

the Communicator

News & Activity Report

June 2015

Award Winners to be Honored at June Breakfast Meeting

The Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards program will be held on Wednesday, June 10, 2015 beginning at 7:30 a.m. at the **Schuylkill Country Club**. The breakfast is being sponsored by **Miller-Keystone Blood Center**.

The 2015 award winners were announced at the 97th Annual Luncheon on May 1, 2015.



Business Woman of the Year - Eileen Ku-peravage has a dynamic personality coupled with a hands-on attitude that helps her keep everything in a positive perspective – in both her personal and professional life. She is dedicated to providing support for the non-profits and community partners in Schuylkill County, working with them to create a better quality of life for all county residents. The award is being sponsored by **Waddell & Reed**.

Business Man of the Year - Brian Rich is no stranger to hard work and innovation. Through his vision, contributions and demonstration of excellence, he epitomizes business and community leadership. His forward thinking philosophy and innovation keeps his various companies vibrant, strengthening our local economy and improving the quality of life for his employees. The award is being sponsored by **M&T Bank**.

For-Profit Organization of the Year - Alfred Benesch & Company has been serving its clients since 1946. They are united in their commitment to quality and engineering excellence and actively support education by providing job shadowing opportunities, internships, scholarships and annual MathCounts competitions. The award is being sponsored by **Boyer's Food Markets, Inc.**

Non-Profit Organization of the Year -

Schuylkill County Municipal Authority is one of Schuylkill County's oldest businesses, currently celebrating its 181st year. Over the years, a total of \$121 million dollars has been invested in water and sewer infrastructure, promoting economic development and the creation of over 6,000 jobs. Since 1996, they have acquired 8 failing or non-compliant water/sewer systems and brought them into compliance. The award is being sponsored by **Schuylkill United Way**.

Entrepreneur of the Year - Greg Header, Solar Innovations, Inc. has been innovating for over 15 years to stay ahead of the curve and the competition. The continual product improvements and new product development within his company has been the life-blood of the organization. He has cultivated a manufacturing culture with more than green awareness - making the company 85% off the grid and recycling 97% of waste. The award is being sponsored by **Ashland Technologies, Inc.**

The breakfast is being sponsored by **Miller-Keystone Blood Center**, 1465 Valley Center Parkway, Bethlehem - 6110-691-5850 - www.giveapint.org is an independent, not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) community organization that serves as the only blood provider to 26 hospitals in Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Lehigh, Luzerne, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia and Schuylkill (PA), and Hunterdon and Warren (NJ) counties. Only blood donated through MKBC is transfused at these facilities.

Reservations are required for this event. To make your reservations, please contact the Schuylkill Chamber office at 570-622-1942/800-755-1942 or email your reservation to mwalborn@schuylkillchamber.com. Cost is \$20.00 for reservations and \$25.00 for non-members. 3

SCHUYLKILL CHAMBER of COMMERCE



Member News

The Spa at **McCann Pottsville** will host a SPA Open House on Wednesday, June 17 from 3-7 p.m. to benefit the **Schuylkill Alliance for Health Care Access**. SPA Open House is an opportunity for the general public to experience the benefits of massage and SPA services in a fun environment while giving back to the community. The mini services offered at the Spa Open House include: chair massages, foot reflexology and massage, mini sinus facial massage and hands and arms massage. The cost for each service is \$5 and all profits from the Spa Open House go to the Schuylkill Alliance.

"McCann has chosen Schuylkill Alliance for Health Care Access as the recipient of profits from the SPA Open House because it is a great organization that benefits many McCann students," said Shannon Brennan, Campus Director.

Judith Schweich, Executive Director of the Schuylkill Alliance for Health Care Access, said "The Alliance does not have a consistent funding source, so fundraising events like this help enable the organization to continue to serve the uninsured residents of Schuylkill County."

In addition to the Spa events, the campus will also be hosting a Mini Career Fair focusing on employment opportunities in the Criminal Justice and Phlebotomy fields. Local employers with job openings for Phlebotomists and Criminal Justice graduates will be on site from 5-7 p.m. The event is open to the public. ☺

Member News continues on page 4

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Government Affairs Committee hosts Legislative Delegation Coffee Talk

The Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs is hosting its annual Legislative Delegation Coffee Talk on Thursday, June 4, 2015 beginning at 7:30 a.m. at **Alvernia University Schuylkill Center**, 1544 Route 61 Highway South (Cressona Mall), Pottsville.

Slated to attend are:

Senator David Argall, representing the 29th Senatorial District of Pennsylvania

Representative Neal P. Goodman, 123rd Legislative District

Representative Jerry Knowles, 124th Legislative District

Representative Mike Tobash, 125th Legislative District

The Government Affairs Committee and Chairman John Powers have crafted an open forum discussion that will pose questions to all of the legislators for their feedback. Questions posed will be from the committee as well as those submitted by the Chamber membership.

