



CLARION CHAMBER CHRONICLE

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Award winners named at Annual Dinner

2009 Citizen of the Year - Mrs. Betty McKisson



Betty focuses her attention on the health and well being of the citizens of Clarion. She puts an emphasis on the wholistic treatment of the body, mind, and spirit through several types of massage and health consultations. In an attempt to educate the public on this alternative way of helping people cope with disease and wellness, she instructs the Massage Therapy Program through Clarion University's Continuing Education Department. She provides complimentary cancer massage to outpatients at the Clarion Cancer Center, and sports massages to the Clarion University swim team. This past fall, she was awarded the 2009 Outstanding Community Equity Award given by the Clarion University Student Senate for dedication to the community. She has been involved in many organizations including the National Federation of Independent Business, Clarion Rotary, Clarion Area Chamber of Business & Industry, Clarion Hospital Ambassadors, National Sports Massage Team, National Wellness Association, the First Presbyterian Church of Clarion, and the list of memberships goes on and on. She is the owner of Wellness Health Options and a true asset to the people of Clarion.

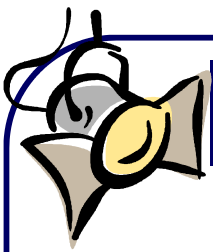
CONGRATULATIONS BETTY!

2009 Lifetime Achievement Award - Mr. Victor E. Ewy



Ewy is a man who has spent his entire career in the manufactured housing industry. He served as the General Manager of the Commodore facility from 1992 until his retirement in 2006. While in this position, he was instrumental in building and running the drywall finishing facility in 1995, which employed over 30 individuals at full capacity. A man full of ambition, he undertook the challenge of reopening the old Astro plant to produce entry level homes, and eventually converted it into a state coded modular plant in 2003. He has served on the Clarion Healthcare Systems, Inc. Board of Directors from 1994 – 2006, the Clarion Hospital Board of Directors from 1996 – 2006, and was the Chairman of both Boards of Directors from 1997 – 2006. During his time as Chairman of the Clarion Hospital Board of Directors, he was instrumental in the construction of the Cancer Center. He has long been a supporter and promoter of non profit organizations including the United Way, local schools, and his work on the capital fund drive team for the new VNA Building. He can regularly be seen passing the plate as an usher on Sunday mornings at the Grace Lutheran Church in Clarion, where he served two terms on their council as well. In September 2007, he was re-elected to the Clarion Healthcare Systems, Inc. and the Clarion Hospital Board of Directors and appointed secretary of the board this past September.

CONGRATULATIONS VIC!



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

Advanced Furniture Solutions Inc.

Advanced Furniture Solutions Inc., located in DuBois PA, are office furniture specialists. They were established in 2005 and will be celebrating their five year anniversary on Oct. 1, 2010. Advanced Furniture Solutions Inc. offers the latest software technology to help design your ideal space.

Their goal is to create work environments aesthetically pleasing while at the same time being extremely functional. Advanced Furniture Solutions Inc. offer a wide range of furniture manufacturers as well as complete design services. Unlike many other businesses, each client receives one-on-one attention throughout the entire process. At Advanced Furniture Solutions Inc, participation from the client is recommended to make sure that their needs are satisfied.

Their mission is "To maintain a consistently high level of professional care and responsibility in each project. We guarantee all of our work to be of the highest quality, as we know our clients would expect nothing less. Your project is our project."

If you have any questions contact Al Hewitt at 814-372-2222. You can also visit their website at <http://www.afs-dubois.com/index.html>.



Thank You to our Renewing Chamber Members!

As of 3/10/10

We would like to thank these following businesses for continuing their membership with the Clarion Chamber. We appreciate each and every one for your support and look forward to a very successful year!!

ADAGIO HEALTH
AMERICAN RED CROSS
BRAD JOHNSON AGENCY
BURNS & BURNS ASSOCIATES, INC.
BUTLER SLEEP DISORDER CENTER
C & A TREES UNLIMITED, INC.
CAR MATE TRAILERS, INC.
CHARITABLE DEEDS & SERVICES
CLARION ANIMAL HOSPITAL
CLARION ANTIQUE MALL
CLARION COUNTY YMCA
CLARION FRUIT COMPANY
CLARION INDUSTRIES - CLARION BOARDS INC
CLARION NEWS
CLARION UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION, INC.
CLARVIEW NURSING & REHABILITATION CTR.
COLONY HOMES
D COLE W, INC.
DELTA CONTRACTORS & DESIGN, INC
EAT'N PARK
GATESMAN AUTO BODY CARSTAR
HIGHLAND OAKS

