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IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER**

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF THESE WONDERFUL SPONSORS.
WE ASK THAT YOU PLEASE SUPPORT THEM AS THEY CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY.**



Clarion Area Chamber of Business & Industry
650 Main Street
Clarion, PA 16214
(814) 226-9161

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Please support all local businesses!

Clarion Chamber Newsletter



Volume 15 Issue 6

July 2018

Upcoming Events & Holidays

June 28

Clarion Area Young Professionals Social Mixer
from 5pm to 7pm

June 29

Clarion University Orientation Fair from 8:30am to 10:00am in Gemmell Student Complex

July 3

Clarion Hospital "I Love Clarion" Celebration
Clarion University Stadium, gates open at 5pm, Fireworks at dusk

July 4

Independence Day
(Office will be closed)

July 10

Finance Committee Meeting
9am at the Chamber office

July 12

Board of Directors Meeting
8am at the Chamber office

July 18

Clarion Area Young Professionals (CAYP) Meeting, 5:30pm at the Chamber office

July 19

Palo, CNG will host a 5 year Anniversary from 11am to 3pm at their location off of I-80, Exit 64



GAMES, GREAT FOOD, LIVE MUSIC & FIREWORKS

The Clarion Hospital "I Love Clarion" Celebration will be held on Tuesday, July 3, 2018 at the Clarion University Memorial Stadium. This annual event is a great way to celebrate our nation's independence with your friends, family and community!

Gates open at 5pm. Local country singer Coston Cross will kick things off from 5pm to 7pm.

Also beginning at 5pm, there will be local businesses and vendors selling food and refreshments. Food items include Walking Tacos, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Cheeseburgers, Gyros, Kettle Korn, Frozen Custard and Pepsi Products.

From 7pm to dusk, live music will be provided by the Wrangler Band.

The evening will conclude with a fantastic fireworks display at dusk by Chamber member, Pyrotecnico of New Castle, PA.

If you are interested in volunteering at this year's event, please contact the Chamber at 814-226-9161.

The Clarion Area Chamber of Business & Industry Board of Directors and the Clarion Hospital "I Love Clarion" Celebration committee extend a very special thank you to our sponsors:

Clarion Hospital, Title Sponsor
Pennsylvania American Water Company, Participating/Supporting Sponsor
Clarion University, Major Sponsor
The Fraternal Order of Eagle #2807, Contributing Sponsor

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.

IT’S VTDC’S 45TH ANNIVERSARY!!!!

It’s **VTDC’s “45th Anniversary”!** It all started over forty-five years ago, when a small group of families from Venango County came together to create a day program that would provide their children with disabilities meaningful activities, where they could learn different skills. In 1968, the operation known as “Venango Diagnostics Center” was moved to Rouseville School. This was where individuals with disabilities had the first opportunity to work on subcontract work and earn a pay check, while in vocational training. From there, on January 23, 1973, the Venango Training & Development Center, Inc. (VTDC) was incorporated as a 501 C 3 non-profit and 22 trainees were provided with programs that taught them daily living skills at a small facility in Rocky Grove. In 1980, serving 60 individuals, VTDC moved to our current location at 239 Quaker Drive, in Seneca and as they say **“the rest is history”**.

Since that time VTDC has increased not only the types of programs available to persons with disabilities, but has expanded to include providing services to the disadvantaged population as well, expanding our “foot print” throughout seven counties in northwest Pennsylvania. Those counties include Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Forest, Jefferson, Venango and Warren Counties. Boasting programs of excellence over the years, VTDC has been fortunate to be nominated and awarded the “Outstanding Rehabilitation Agency Award” by the Pennsylvania Association of Rehabilitation Agencies four times since 1993 and received the first “Partner of the Year” award from the NW PA Workforce Investment Board in 2008. Today, through a dedicated 14 member Board of Directors and over 112 professional hourly staff, VTDC is serving thousands of disabled and disadvantaged individuals through Production Centers, Adult Training Facilities, Home & Community Habilitation Programs, Supported Employment Programs, Mental Health Fairweather Lodge and Training Lodge Programs, Workforce Investment Act Title I Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth Programs and a Mental Health Drop In Center. VTDC has also created a network of over 200 community partners throughout the region. With the support of federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program funds, those partners are working together to support programs and services that help youth become the trained pipeline our employers need.

Over the years, VTDC has also become a premier **“Contract Packager”** and **“Commercial Janitorial and Lawn Care Service”** throughout our region. Through these business services, VTDC provides employment for both the individuals in their pre-vocational training programs and the community at large. Working with over 100 businesses, through subcontract work and placing people in employment, VTDC works hard to promote economic development and progress in our communities.