The Government Affairs Committee meets monthly for an hour on the 1st Thursday of the month at noon at Providence Place Senior Living. New members are welcome!

The cost to attend is \$10. A Continental Breakfast is included. For more information, or to make your reservation, contact the Schuylkill Chamber at 570.622.1942/800.755.1942 or email your reservation to mwalborn@schuylkillchamber.com. Advance reservations are requested. ☺



Representative Neal Goodman, Senator Dave Argall, Representative Mike Tobash and Representative Jerry Knowles answer questions during the 2014 Legislative Delegation Coffee Talk.



Get YOUR information out to your fellow Chamber members!

The Member to Member e-mail is a dedicated e-mail blast for your organization that e-mails on Tuesdays. Call Vanessa for details on availability and pricing.

Cost is \$150 for first e-mail blast and \$100 for each additional blast with the same content, Ad/graphic and text must be supplied.
(Ad design available for \$50.)

Member News continued from page 2

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices/Home Sale Realty is pleased to make the following announcements:

Lori Cooper has joined Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Homesale Realty as a Realtor®. Cooper will specialize in sales throughout southern Schuylkill County.



She has 3 years of retail sales experience and will be joining the Schuylkill Haven office of Berkshire Hathaway Homesale Realty.

Ann Daubert has joined Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Homesale Realty as a Realtor®.



Daubert specializes in residential sales throughout Schuylkill County and the Pine Grove area. She has 13 years of previous real estate sales

experience and has won awards for her excellence in home sales.

Brenda Florida, CRB, has been named the Director of Operations for the Wyomissing office of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Homesale Realty.



Florida has over 20 years of experience in the real estate industry.

She has led real estate offices, served as a Director of Member Services for the Pennsylvania Association of Realtors® and has owned her own real estate consulting business.

Berkshire Hathaway Homesale's Wyomissing office services all of Berks County. ☺

At the suggestion of The Board of Directors at the annual meeting held at the Palm Springs conference in February, the Independent Jewelers Organization (IJO) has created

a Millennial Advisory Board. The purpose of this new Board will be to involve and capture ideas and concerns from younger jewelers in IJO who are looking at making a career in the jewelry industry. It will enable the "Millennials" of IJO to share their thoughts, perspectives, ideas and concerns, and these meetings will occur at each of IJO's semi-annual conferences.

Nominated to the board was Mallory Murphy, **Murphy Jewelers**.



"I'm very honored to be considered and to represent the next generation of the jewelry industry," stated Mallory. "This is quite an honor."

The first meeting for the Millennial Board will be held at the Omni Hotel in downtown Nashville in July. ☺

On April 28, 2015, the **Schuylkill County Municipal Authority** was awarded the Governor's

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Award for Environmental Excellence for the successful completion of the Deer Lake Project. The awards are presented annually, under the direction of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), to selected Pennsylvania businesses, agricultural industries, government agencies, educational institutions, non-profit organizations or individuals that display unwavering dedication to preserving and protecting the environment and engaging the community to ensure the vitality of our natural resources. Successful recipients must have created, or participated in, the development of a project that promotes environmental stewardship and economic development in the state. SCMA was one of 15 recipients of this prestigious award and was honored at an awards banquet, hosted by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council in Harrisburg, PA.

The Authority's \$21 million upgrade project consisted of the construction of a one million gallon per day wastewater treatment plant, three pumping stations and over 12-miles of collection and conveyance lines to serve areas of Deer Lake Borough, West Brunswick Township, Auburn Borough and Orwigsburg Borough. The project consolidated

five existing treatment plants into a state-of-the-art treatment facility with an expanded sludge handling process to offer solutions to local residents plagued with on-lot septic system disposal issues. Service areas were expanded to segments along commercial corridors, thus promoting economic development, while eliminating significant environmental problems with malfunctioning on-lot septic systems and contamination of private drinking water wells in the Pine Creek drainage basin, a designated Cold Water Fishery and Migratory Fishery. The project was designed by Systems Design Engineering, Inc. ☺

The Walk In Art Center is pleased to welcome their new Executive Director, Lisa Robinson.

Lisa, a native of Orwigsburg, is a motivated, detail oriented, proven professional. After earning her Bachelor's Degree in Marketing from Alvernia University, Lisa developed and implemented strategic plans to accommodate organizational goals and specific account targets for local companies.