IN HOME SOLUTIONS PLUS
J.J. KENNEDY, INC.
KIWANIS CLUB OF CLARION
KOOL 103.3 WPXZ - RENDA BROADCASTING INC.
KROH ROOFING
OWENS-ILLINOIS GLASS CONTAINERS NORTH AMERICA
PASSAGES, INC.
PENNSYLVANIA AMERICAN WATER COMPANY
QUAKER STEAK & LUBE
R. JAMES SMATHERS
SHERWIN-WILLIAMS CO.
SIMON'S CONCESSIONS
STRUCTURAL MODULARS INC.
SUZAN HAHNFELDT AGENCY
THE ARC OF CLARION COUNTY INC.
THE BATHTUB & THE KITCHEN SINK & PETEY DINKS
THE CLARION HOUSE BED & BREAKFAST
THE DERRICK
TOM'S SALES & SERVICE
WELLNESS HEALTH OPTIONS
WEST PENN ORTHOPAEDICS

\$35,000 NEW Energy Idea Contest

Are you an entrepreneur in the process of developing a new energy or alternative energy related product/process improvement? If so, this contest is for you! The Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program (PennTAP) and Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Central and Northern PA (BETP/CNP) announce their sponsorship of the "NEW Energy Idea Contest."

The grand prize of \$35,000 will be awarded to an entrepreneur or one early-state, pre-revenue company in the process of developing a new energy or alternative energy related product/process improvement. Interested entrepreneurs can visit <http://newenergyplan.benfranklin.org>.

To qualify, contestants must have a viable, new energy/alternative energy-related product or process improvement idea. Contestants cannot have received previous BFTP funding. To qualify, you must also be located in any one of the 32 counties in the Central and Northern Pennsylvania Region.

President/CEO Stephen Brawley of Ben Franklin stated, "Saving energy and alternative energy is on everyone's mind, improvements to existing technologies, new hardware or software products that increase efficiency, new battery or fuel cell applications, engine and turbine technologies, and agricultural based alternatives are all examples of the kinds of proposals we're hoping to get from this competition."

Ben Franklin Technology Partners, an initiative of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, provides emerging tech-based companies and small, existing manufacturers with operational assistance, entrepreneurial support, and investment capital for the purpose of creating and retaining jobs in Pennsylvania.



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 Bluegrass Festival

If you are a Bluegrass music lover, then you won't want to miss the Clarion Bluegrass Festival at the Clarion Holiday Inn. Come out and enjoy continuous Bluegrass music sponsored by the United Way of Clarion County. Admission to this event is free and open to all ages. Stop in the Holiday Inn on Friday, March 19 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday, March 20 from noon to 10 p.m., and Sunday, March 21 from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Don't miss out on some great music!

Electricity Deregulation Explained

There are 3 steps to getting power to your location. The three parts are generation, transmission, and distribution. Deregulation is governed by the PA Public Utilities Commission and allows the consumer to make a choice regarding their generation and transmission supplier for electricity. It is very easy to pay too much for electricity service, and at times it can be confusing. Give us a call and we can help you understand your bill and how you may be able to pay less. Contact Diana Keisel at Premier Power dkeisel@trustpps.com or 814-282-9241.

Sign-Up Today!

It's that time of year again! Shine your clubs and practice your swings because it's time for the annual Bi-Chamber Golf Outing! Delta Contractors & Design, Inc. Bi-Chamber Golf Outing is set for Friday, April 30, 2010 at the Clarion Oaks Golf Club. 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. Take a swing at a chance for a single membership at the Clarion Oaks Golf Club for the 2010 season and other great prizes!

29 teams of four will have the opportunity to compete for a variety of prizes! The cost is \$75 per person or \$300 for a team. The fee includes the greens fee, cart, lunch, steak dinner and a chance to win the grand prize raffle of a single membership at Clarion Oaks. The RRR Roadhouse of Clarion will be catering this event. Lunch will be served prior to tee off from 11 a.m. to noon. Also available are complimentary chair massages from 10 a.m. to noon courtesy of Sapphire Moon and Wellness Health Options.



The event's title sponsor is Delta Contractors & Design, Inc. The other major sponsors are Clarion County Community Bank, First United National Bank, Northwest Saving Bank and S&T Bank. Charles P. Leach Agency and Community First Bank are the beverage sponsors. PA American Water will provide bottled water. Sponsorships are still available for corporate, holes and golf carts.

For a registration packet or information on how to gain visibility for your business through this bi-chamber event, contact either the Clarion Area Chamber at 814.226.9161 or the Redbank Valley Chamber at 814.275.3929.

