



# CLARION CHAMBER CHRONICLE

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MARCH 2011

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## Rick Tote named Citizen of the Year



Rick Tote was named the 2010 Citizen of the Year on Saturday, March 5 during the Clarion Area Chamber's Annual Award Dinner. The award was presented by Betty McKisson, the 2009 Citizen of the Year.

Rick has played a leadership role in many organizations throughout Clarion County. He has been involved with Immaculate Conception Church serving as a school board member for eight years, as athletic director for four years, was an integral advocate of the school's playground, and is currently a school board advisory board member and a Eucharistic minister for the church.

Rick continues to be a strong advocate of the Clarion-Limestone School District. He served nine years as a Clarion-Limestone booster member and treasurer and he spearheaded construction of the press box. He was instrumental in the construction of the C-L Sports Complex and spends countless hours working the concession stand and ticket booths.

Our award recipient has been an active member of the Knights of Columbus since 1998, where he was elected District Deputy in 2007. His involvement with the Knights includes but is not limited to working the ALF sausage stand, free throw, COAL chair, Knights Mass chair, pirates chair, football sweeps chair and Steelers raffle chair.

He currently serves on the board of directors and is past President of the Clarion Rotary. Rick has been very instrumental in the bi-annual multi-phasic blood screening and exchange student program. His latest role was Chairperson of the 31st Annual Clarion Rotary Auction .

Rick also became a member of the Fraternal Order of the Eagles in 2008.

## Congratulations Rick on being named the 2010 Citizen of the Year!

## 2010 Lifetime Achievement Recipient

The recipient of the 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award, the late Judge Charles Alexander, goes to a man who truly served his family, friends and community in countless capacities. Every human interaction and every event was a story. He lived a life of brilliant episodes, each with its own importance, its own significance and took a personal interest in people who came before him. Many contributions will have long lasting positive effects for the citizens of Clarion County.

Judge Charles Alexander began his legal career in 1957 in private practice with H. Ray Pope and for the next 31 years practiced law, seemingly specializing in most every niche in the legal field.

Judge Alexander established our Central Court system to process criminal cases efficiently and the Education Program for Divorcing Parents to help parents facing difficult custody issues. He took great care to apply the law as it was intended to be applied and to explain his rulings in common sense terms. He communicated effectively to the public about legal matters and promoted confidence in our judicial system.

In 1988, he was appointed President Judge of Clarion County by the late Pennsylvania Governor Robert P. Casey and was elected to this position for a ten-year term in 1989. He retired as county judge in 1998 and began his career as Pennsylvania Senior Judge which he held until July 2007.

He then formed a second law partnership then returned to the bench in the Spring of 2009 as Senior Judge. Our recipient was a great giving man and husband, a wonderful father and a loyal friend to many. He was honest, very hard working and dedicated to all his endeavors. Even though this award was given posthumous, the Chamber was proud to recognize such an outstanding individual who gave himself to his family, friends and community.

This award has only been given out to eight other individuals. They are Vic Ewy, Dr. David & Dixie Humphrey, Robert Kaufman, Orville Lerch, Richard Kooman II, Representative Fred McIlhattan, and Congressman Peterson.



## Volunteer of the Year - Bird Sommerville



Bird Leroy Sommerville was named the 2010 "Douglas L. Sharrar Volunteer of the Year".

He has been an huge asset to the Clarion Area Chamber of Business & Industry as well as numerous other businesses in Clarion throughout 2010.

Our "Volunteer of the Year" is a long standing volunteer for the Arc of Clarion where he serves as the "Membership Coordinator" tracking attendance and membership renewals. He also volunteers for the American Cancer Society and is a member of the Senior Corps-RSVP.

Bird graciously volunteers weekly at the Chamber office. The Chamber staff looks forward to his arrival each and every week and on a side note, he actually adjusts his schedule to volunteer additional hours at the Chamber as needed.

With deep gratitude, the chamber staff was proud to honor Bird Sommerville as the 2010 Douglas L. Sharrar Volunteer of the Year.

# *Northwest Savings Bank awarded the 2010 Business of the Year in the Economic Development Division*



Northwest Savings Bank enjoyed a banner year in 2010. Among its accomplishments was being ranked highest in customer satisfaction in the Mid-Atlantic Region according to the JD Power & Associates 2010 Retail Banking Customer Satisfaction Study. Another was having Forbes rank it twenty-third best in its list of 'best and worst' of the hundred largest banks in America.

Last year saw the bank perform well financially. Northwest saw tremendous loan growth—mortgage, consumer and business loans—during 2010, a time when many banks saw little or no lending activity, and, despite the economic environment, Northwest Savings Bank's loan delinquency and loan losses were far below industry averages. Led by its banner Switch Checking Accounts, the local bank saw deposit levels leap upward. Northwest's Trust and Investment Management Division experienced notable success last year, with assets under management increasing by over ten per cent. Profitability continued as well, and the bank remains well capitalized thanks to its second-step stock sale, which brought in over \$688 million in cash.