In May of 2013, faced with unemployment due to the company closing their doors, Lisa set high expectations for herself and earned her Master of Business Administration, Community Service and Economic Leadership Degree from Alvernia University. While managing classes, projects, a family, a 3.9 GPA, and becoming Vice President of Delta Epsilon Sigma; Lisa volunteered with many organizations and groups within the community.

Upon graduation in December 2014, Lisa became a Substitute Teacher for the local school districts. Lisa is also an adjunct instructor at ITT Technical in Harrisburg currently teaching Economics. ☺

Schuylkill Rehabilitation Center is hosting a free community lecture, Nerve Injuries of the Hand and Wrist, on Wednesday, June 17, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. Join Louise G. Kalymun, OTR/L, Hand Therapy Coordinator, to learn about Occupational Therapy treatments that can be instrumental in improving the functional ability of the hand and wrist. ☺

Schuylkill Small Business Development Revolving Loan Program

***Planning on expanding and
retaining/adding employees?***

Loans up to \$25,000 for qualifying businesses.

Current interest rate of 2.99% fixed rate for 5 years.
(subject to change without notice)

Call the Schuylkill Chamber at 570-622-1942/800-755-1942 or email afeathers@schuylkillchamber.com for more information!



New benefit available to Chamber members!



Schuylkill Chamber members now have access to Notary Public services as an additional benefit of Chamber membership.

Call Andrea Feathers for more information on the Chamber Notary services.

**We congratulate the following
Schuylkill Chamber
of Commerce members who
are celebrating their
membership anniversary
this month.**



35 Years
Sapa Extrusions North America

20 Years
ChamberChoice
Wagner Industries, Inc.

15 Years
Next5 Interactive

10 Years
Gaudenzia, Inc. -
Pottsville Outpatient

5 Years
Office Service Company
Williams Insurance Services, Ltd.

1 Year
Hampton Inn
Infintech, LLC
Marriott Fairfield Inn & Suites
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Affiliate News

Frackville Business & Professional Association – The member of the month for April is Phoenix Rehab. The Frackville pool will not be opening due to repairs that are needed. The borough is soliciting estimates to construct a new pool, which will need community financial support. FBPA will discuss a contribution toward this project at the May meeting.

The Scholarship Program as changed per the recommendations of the committee. Two scholarships will be awarded at \$150 each and no preference will be given to applicants who are children/grandchildren of FBPA members.

The amended By-laws are ready for consideration. A notice will be sent to the membership and they will be presented for adoption at the May meeting.

A Nomination Committee was appointed to present a potential slate of officers for the July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016 term. ☺

Orwigsburg Business & Professional Association – There were 70 in attendance at the April Meet & Greet. An Evening with Chad Reinert was a success with 178 tickets sold. Yappy Hour sponsored by the Schuylkill County Animal Rescue Team will take place on Thursday,

May 21. Planning is underway for the 4th Annual Square Time Events. The June Jamboree will be on Thursday, June 25. Several wineries, artisans and food vendors are already registered. There is still space available. Heritage Celebration is on Saturday, September 12. Several sponsorships have already been received for the event. Letters were mailed to all OBPA members.

The Executive Board continues to meet to work on the OBPA budget. A 3-year plan is available and input is welcome.

T-shirts are being considered for the event volunteers. They are also exploring purchasing t-shirts to use for prizes and to sell. ☺

Greater Schuylkill Haven Area Business Association – Reba Llewellyn reported that 658 pieces of art were distributed to 36 businesses and thanked Jerry Bowman for his help.

Ceil Michalik reported on YEA! and the student she mentored. He has a candle business – Wax on the Way – and sells candles with a portion going to a charity. He also supplies candles for fund raising. Ceil noted that all the YEA! students and their businesses would be showcased at a Trade Show at Fairlane Village Mall on April 25.

The Walk, Wine and Wander is scheduled for June 18. To date, there are 3 wineries, 2 chefs cooking with wine, Strawberry Playhouse, Sterling Koch and 20 artists. Flyers for this

event as well as the community yard sale will be distributed shortly. ☺

Greater Shenandoah Area Chamber of Commerce – Candy bars continue to be sold to benefit the Christmas Lighting Fund. Other means of raising funds for the lights were discussed.

Plans are under way for a walkway around the Shenandoah Valley School that will be approximately 1-1 ¼ miles long. This is in combination with Schuylkill County VISION's Healthy Shenandoah and the dedication is scheduled for May 30.

Downtown Shenandoah co-sponsored a Meet & Greet at Francesco's. May 16 is the Kielbasa Festival. June 19 is the 3rd Annual Kielbasi-Pierogie Golf Tournament at Mountain Valley. Schuylkill County's VISION Healthy Shenandoah is holding cooking classes at the Shenandoah Library. Repairs on the Miners Memorial has cost \$10,000. The group is selling bricks and accepting donations to offset the cost. DSI thanked Tom Ulicny for volunteering his time to keep the grounds in order.

