success of your business. We want to feature updates on our area businesses for members...about members! This FREE Member Benefit is an easy way to keep up with other local business success and to be recognized for your own accomplishments. Please feel free to send information to announce awards, promotions, personnel changes, new merchandise or other news. Email your updates of 50-250 words to info@clarionpa.com by the 30th of each month.

Clarion Forest VNA Gets a New Home

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on April 15, 2010 at the site for a new office building for the Clarion Forest Visiting Nurse Association (CFVNA) and construction is currently underway at 271 Perkins Road in Monroe Township, Clarion County. The CFVNA is a Medicare-certified, community based, non-profit organization which provides health care services to patients in their homes. The staff works with the patient's physician and tailors their services to meet the specific needs of each individual. The CFVNA has been meeting the home health care needs of the community for almost 40 years. Clarion County VNA was organized in 1971 through the efforts of the Clarion Community Action, Inc. and local citizens. In 1979, the service area was expanded to include Forest County, then becoming Clarion Forest VNA. The main office of CFVNA has been located at 305 Main Street in Knox since June 1988. An adjacent property was later acquired to which they moved their business department. This 2.3 million dollar project will provide 10,558 square feet of office space and will accommodate administration, a staff education area, the business department, clinical staff, the hospice department, a kitchen and conference room.

In case you hear the rumor, The Gateway Lodge is NOT Closing

The Gateway Lodge is doing well despite concerns and rumors that it is closing. The lodge recently closed for two weeks for renovations. The shutdown enabled the lodge to attend to cosmetic concerns and to expand the spa. Gateway Lodge re-opened on Mother's Day. With the new and improved spa, Gateway Lodge will now be offering Aveda products and services. They will be offering side-by-side massages, as well as individual services ranging from a variety of massage services to facials, manicures and pedicures. All services will be using the new Aveda products.

The Gateway Lodge offers specials throughout the year. Kick off summer with a Memorial Day getaway to the Gateway Lodge! Rest and relax in your Jacuzzi suite, soak up some sunshine while exploring the Forest, and delight in the restaurant's offering for the three days! Make your reservations today for their Father's Day special which will include a beer tasting dinner that includes foods that are meant to pair perfectly with brews.

Gateway Lodge also offers "Wine and Dine" seasonally. This event features a unique menu paired with wines from the Gateway Lodge's diverse list, which was awarded the Wine Spectator's "Award for Excellence" in 2009.

The lodge offers Jacuzzi suites, historic rooms and cabins since its opening in 1934. The Gateway Lodge

Northwest Savings Bank Ranks Highest . . .

NORTHWEST SAVINGS BANK RANKS HIGHEST IN CUSTOMER SATISFACTION IN MID-ATLANTIC REGION ACCORDING TO J.D. POWER AND ASSOCIATES

Northwest Savings Bank is ranked highest in customer satisfaction in the Mid-Atlantic Region according to the J.D. Power and Associates 2010 Retail Banking Customer Satisfaction Study. (SM)

The study, conducted in January, analyzes overall customer satisfaction with their retail banking experience based on six factors: account activities, account information, facility, fees, problem resolution, and product offering. Northwest received the highest customer satisfaction score in the Mid-Atlantic Region, which includes Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

“Earning this award for being highest ranked in our six-state region from J.D. Power and Associates is an honor and a solid demonstration of our employees’ commitment to the customers of our bank,” said Steven G. Fisher, Executive Vice President, Banking Services of Northwest Savings Bank. “This is a recognition that we value and that we set our sights on achieving several years ago. All aspects of our service delivery have been enhanced through a dedicated continuous improvement program designed to provide the highest level of customer satisfaction.”

William J. Wagner, President and CEO of Northwest Savings Bank, added, “Northwest Savings Bank has been serving its customers for over 113 years. We understand that customers have choices and we are honored to be able to provide them the very best financial products and services. We’re proud to have received their recognition in this study and to be their bank. We thank our employees for their hard work and dedication and our customers for their support.”

Mr. Wagner continued to say that the J.D. Power and Associates ranking tops twelve momentous months for the local bank. “The recognition is the culmination of a lot of great news for Northwest Savings Bank. In 2009, we were named one of America’s 100 Most Trustworthy Companies by Forbes Magazine. We sold \$688 million in stock to become a fully-public company, building our reserves and enabling us to expand our franchise. We saw record growth in deposits and we originated over \$1.8 billion in loans despite weak economic conditions. With the J.D. Power and Associates ranking, it demonstrates that we really are the bank where people make the difference.”

J.D. Power and Associates of Westlake, California has completed these studies and released these rankings for five years. Northwest Savings Bank believes that receiving top ranking in one of the nation’s geographical districts is one of the highest accolades a financial institution can receive. The rankings reflect the results of surveys conducted with nearly 48,000 banking customers nationally. Additional information about the study and its methodology may be found at

<http://www.jdpower.com/finance/articles/2010-Retail-Banking-Satisfaction-Study>

About Northwest Savings Bank

Headquartered in Warren, PA, Northwest Savings Bank is a full-service community bank that operates 171 offices in Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, Maryland, and Florida. With assets of \$8 billion, Northwest offers its customers a full range of personal and business banking services plus investment management services. The stock of its parent company, Northwest Bancshares, Inc., trades on the Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol “NWBI.” For more information about Northwest Savings Bank, please visit northwestsavingsbank.com.

About J.D. Power and Associates

Headquartered in Westlake Village, Calif., J.D. Power and Associates is a global marketing information services company operating in key business sectors including market research, forecasting, performance improvement, Web intelligence, and customer satisfaction. The company’s quality and satisfaction measurements are based on responses from millions of consumers annually. For more information on car reviews and ratings, car insurance, health insurance, cell phone ratings, and more, please visit JDPower.com. J.D. Power and Associates is a business unit of The McGraw-Hill Companies.

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Confirmed sponsors as of 6/2/10

Keep watching for additional sponsors in next month's newsletter.

Clarion Area Chamber of Business & Industry
21 North 6th Avenue
Clarion, PA 16214

**The Clarion Area Chamber encourages Chamber members
to do business with other Chamber members!**

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