Most important, Northwest served its customers and communities. Northwest is the place "Where People Make the Difference." The people involved are not only the bank's employees, who pledge themselves to customer service, but also the bank's customers, who make the company's success possible, and the bank's neighbors...the people who share Northwest's home communities here in Clarion County, in Clarion, New Bethlehem, Rimersburg, and Sligo.

***Congratulations to Northwest Savings Bank as the  
2010 Business of the Year in the Economic Development Division.***

## *Presenting the Theme & Logo for ALF 2011*

This year we had 165 theme submissions for consideration. The 2011 theme - "**An Autumn To Remember**" was submitted by Aislinn Slaugenhaupt, a home school student from Summerville.

The logo contest was held and we received over 100 entries. The winning logo (to the right) was designed by Brittany Hendricks, a student at North Clarion High School.

Both young ladies will receive a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond, ALF merchandise and participate in ALF activities.

Our theme and logo contests are open to anyone who lives, works, or attends school in Clarion County with the winners being selected by the Chamber Board of Directors.



## *United Way named 2010 Business of the Year in the Community Service Division*

This business is always helpful and always available. They implement their programs with grace, encouragement and knowledge.

United Way cooperates with school districts, churches, corporations, businesses, professional and individuals to find solutions to the problems and needs facing Clarion County.

They brought attention to the local Cancer Center at Clarion Hospital which facilitated a dramatic increase in donations to the Cancer Center and assists cancer patients with special needs such as purchasing of wigs.

In 2010, the United Way helped 24 students or families with the Family Savings Account program that helps local citizens, through a grant, save for post-secondary education, housing or a business with a dollar for dollar match up to \$2000. It also offers supporting financial literacy programming for families. They helped 31 families in need with utility and/or rent/mortgage assistance and helped 6 handicapped individuals with ramps for their homes. Also in 2010, United Way was the first in the state to conduct a Community Resource Luncheon for the unemployed.

Our award recipient initiated and planned the Bluegrass Festival which brought over 1000 people into our community in March of 2010. This resulted in an increase of business for hotels, restaurants and retailers.

Another milestone was reaching their fund raising goal in 2010. In fact, United Way has made their goal for the past 13 years. The money raised in Clarion County stays in Clarion County.



***Congratulations United Way for being named  
2010 Business of the Year - Community Service Division award.***

## *Business Education Partner Winner*

Clarview Nursing & Rehabilitation Center was awarded 2010 Business Education Partner during the Chamber's Annual Award Dinner held recently.

They are dedicated to providing quality educational experiences to assist community members with the opportunity to better their education and employment opportunities which has led to higher incomes within their households for the past 31 years, and they plan to continue to reach out for many years to come.

Clarview maintains a partnership with the Clarion County Career Center to provide a clinical rotation to the students in the Practical Nursing course where they work with the residents; learn charting and medical records, hands-on care, procedures and care. Our business education partnership award winner provides opportunities to individuals requiring clinical rotations and job shadowing for various disciplines and degrees including Clarion University's Master level speech therapy program. They have participated in the Clarion County Junior Achievement program since the 2006-2007 school year through serving on the board of director and just recently completed teaching their fifth course.

***Congratulations to Clarview Nursing & Rehabilitation Center for being named  
2010 Business Education Partnership Award***

# Upcoming Chamber Events

## Golf Outing - Friday, April 29, 2011



The Clarion Chamber's Annual Delta Contractors & Design, Inc. Chamber Golf Outing is set for Friday, April 29, 2011 at Hi-Level Golf Course.

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. A *(green flyer)* is included in this mailing so that you can register your team today! This includes the greens fee, cart, lunch, steak dinner and a chance to win the grand prize raffle of a single membership at Hi-Level Golf Course. 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 Healing Arts Center 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. Community First Bank is the beverage sponsor. 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 chamber event, contact the Clarion Area Chamber at 814.226.9161 or [events@clarionpa.com](mailto:events@clarionpa.com)

## Clarion Wine Walk - Friday, May 20, 2011

The Clarion Wine Walk committee is currently working on securing 8 regional wineries to participate in the First Clarion Wine Walk. This fundraising event will be held on Friday, May 20, 2011 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Wine tastings will be held at various Chamber member businesses located in the downtown area. The cost is \$15.00 per person.



Contact the Chamber office today to reserve your space. A limit of 300 guests will be accepted. All proceeds from this event benefit the July 3 Women's Healthcare of Clarion "I Love Clarion" at Clarion University Memorial Stadium.

## Breakfast with the Candidates

The Chamber's Spring "Breakfast with the Candidates" will be held on Friday, April 15, 2011 at the Holiday Inn. Candidates for District Attorney, Clarion County Commissioner, Clarion County Auditor and District Magisterial 18-09 will be invited to attend. The breakfast is from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and the cost is \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. More information is included in this newsletter. (Blue Tri-Fold).

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](mailto:info@clarionpa.com) by the 30th of each month.

### Dede inducted into alma mater's College of Education Hall of Fame



Clarion Area Chamber Board member, Dr. Brenda Sanders Dede was inducted to the Texas Southern University College of Education Hall of Fame during a November gala. Dede, an alumna of TSU, Houston, is associate vice president for academic and student affairs at Clarion University.