The Shenandoah Senior Center is open for bingo and lunch on Wednesdays. They continue their monthly casino trips.

The Chamber voted to sponsor the Kielbasi shirt and to sponsor a hole for the Kielbasi-Pierogie Golf Tournament. They will also obtain a small games of chance license from the county to sell calendars for the Christmas Lighting Fund. ☺



Affiliate Meetings

Ashland Area Chamber of Commerce – 6/18/15 @ 7:30 a.m.
 Mahanoy Area Chamber of Commerce – 6/24/15 @ 12:30pm
 Frackville Business & Professional Association – 6/9/15 @ 12:00
 Greater Schuylkill Haven Area Business Association – 6/2/15 @ 6:00pm
 Orwigsburg Business & Professional Association – 6/11/14 @ 4:00pm
 Pine Grove Business Owners Association - 6/1/15 @ 7:00pm
 Pottsville Business Association – 6/11/15 @ 8:00am
 Shenandoah Chamber of Commerce – 6/17/15 @ 8:00am

97th Annual Luncheon Draws Record Crowd



Bob Carl, Chamber Executive Director, presents awards to outgoing Board of Director members Judith Schweich, **Schuylkill Alliance for Health Care**; and Kelly Malone, **Schuylkill United Way**.



Robert S. Carl, Jr., Executive Director; Karen Kenderdine, President; Jeff O'Neill, Treasurer; Megan Brennan, Postmaster General; Toni Everdale, 1st Vice-President; and Jeanne Porter, 2nd Vice-President.



President Karen Kenderdine and incoming President Toni Everdale presented the Chamber staff with a 2015 Super Star Award for their hard work and dedication to the Schuylkill Chamber.



Keynote speaker Schuylkill County native and Postmaster General Megan J. Brennan, drew a record breaking crowd at the 97th Annual Luncheon at Seasons Restaurant at **Mountain Valley**.

Megan's father, Jeremiah Brennan, was on hand to support his daughter and, since Megan could not accept any gift or honorarium, Vanessa presented a lap afghan to Jeremiah at the VIP Reception following the luncheon.



Megan was presented with proclamations from **Schuylkill County Commissioners** Gary Hess, George Halcovage and Frank Staudenmeier and pictured with **Representative Neal Goodman** at the VIP Reception following the Annual Luncheon.



Toni Everdale, incoming President, presents Karen Kenderdine, President, with a President's Award for her service to the Schuylkill Chamber while Executive Director Bob Carl looks on.



Member Shots



Jeffrey E. O'Neill, **M&T Bank**, presented a charitable foundation check to Kay Jones, Executive Director, **Schuylkill County's VISION**, as a sponsor of the Healthy Schuylkill Summer Program, a program that VISION facilitates at 10 county libraries this summer. The 2015 theme of the program will be "Healthy Habits".



Bryan L. Geiger, **M&T Bank**, presented a charitable foundation check to Joan O'Brien, Housing Counselor/Manager, **Schuylkill Community Action**, for the Home Buyers Workshop Series.

The workshops are free of charge and provide low-income residents with information about the home buying process so they can make educated decisions that are financially sustainable.

M&T Bank has been an active member and contributor of the Schuylkill County Homebuyer Coalition since its inception in 1995.



The Spa at McCann Pottsville hosted a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Friday, May 15 at their new location, 2650 Woodglen Road in Pottsville. The Spa was established in 2003 in an Annex building located near the Main Campus of McCann as a forum for students to practice their massage training in a hands-on learning environment. The Spa at McCann has since grown into a full service spa staffed by students as well as licensed Master Therapists who graduated from the **McCann School of Business & Technology** Massage Therapy Program. The range of services include: Body wraps, Swedish massage, Therapeutic, Couples massage as well as bridal and party packages and much more.

Pictured in the photo from left to right: James Muldowney, Mayor, **City of Pottsville**; Shannon Brennan, McCann Campus Director; Letitia Reiser, **SEDCO**; Gary Hess, **Schuylkill County Commissioner**; Sabrina McLaughlin, Legislative Aide to **Congressman Matt Cartwright**; Michelle Hendricks, McCann Massage Program Director; Lori Kane, McCann Community Relations Director; Dr. Irvil Kear, **SEDCO** Chairperson; Jerry Knowles, **State Representative from the 124th District**; Robert Carl, Jr., **Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce** Executive Director; and Frank Staudenmeier, **Schuylkill County Commissioner**.