Independence Day Fireworks

The Clarion Area Chamber of Business & Industry and the Redbank Valley Chamber of Commerce are teaming up to bring you "Casino Night" on Saturday, May 15, 2010 at Gemmell Student Complex located on Clarion University Campus. Proceeds from "Casino Night" will benefit the Clarion and New Bethlehem Independence Day celebration fireworks displays that will take place in July.

It is a great night of entertainment, socializing and prizes. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. with games starting at 7:00 p.m. and concluding at 9:30 p.m. Door prizes follow the games. At 6:30 p.m. demonstrations will be held explaining the table games which will be taking place for anyone interested. There will be fun for everyone from Black Jack, Roulette, Craps, Texas Hold'Em, and Let It Ride to Plinko. There will also be video horse races. Players will have the opportunity to bet on the horses and win tickets for prizes.

Obviously to put any great event together requires help from everyone. We are asking for sponsors to help defray the cost of the event and support your community's fireworks. Sponsorship costs are minimal and with our attendance, your business will have the opportunity to be seen by individuals from not only Clarion and New Bethlehem, but the surrounding areas as well. Promote your business and help out with a good cause all in one fun filled night. Let us work together to put smiles on all the children's faces come July!

The advertising options are: \$100 Table Sponsorship; \$100 Food Sponsorships; and \$100 Beverage Sponsorships; Donate an item for the door prizes. Tickets will be \$35 per person and only 300 tickets will be sold. **NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR.**

Tickets can be purchased at the Clarion Area Chamber of Business & Industry, Redbank Valley Chamber of Commerce, Clarion County Community Bank (Clarion, New Bethlehem & Rimersburg), Shirey Overhead Doors, Charles P. Leach Agency, Leader-Vindicator and the Subway Restaurants in New Bethlehem & Walmart.

Thank you in advance for supporting your chambers and community. It is greatly appreciated. We look forward to a great evening benefitting a great cause. Hope to see you there!

Helpful Tax Filing Reminders

When it comes to tax season, businesses should be aware of some important changes to the tax law and extensions for 2009.

The 50% bonus first-year depreciation deduction rate is extended for the 2009 tax year. To qualify for this deduction, you must have qualified property or equipment purchase placed into service before January 1, 2010.

The \$250,000 deduction for depreciable assets such as manufacturing equipment, office computers, and furniture is also extended for the 2009 tax year.

Businesses can now carry back a net operating loss from 2009 to the previous 3-5 years, instead of the usual two years.



75% of capital gains earned from investments in small businesses in 2009 or 2010 can be excluded from taxation if the investment is held for five years.

All state sales taxes paid on any new vehicles purchased between February 16, 2009 and January 1, 2010 are fully tax deductible on the first \$49,500.

More changes to the tax law include tax credits worth up to \$2,400 for every hired worker. These are awarded to businesses that hire certain unemployed veterans and those under 25 who've been out of school for six months or more.

The last change with the tax law is COBRA premium assistance credit. If you have unfortunately had to lay off workers in 2009 who are now paying into the COBRA program to continue their health care coverage, your business could be in line to receive a rebate from the federal government for 65% of the premium cost not being paid by the individual. The reimbursements however are only available for nine months.

Address Notification

It was brought to our attention that GPS systems do not recognize the address for Clarion Antique Mall. If you are planning on visiting the antique mall and are using a GPS, check to see if they match what directions online say. If the GPS does not match online directions, change 10403 RT 322 to 10403 US 322. GPS devices do not recognize RT 322. As mentioned it is best to look up directions online.



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.

2009 Douglas L. Sharrar Volunteer of the Year - Pennsylvania Gun Owners



This winner has been an asset to the Clarion Area Chamber of Business & Industry as well as numerous other businesses in Clarion throughout 2009. They were major supporters of the Foodstock committee during Autumn Leaf Festival by distributing flyers, dropping off, monitoring, and picking up food collection barrels around Clarion County, and providing all the staffing for the food collection location at the Clarion Mall every day during the festival. Then, when it came time for the Christmas Parade and Party, they provided two entries to help make the parade a success. They provide services to not only the Chamber, but to local charities including youth sports, the Salvation Army, and Charitable Deeds & Services. They are an organization with 1,800 members, which aims to educate the public about a variety of topics including, but not limited to, the Constitution of The United States of America and the 2nd Amendment, gun ownership, and gun laws. Outside of Clarion, they operate the muzzleloader demonstration at the Pennsylvania Game Commission Youth Field Day Program at Camp Coffman.