Dr. Lillian Poats, associate dean of the graduate school and professor in the department of educational administration and foundations at TSU, one of Dede's former professors, nominated her.

"Her work in the field of higher education has been exemplary, holding leadership positions in the Pennsylvania Black Conference on Higher Education and the American Association of Blacks in Higher Education," Poats said. "As a graduate of Texas Southern University, she has represented the university well in the national arena. I felt that she represented the kind of graduate that we can be proud of."

Dede holds three degrees from TSU: Bachelor of Arts in sociology/social work; Master of Education in business education; and Doctor of Education in higher education administration.

"The professors at Texas Southern gave me a solid foundation on which to build and trained and prepared me to progress in the career that I chose," Dede said. "Many times their comments and classroom discussions come back. It's still relevant; the training is still very good. I still hold that very close to me and use it."

Dede grew up in Houston's 5th Ward, which, she said, "is the pits." She grew up poor, but she wasn't aware of how poor the family was until she was grown. "I was born black in 1948, one of six kids. I never should have thought about going to college," Dede said. "At the high school I went to, some of us are successful, but more of us are not. I'm definitely an exception, especially having a doctorate degree." "My impetus for getting my Ph.D. was so that when I got a new supervisor, or if there were changes in the administration where I was working, I had some say-so in what was happening to me," she said. "I had been misplaced and displaced several times during administrative turnovers. If I got advanced degrees, I could say, 'Here's what I know. Here's what I can do, and I'd rather be assigned to XYZ than ABC.'"

Dede worked at TSU for 25 years. She served in various capacities, including as associate director of the Office of Sponsored Programs her last seven years there. "I felt like I had done everything I could do (at TSU), so I put out the feelers and ended up at Clarion," Dede said. She answered an ad in the Chronicle of Higher Education for director of faculty research development at Clarion. "It was an entry-level job that was developing. No one had ever served in that position at Clarion before," Dede said. "I had to establish an office and set up rules and regulations, guidelines and standards for that office. There were no processes in place for grants, and I was given the leeway to do what I needed to do."

Her rewards then and now are working cooperatively with faculty and staff at Clarion University. Additionally, Dede appreciates the opportunities for advancement in academic administration.

"I moved from director of a single program to now being associate vice president for academic and student affairs. That's a great progression for me." "I never expected I would be in the upper administration at a university such as Clarion," Dede said. "I think my degree prepared me very well for academic administration at any major university in the United States, or maybe even in the world."

*(continued)*

## *Dede continued*

Dede hasn't forgotten the Houston ghetto where she grew up. Before coming to Clarion she did motivational speaking in the schools and churches in her old neighborhood. "I let them know that just because this is the station in life where you start out, this isn't where you have to end up."

She has accomplished much professionally, but she considers her greatest accomplishment to be motivating her grandson to go to college. He's an education major, and he plans to return to the Houston 5th Ward elementary school that he attended to teach and mentor the students there.

Dede's mother, sister and daughter, also a TSU alumna, attended the Hall of Fame Gala on her behalf.

## *New Chamber Website is now ONLINE!!*

The Chamber launched their new website on Tuesday, March 15. The site provides current information, is better organized and easy to use. You will be able to find Chamber members quicker and more efficiently. We have a better member classification, it is easier to link to member websites and there is an area provided for business descriptions.

You need to check out the calendar areas! They are color coded for Chamber Events, Member Events and Community Events. Our sponsors will have more recognition throughout the website and we have a "mini-calendar" on most pages to allow visitors to quickly find what is going on in Clarion County.

Take a few moments and check us out at [www.clarionpa.com](http://www.clarionpa.com). Any feedback would be greatly appreciated.

## *Welcome New Members . . .*

*The Clarion Area Chamber of Business & Industry is proud to announce our newest members.*

### **Berteotti Insurance & Financial Services**

Ginny Berteotti  
21119 Paint Boulevard  
Shippenville, PA 16254  
(T): 814-226-4522  
*Financial Services*  
*Insurance*  
*Investments*



### **Maurices**

Deanna Porco  
22631 Route 68, Suite 130  
Clarion, PA 16214  
(T): not available yet  
*Clothing Stores*  
*Retailer*  
*Women's Fashion*

### **The Duct Cleaning Specialist**

John McCall  
12412 Route 66  
Clarion, PA 16214  
(T): 814-764-3644  
*Duct Cleaning*  
*HVAC*  
*Mold Testing*

### **Tim Moore Building Services**

Timothy Moore  
888 Marble Strobleton Road  
Lucinda, PA 16235  
(T): 814-229-1087  
*Carpentry*  
*Contractor*

The Clarion Area Chamber of Business & Industry  
Encourages Chamber members to do business with other Chamber members

# 2011 SPONSORS

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The Farmers National Bank

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Clarion University

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Wolfs Camping Resort

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

## EMERALD SPONSOR

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Northwest Savings Bank

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Riverhill Battery Warehouse

**Confirmed sponsors as of 3/14/11**

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

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

Chamber Golf Outing  
April 29 at Hi-Level Golf Course

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