Volunteers in **Schuylkill Community Action's** VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program celebrated the completion of the tax year with a dinner at **Roma Pizza**. Pictured are: Robert Mathews, Melissa Powlick, Angelina Fritz, Elaine Mykolyko, Bonnie Miller, Marian Conville, Jonathan Hummel and Andrea Feathers.



Committee Updates

Government Affairs – 5-7-15

An update on Governor Wolf's FY 2015-16 PA State Budget was given by Courtney DelValle, Rep. Mike Tobash's office. The Governor proposed a \$4.5 billion tax increase this year and \$8 billion for next year. It is believed that the PA House will act soon on the Governor's proposal with it likely to be voted down. This would lead to the House crafting their own budget proposal for consideration.

An update on Pension Reform was given by Courtney DelValle. The next meeting on Pension Reform will be held next week. The current plan proposed will affect new and existing employees. Representative Tobash believes the compromise plan will change again.

An update on Act 168, Education and Business Partnership, was given by Chairman John Powers. Representative Mike Tobash has succeeded in getting this passed and is now implementing its intent. Ashland Technologies and Solar Innovations are first on the list for teachers to come out, tour and receive information. On Monday, June 8, 2015 every teacher from North Schuylkill School District, elementary through high school, will be attending. The teachers will go through in four sessions on this day. Solar Innovations will get half of the teachers while Ashland Technologies will get the other half. Then they will switch. Eight students from North Schuylkill toured Ashland Technologies yesterday. Ali Rhoades is working on a press release to inform the public.

"The Death Tax Repeal Act of 2015" sent from Senator Toomey's Washington, DC office asking for endorsement from the Schuylkill

Chamber of Commerce received a response from Marta Gabriel regarding the questions posed by the Government Affairs Committee.

The PA Chamber of Business & Industry Coalition Letters on Severance Tax and Pension Reform were reviewed by the Executive Director and John Powers, approved and signed on to.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, "How They Voted" Scorecard was distributed to the committee. The scorecard is an annual report on how members of Congress voted on key business issues, in this case in the second session of the 113th Congress. The U.S. Chamber chose 8 Senate votes and 14 House votes on which to grade lawmakers.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce annually honors lawmakers with the Spirit of Enterprise Award. The Spirit of Enterprise Award is presented by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to members of Congress who voted in support of the U.S. Chamber's position on legislation a minimum of 70% of the time during the previous session. The award signifies the Chamber's appreciation of those members by identifying senators and representatives as strong supporters of free enterprise in America. Pennsylvania had 14 members of Congress recognized and in our direct representation area Senator Pat Toomey was awarded the Spirit of Enterprise Award.

The Schuylkill Chamber had signed a Letter of Support, signed by 302 entities, for S. 280, the "Federal Permitting Improvement Act of 2015", which was passed out of committee by a vote of 12 to 1.

The subcommittee for the Newly Elected Officials Seminar met on Friday, April 17, 2015 and made great progress. The survey just went out this morning. Mary Beth Dougherty and Champ Holman are continuing to work on this event.

Judy Schweich and Dan Daub noted that they would like to see the "How to Run for Office" seminar brought back in January 2017.

The State Legislative Delegation Coffee Talk will take place on Thursday, June 4, 2015 at Alvernia University, Schuylkill Center in Cressona from 7:30 A.M. until 9:30 A.M. Questions for this event can be submitted via email to the Executive Director. The committee agreed that the next Government Affairs Committee meeting would take place immediately following this event.

PACP/PA 2015 Chamber Day at the Capitol will be on Tuesday, June 9, 2015. The Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce purchased the President's Council Package, which consists of seven attendees.

Municipal pension reform is slotted to be one of the topics and a speaker will present at Chamber Day at the Capitol. Also HB 805 passed and is going for its second vote on Monday. This bill will put teachers on a performance based raise platform.

Transportation – 5-14-15

The PennDOT Update was provided by Ron Young. Regarding the I-81 project, PennDOT has scheduled a meeting on Monday with representatives from the truck center, the Executive Director, Frank Zukas and property owners in the area of I-81 Exit 104. The Ravine Exit, 104, was scheduled in the project to be closed for six (6) months during the I-81 resurfacing and improvements project.

Paving on Rt. 443 through Orwigsburg is now complete.

Ron Young, PennDOT addressed a concern that was voiced regarding Municipal Road in Deer Lake. The intersection is at its final configuration. It was noted that some people are bypassing the jug handle and turning at the light then turning around in the cul-de-sac at the end of the road. This is a reverse jug handle.

Committees continued from page 11

The right turns onto Municipal Road are legal and the configuration will stay that way.

The intersection at Municipal Road and Rt. 61 was addressed. Cars coming out of the jug handle are attempting to make a right turn on red with very limited visibility due to the large dirt mound at that intersection. Ron will check with the traffic unit and West Brunswick Township about putting a “no turn on red” sign at that intersection.