2009 Business of the Year - Community Service Division - Charitable Deeds & Services



Since 2002, they have served as a community resource for people who have nowhere else to turn. Whether due to illness, accident, natural disaster, or simply hard times, the volunteers who make up this organization work to install a sense of faith, hope, and charity in the community. They raise money through private donations, local business donations, and fundraising events including dinners, cash donations, and raffles. In turn, they supply the needy with free clothes, furniture, appliances, food, and other necessities such as rent, utilities, and medical costs. Members represent community action by serving on local community committees and teams such as Autumn Leaf Festival, Foodstock, Second Harvest, Human Services Council, and the Clarion County United Way Day of Caring event.

2009 Business of the Year- Economic Development Division - Clarion County Community Bank

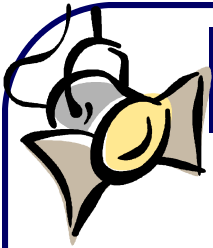


This area business has proved their philosophy of providing hometown community banking service directly to our local hometown communities. This financial institution was started by local individuals with the mission of providing customers with the same services that large banks offer, and still receiving the personal touch only a small bank can give. It has grown since 2004 from a main office in Clarion to having two satellite offices in New Bethlehem and Rimersburg. This expansion has helped with the development of business and employment in Clarion County, and has increased their own employment to 29 people. Their board of directors is made up entirely of local business people, which shows that they are interested in not only their own, but the entire county's continued growth. They attribute the continued improvement in their earnings to their conservative nature.

2009 Business Education Partnership Award - Golden Living Center (Shippenville)

This is the site for both the Clarion County Career Center's Practical Nursing Program and for Clarion County Career Center students working to receive their certified nursing assistant certification. This business trained three students for their nursing assistant certification for the 2008 school year, eight students for the 2009 school year, and will be training 18 students for the 2010 school year. In the last three years, Golden Living has employed five cooperative education Certified Nursing Assistant seniors from the Clarion County Career Center's Allied Health Science Program. Additionally, this business is the clinical training site for Clarion University Speech Pathology students, Slippery Rock University and Clarion University Certified Therapeutic Recreational students, and provides job shadowing for local high school students interested in pursuing a career in the healthcare field.

CONGRATULATION TO THE WINNERS!



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

The A-maze-ing Farm Adventure

The A-maze-ing Farm Adventure is located in Lucinda, PA and has been in business for four years. They offer a 13 acre maze that changes every year, a haunted attraction, gift shop, agricultural education center, and family activities.

The A-maze-ing Farm Adventure welcomes groups to come out and visit. A trip will make the perfect field trip for students and scout groups. There is a lot of room for a picnic or you can buy food at "The Barking Pig Café." They also offer corn maze badges to scout groups that complete the maze.

Their mission is "to provide a fun, wholesome family activity, and to educate the public about agriculture and its importance to our economy and our everyday life.

On Oct 2nd, they will be holding Scarefest/Scare Away Hunger. Other events will be planned soon.



If you have any questions contact Susie Griebel at 814-226-6609 or visit them at www.amazinglucinda.com.

Veolia Environmental Services Solid Waste of PA



Veolia Environmental Services Solid Waste of PA has been in business for over 150 years. They have many locations throughout the state including DuBois, PA. There are four divisions of Veolia Environmental Services North America and they are solid waste, technical solutions, industrial and waste-to-energy services. Veolia employs over 300,000 employees worldwide.

Veolia Environmental Services Solid Waste of PA offers solid waste collection, transfer, recycling, bio hazardous waste collection, and landfill operations. They offer solid waste collection, recycling, yard waste, and bulk collections for residences and solid waste evaluations, solid waste collection, recycling, special waste disposal, lamp recycling, liquid solidification, bio-remediation, and in plant services for commercial businesses. They also offer services for construction services including construction, demolition collection and disposal, special waste disposal, portable toilets, transfer stations, and landfill operations.

Their mission is "Safety first...Service Always." They offer senior citizen discounts and discounted trash service.

If you have any questions contact Kim Schrum at 814-265-1975 or You can also visit them at veolias-sw.com.

Each month in the Chamber Chronicle, we are highlighting our Chamber member businesses. If you have not filled out the Business Spotlight form, you can still do so. Business spotlights will be featured on a first come first serve basis.

2010 SPONSORS

Platinum Sponsor

The Farmers National Bank

Diamond Sponsor

Clarion Hospital
Clarion University

Gold Sponsor

The Commodore Corporation

Bronze Sponsor

Pennsylvania American Water
S & T Bank

Topaz Sponsor

Golden Living Centers
Kriebel Wells
Wolfs Camping Resort

Sapphire Sponsor

Clarion County Community Bank
First United National Bank
Holiday Inn of Clarion

Pearl Sponsor

Clarion Family Practice Center - UPMC
Northwest Savings Bank

Opal Sponsor

Central Electric Cooperative, Inc
DMS Printing

Confirmed sponsors as of 3/09/10

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

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

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