To insure customer satisfaction and quality, VTDC developed and implemented a detailed **“Quality Management Strategy”** for our Office of Developmental Community Participation Services, Mental Health Services and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Employment and Pre-Employment Transitional Services. Through this strategy we collect performance data through customer and staff surveys, internal and state tracking tools and state and county license and monitoring visits. This information is utilized to help both the Board of Directors and staff to focus our energies towards continual improvement of our programs and operations.

Over the years VTDC has seen growth, met the ever changing challenges and continues to persevere to meet the training requirements of those we serve. Through all of our programs, VTDC creates both employment and community integrated programs that help people to reach their highest potential. VTDC is committed to develop employment opportunities. We still believe that **“if the individuals we serve have a will to work, we will find a way for them to work.”** The Board and staff of VTDC are doing just that and look forward to ongoing success in the upcoming years.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

CHICKEN COOP STUDIO 306

Sandra Jackson
P.O. Box 153
Emlenton, PA 16373
724-996-3989
www.chickencoopstudio306.org
Art Education
Art Studio
Childrens Art
Non-Profit Art & Education Center

LIFE - NORTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Jay Breneman
108 E. Pinnacle Drive
Clarion, PA 16214
844-456-5433
www.lifenwpa.org
Elderly
Health Care
Non-Profit
Seniors

YE OLE REFINISHING SHOP

Rodney Moon
338 Grant Street
Franklin, PA 16323
814-493-3456
www.franklinrefinishingshop.com
Custom Bunkbeds
Furniture Refinishing
Furniture Repairs

YOU ARE INVITED

Join CLIC - Clarion Leadership & Innovation Connection (Clarion Area Young Professionals) on Thursday, **June 28** at the Captain Loomis beginning at 5pm.

You will have the opportunity to connect with other area young professionals in the Clarion Area. All young professionals are invited, so invite your friends and colleagues and we will see you at the Captain Looms on Thursday, June 28.

For more information, please contact the Chamber office at 814-226-9161 today.



STAFF

Tracy J. Becker, IOM, CFEE
Executive Director

Tammy LaCross
Event Coordinator

Regina Himes
Administrative Assistant

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jennifer Keth, *President*
Sapphire Moon

Karl Tarango, *Vice President*
Commodore Homes

Joslyn Dechant, *Treasurer*
Northwest Bank

Lisa Esser-Laugand, *Secretary*
S & T Bank

Melissa Blose
Park Inn by Radisson

Amy Campbell
Motel 6 and Studio 6

First Sgt. Dustin D. Denney
U.S. Army Recruiting-Clarion

Trina Hess
Hi-Level Golf Course

Bob Larson
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Jim McConnell
Edward Jones

Jill Martin-Rend
BC3@ Brockway

Tricia Pezzuti
Primary Health Network

Ben Pfeufer
Walmart

Carol Porter
H & R Block

Kim Titley
Wolf’s Camping Resort

Colette Vickers
Clarion Forest VNA



MEMBER TO MEMBER NEWS - SCHNEIDER'S DAIRY

SCHNEIDER'S STEPS UP FOR VENANGO AND CLARION COUNTIES

As of April 1, 2018, Schneider's Dairy has taken on four local dairy farms as suppliers, who recently received contract termination letters from Dean Foods. Schneider's was seen as one of the first respondents to these farmers, in the Venango and Clarion area, in their time of need.

"Welcoming new farmers, is important to us. We want to help the small family farms because we are a small family owned company. We are excited to take on these new farms and welcome them into our family," said Cory Rex, Schneider's Seneca Branch Manager.

Established in 1935, Schneider's Dairy has always been a family owned and operated business. "As a company, we have had our own hard times," said Bill Schneder, President of Schneider's Dairy. "We know what it feels like. By sticking together with PA Preferred and working with our farmers, and the state; we are thriving."

Schneider's was the first dairy in PA to become PA Preferred. The company helped to develop the program with the Department of Agriculture. As a PA Preferred dairy, Schneider's sources their milk strictly from PA farmers. "Bottom line is we need to keep the business in PA," said Schneider. "We need to help the employees and the farmers. By purchasing local products, you can help save your neighbor's job, support local families, and support the local economy."

"It is very important that our customers know what their purchase and support means to us," Rex said. "The farms won't thrive solely due to Schneider's generosity, which is why we need the support of our PA neighbors and friends to give the milk a home." Customers who are looking to find Schneider's products can connect with their Facebook page, Schneider's Dairy, or their website, www.schnediersdairypgh.com. However, customers can always ask their local stores for Schneider's products.



MEMBER TO MEMBER NEWS - WE NEED YOU!!!!