All other projects are moving along. Frank Barone is working on getting the potholes addressed.

Brian Hansbury questioned the narrow lanes on route Rt. 901 over I-81. Ron Young noted that the bridge along Rt. 901 was hit last year and it has been narrowed due to safety concerns. There is no short-term plan to have it repaired, but it is on the long-term list.

A Coal Mountain Road matter, which was identified as a traffic negotiation problem for fuel tankers attempting to get to the Jack Rich, Inc. Depot at the top of the Deer Lake hill on Rt. 61 will hopefully be addressed by tomorrow. The turn was limited by construction barriers being too narrow to allow the trucks to turn. Chairman Yashinsky thanked PennDOT for their quick action on this matter.

Ron Young, PennDOT, reminded all to be on alert for motorcycles now that the weather is getting nice. The state also offers a Motorcycle Safety Course that is free. Information on classes can be found at www.livefreeridealive.com.

Susan Smith, County Planning Director, presented the LRTP (Long Range Transportation Plan) update and stated the NPR & MPO requirements have been updated by McCormick-Taylor as part of their contract. The 20-year Plan will go through 2036 and will stretch to 2040.

A special focus group meeting is being scheduled for the LRTP that will be by invitation only. The invitations are going out today and the Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce will be invited to attend.

Susan Smith distributed an article on Road Funding that she thought would be of interest to the committee.

Dan Yelito, NEPA, stated there would be Transportation Forums with stakeholders in the regions to discuss transportation issues. Sessions are scheduled for June 9 at the Summit Hill Community Center from 9-11:30 A.M. There is another session at Bushkill in Pike County in the afternoon from 1:00-4:00 P.M.

The bridge inventory of Schuylkill County is complete. Dan Yelito is now meeting with local and municipal officials to go over the data and double check his work. They are also going over maps of local roads to determine those that are not on the liquid fuels list. Other data is also being collected and will be on the MPMS IQ Program, which will be accessible to everyone. The process is to fill in the gaps. After the roads are inventoried, he will be going on to the smaller culverts and pipe culverts.

Chairman Yashinsky questioned whether when speaking to the local officials, they are aware of the bridges in their area. There are a lot of hidden bridges that run under towns and boroughs. Dan Yelito noted that sometimes they tell him of a bridge that he did not find. There are also a lot of streets that are on the map that are not there (“paper streets”) and also a lot of streets that are not on the map for liquid fuels.

Champ Holman asked if there was a design for liquid fuels vs. non-liquid fuels and will the roads be defined? Dan noted that there are issues with some roads that may be private. He leaves them “red” on his

map until he can correctly identify them. There are issues that come up as the mapping evolves.

Orwigsburg Borough Council has completed the legislation for the designation of part of Route 61 for Captain Jason Jones. Legislation is still in process for Sgt. David Heiser.

Ron Young, PennDOT noted that the opportunity to comment on the 12-year plan is open until May 29, 2015.

Matt Boyer, Commuter Services of PA/AECOM, stated this is Bike-to-Work week and there are events planned throughout the region. Matt continues to receive business resumes for the NEPA region and has received 40-45 already. He is still seeking 4 or 5 key businesses to come on board to partner and advocate for Commuter Services.

Dana Moyer, STS, continues to work with Matt in the startup of Commuter Services. Their mission works hand-in-hand with public transit.

The CNG program is still ongoing. In the past month STS was inspected for environmental issues. The inspectors also spoke to Frank Zukas as SEDCO was the original developer of the St. Clair Business Park. There are some items that need to be clarified on the questionnaire.

STS is preparing an Operating Grant application that is due in mid-June. Included is a fare increase of \$.05 on fixed route busses and a slight increase in the shared ride van program.

Bill Hanley noted that we would not be seeing a major transportation bill from Congress until at least 2016. This will not be addressed until after the Presidential election.

Joe Post noted that Minersville is proceeding with the “Red Light Go” program. The borough also purchased a crack sealer for the roads and is looking into a COG to share equipment.

Amy Batdorf, Schuylkill County Municipal Authority, reported that the last section of the main was completed in Deer Lake yesterday. They continue to install mains in the Mahanoy Business Park along the Morea Road. Construction continues on the tank by I-81.

Member Services – 5-12-15

The Executive Director noted that the student memberships were given to YEA! Schuylkill students at graduation and a Chamber business membership was given to the Saunders Scholar winner, PayDirt.