For the 65th Annual Autumn Leaf Festival sponsored by the U.S. Army, the theme is "ALF: A Timeless" tradition. For the Clarion Hospital "Tournament of Leaves" Parade, that means floats. We think back to our childhood and even young adulthood and remember seeing many beautifully pumped and extravagantly decorated floats in the parade. Some of these were designed by community groups. Many of them were designed and built by college students and recognized student organizations, not only by fraternities and sororities but by other university clubs and groups as well.

We'd like to see this more both from the university and community groups. However, what we're hearing from many of these groups is a list of hurdles that they have tried over the years to overcome but just can't seem to get there. These difficulties include cost of materials, building locations, wagons or trailers to build them on, as well as locations in which they can build them. Many local community organizations would love to build a float but don't necessarily have the manpower or the artistic talent to see the project to completion and could use volunteers or float designers to help make their vision a reality.

We are reaching out to our members because we need your help. If any of you are willing to sponsor a float, provide a wagon or trailer to build it on and/or a facility to build it in, have ideas, artistic talent or spare time to volunteer, we need to hear from you. We may be able to put you in touch with groups or organizations that are in need of your funding, time, facilities or services.

If you feel you can help in any way to bring floats back to the Clarion Hospital "Tournament of Leaves" Parade, please let us know. Contact Tammy, Event Coordinator, here at the Chamber at (814) 226-9161 or email her at tammy@clarionpa.com.



CORRECTION FOR GOLF OUTING 2019

The Delta Contractors & Design, Inc. Clarion Chamber Golf Outing will be held on Friday, May 24, 2019 at Hi-Level Golf Course.

We move the golf outing back and forth between our 2 chamber members.

Mark your calendar — May 24, 2019 at Hi-Level Golf Course!



IN MEMORIAM...BIRD SOMMERVILLE & GORDON RICE

Bird Leory Sommerville went to be with the Lord on June 5, 2018. Bird was a volunteer at Clarion Area Chamber of Business & Industry helping put together packets for the Clarion University Freshmen Orientations, Counting out Schedule of Events to be distributed throughout the region for the Autumn Leaf Festival as well as always putting a smile on all of us in the office.

The Clarion Chamber of Business & Industry awarded Bird with the "Douglas L. Sharrar Volunteer of the Year" award in March of 2011. He truly enjoyed all of the accolades he received not only from the Chamber but from the Congressman, Senator, Representative and County Commissioners at the time. One of the biggest highlights for Bird was riding in the Clarion Hospital "Tournament of Leaves" parade as a VIP. You could see him smiling from ear to ear.

Memorial donations may be made in Bird's honor to the First Presbyterian Church of Clarion, 700 Wood Street, Clarion, PA 16214 (www.clarionfirstpresby.org), the Clarion County YMCA, 15952 Rt. 322 #1, Clarion PA 16214 (www.clarioncountnymca.org), or the Strattanville Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 93, Strattanville, PA 16258.

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Gordon J. Rice went to be with the Lord on June 13, 2018. A resident of Clarion since age 5, Gordon attended Immaculate Conception School through 12th grade. Sure that he would join his father's International Harvester Dealership, he completed business courses at several universities including Penn State, Pitt, and Clarion as well as an International Harvester Training College in Georgia. He took sole ownership of Rice Equipment in 1970 shortly after his father's death. Gordon sold the business in 1986 but rather than retire he decided to pursue a new line of work.

He began selling obsolete tractor parts under a new business name, Antique International Tractor Parts, and it ran from 1987 until 2011. The day before his 80th birthday, Gordon passed the business on to his nephew and son. For the last seven years, he kept busy selling collectibles on eBay. Gordon's hobbies included playing cards, racquetball, and traveling, especially by train.

Gordon's life in Clarion County included years of active community involvement. His legacy starts with 21 years as a member of the Lions Club, as well as membership in the Jaycees for 16 years. Gordon also served as Autumn Leaf Festival Parade Marshall for 20 years beginning in 1958. He was a member of the Pennsylvania State Farm and Power Equipment Association board for 16 years.

Gordon served on the board of the Clarion Chamber of Commerce and Business for seven years and also served as president from 1976-77.

Memorial donations may be made to the Clarion County YMCA, 15952 Rt. 322 #1, Clarion PA 16214 (www.clarioncountnymca.org), or the Immaculate Conception School, 729 East Main Street, Clarion PA 16214 (www.icchurch-school.com).

MEMBER TO MEMBER NEWS

CELEBRATING 5 YEARS!
Join the party on
July 19 from 11 am till 3 pm

**Prizes
&
Demonstrations!**



**FREE
Food &
Beverages**

It's hard to believe it's been five years already!
You're invited to join us as we celebrate the opening of the
PALO CNG station on Route 66 South of Clarion.
Stop by for a hot dog and check out our demonstrations and
register for some great prizes!



Route 66 just South of I-80 exit 64