The Executive Director distributed a document on an Ambassadors Program. With the finalization of the Dues Tiering Sub-Committee, the Executive Director suggested that the focus of the Member Services Committee turn to member engagement and revitalizing an Ambassador's Club concept used in the past. The intent would be to engage our members helping to insure renewal. The Executive Director would like to develop an Ambassador Program through the Member Services Committee with the initial task of being identified at events and talking to new and prospective members who are targeted and identified. An Ambassador Program template was distributed to the committee and will be further discussed at the June meeting.

Wayne Lutsey noted that the Board of Directors could also embrace this program. Some type of mark/flag can be used on the nametags to make it easy to identify both ambassadors as well as new/potential members.

The Infintech Chamber Affinity Program offering for credit card transaction processing will be presented to the Executive Committee for approval this month.

The developer for the new Chamber web site is DelPhi Communications. Andrea Feathers is on the point

for the new website. The developer was referred by PACP (PA Association of Chamber Professionals) and DelPhi does work for many other chambers of commerce. The contract is signed and the invoice paid. The Executive Director noted that our consultant, Kyle Sexton, was supportive of the choice of designer.

Vanessa Mihoda reported that the Education Committee would continue to work on pairing Coggnos courses with in classroom courses that the committee offers.

Funding options were discussed for the Schuylkill Chamber Foundation since the outreach would be to the Chamber member base. The Executive Director noted that the Foundation is a 501(c) 3 corporation that is set up to support leadership and youth programming. A few initiatives that the Foundation supported are the Schuylkill County Youth Summit, Schuylkill Agribusiness Committee and the YEA! Schuylkill Program. Strategies need to be explored to get new funding going forward. Ads were run in the Chamber Communicator initially but options need to be explored.

Wayne Lutsey noted that EITC is a potential source of funding. Bill Kirwan was working with Carol Boyer, YEA! Schuylkill. While the Foundation did not submit an application, this is something that can be done.

The Annual Luncheon at Mountain Valley was a great success. There were just shy of 300 in attendance to hear keynote speaker Megan Brennan, Post Master General of the US Postal Service. The venue, the speaker and the meal were all outstanding. The staff of Mountain Valley did a great job of getting the meals served to everyone. The Executive Director noted that the Chamber is already working on securing a keynote speaker for the 2016 luncheon.

The Annual Golf Outing is in the home stretch. We will be at the

Schuylkill Country Club on July 10, 2015.

The Non-Profit Committee is going well and is very effective. Judy Schweich and Michelle Halabura are co-chairs of the committee. They have good attendance at the committee meetings and the Non-Profit Lunch and Learn.

The Executive Director reported on the Tiers. The Executive Director and the Events Planning and Coordination Director have met with 13 companies and all have committed to the new dues model. The majority of members that have had their dues tiering meetings were enthusiastic about the process.

A test of the VIP Reception was held after our Annual Chamber Luncheon. Invited were the members of the Executive Committee as well as those who have committed to tiers. The event was very exclusive and well received.

The Member Appreciation Mixer is coming up on September 16, 2015. The venue needs to be selected and we are asking for suggestions.

The Executive Director reported that the Pottsville Business Association is going through reorganization. A letter has gone out to the members asking them to attend a meeting on June 10, 2015 to discuss revitalizing the affiliate as well as revising the outdated by-laws.

Education – 5-20-15

Shannon met with Wayne Herring Jr. regarding his Advanced Sales Training proposal to discuss the committee's decision concerning his request.

We need 8 participants in the two remaining courses to register to hit our budgeted net goal. Under consideration for the new program year is an Educational Training Package where you pay a flat rate for 5 sessions. Levels would need to be

Committees continue on page 15

Chamber Sightings



Schuylkill Chamber President Karen Kenderdine, **First National Trust**, thanks the sponsors of the 5th Wednesday Mix & Mingle - Kelly & Francesco Logozzo, **Francesco's Restaurant**; and Mary Luscavage, **Downtown Shenandoah, Inc.**

Carmelo Valenti, **Carmelo's Roman Delight**, addresses the crowd at the Business After 5 O'clock Mixer co-hosted by **Riverview Bank & Carmelo's Roman Delight**.



Ed Keyworth, **Pottsville Provision Company**, did it again, pictured this time with Chris Evans, **Pristine Green Cleaning**; Chandon Delatorre, **The Walk In Art Center**; and Cynthia Mensch, **Alvernia University Schuylkill Center**.

CHECK OUT ADDITIONAL EVENT PHOTOS ON FACEBOOK!



Ed Keyworth, **Pottsville Provision Company**, seems to draw a bevel of beauties, including: Erica Ramus and Cherie Gotshall, **Ramus Realty Group**; Jessica Dean, **Power Kunkel Benefits Consulting**; and Jeanne Porter, **Boyer's Food Markets**.



Angela Mestishen Regnier, **Schlitzer-Allen-Pugh Funeral Home**; Lou Truskowsky, **Truskowsky Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc.**, Jill Mullen, **Schuylkill Community Education Council**; and David Truskowsky, **Truskowsky Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc.**, enjoy the mixer and the company!

Ginger Kunkel & Kathleen Tokonitz, **Riverview Bank**, were gracious hosts at the mixer co-hosted by **Riverview Bank & Carmelo's Roman Delight**.



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discussed due to pricing in training sessions, i.e. Executive, Advanced, Basic, etc.

Courses coming up include: June 18, 2015 - Working in the Cloud with Barry Long; June 24, 2015 - How can I get my People to Think Like Me with Wayne Herring, Jr. (help employee identify and learn their DISC Style).

Programs under consideration for the new fiscal year include: September - Employee Performance and Termination. Included would be 1) Employee Appraisal process, 2) Termination, 3) Legal factors and preparing for an Unemployment Compensation hearing; Sales Class with Wayne Herring; October - Customer Service for Front Line Employees as a panel session with representatives from retail, office, call center and day-to-day workers; Best Practices for Theft Prevention in a Small Business Environment- documents, checks and balances, company Credit Cards, Signatures, Gift Cards; November - Networking for Business; Business Etiquette Dinner and Networking with Tina Rose; January 2016 - Dean Bertsch- Public Speaking; Windows 10 at the Chamber; Who Stole my Cheese; February 2016 - Tips to Success in Selling your home - staging, landscaping for curb appeal and Interior Design; Grant Writing; March 2016 - Master Gardner potted planting on decks; April - Dean Bertsch; and Non-Prof- it Fundraising.

In coordination with Schuylkill Leadership and Schuylkill Executive Leadership, we are researching speakers that the committee can utilize for sessions, including Dean Bertsch, Sam Iorio, Annette Cremo and Tom Bux.

Agribusiness – 5-21-15

Guidance for the Schuylkill County Grown (SCG) program has been

finalized.

A mock-up of a 5"x3" identification card that will be used for the SCG program participants was shared. Quotes are being obtained from local printers. Liz is getting quotes for "political" style signs that can be used by participants.

Kick-off for the program will be held at the Schuylkill County Fair on Tuesday, July 28, 2015 at 6:00 P.M. with a cooking contest showcasing Schuylkill County Grown products. Liz Hinkel will work with the County Commissioners to get a proclamation for the program that would be presented as well. A giveaway basket of Schuylkill County goods will be given away. The committee will have registration forms available for producers that may be interested in the program as well as information available for the general public. Kim Morgan has prepared a press release and the committee will work on a press release/summary to go out on the entire SCG program. The Conservation District will create a page on their website for the program and a Facebook page will also be created.

Golf – 5-6-15

The selection of the winner of the best hole sponsor came into question after the golf outing last year. There was an issue that was brought to the Executive Director regarding golfers concerns about taking the decision regarding the best tee sponsor away from the golfers to a selection committee. The Executive Director determined that the intent of having the golfers vote was changed last year due to the fact that it was difficult to get them to vote and we only received a minimum participation from the golfers. However, it was noted that it should be the golfers voting as it is their experience at the hole that is what matters. For the 2015 outing and going forward, we will have the golfers vote at the end of the day

before the dinner. Megan Holobetz from Schuylkill Country Club will have pictures taken of each hole over the course of the day so that it can be posted on a board at the voting area. This will refresh the memory of the golfers before they vote.

Prizes for the best hole sponsors was discussed. There will be the first place prize of free hole sponsorship for the following golf outing. Second place will be a free insert in the Chamber Communicator with a value up to \$300 and the third place prize will be a ¼ ad in the Chamber Communicator with a value of \$125.

The giveaway for the golfers was finalized. The giveaway will be a "Member for the Day" at the Schuylkill Country Club. This is an \$89 value per golfer. The golfers will get a certificate at registration.

Staging for the hole sponsors is confirmed to be the pool parking lot. There are three time slots set for staging at 7:45 A.M., 8:05 A.M. and 8:25 A.M.

Prize holes will be noted both in the golfer program as well as the scorecard. There will be signage at the holes for the special holes.

Alcohol in relation to the hole sponsors was discussed. All alcohol must be purchased from the Schuylkill Country Club to satisfy PLCB Laws.

All sponsors are confirmed. Capital BlueCross is the event sponsor. All hole-in-one sponsors are confirmed as well as the range balls. Cougle's Recycling will sponsor the \$5,000 putting contest. Yuengling and Wegmans are sponsoring our refreshments.

The Committees love to welcome new members.

Dedicate an hour of your time and volunteer to be on any committee. Join now by contacting the Schuylkill Chamber at 570-622-1942.

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