

Tuscarora Area CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mercersburg, Montgomery, Peters, St. Thomas, Warren

chamber news

www.mercersburg.org
www.tuscaroraareachamberofcommerce.org



Annual Banquet and Award Ceremony



The chamber held the Annual Banquet and Award Ceremony sponsored by Mercersburg Academy, April 22 in the Edwards Room at Mercersburg Academy. Guitarist Brennan Elliott, son of former County Commissioner Warren Elliott serenaded 150 attendees.

The audience was introduced to the 2010 Board of Directors as well as honored guests, Senator Rich Alloway, County Commissioners Chairman David Keller and Bob Ziobrowski, FCADC President Mike Ross and Chairman Chuck Sioberg, Mayor Jim Zeger, and Congressman Shuster's territory representative Jeremy Shoemaker. Special recognition was paid to Patricia A. Cordell of D.L. Martin for her 45 years of service. The chamber presented her a plaque and gift. Executive Director Mary-Anne Gordon read a quote from D.L. Martin President Dan Fisher

"Patsy Cordell is the kind of person that a company builds a foundation on. She is very dedicated and personally cares so much about D.L. Martin. Most companies try hard to shape their employees. With Patsy, it is mutual. We have influenced her, but she has also very positively impacted us. We have embraced many of her great qualities, attributes and values. It has been my pleasure and honor to get to know her and work with her. Our company as well as our community has benefited the past 45 years from Patsy and her tireless energy."

Chamber board Chairperson Dr. Elizabeth George spoke about the benefits of chamber membership. "This past year I've had the opportunity to observe "close up" as TACC

serves its members. They sustain effective ties with local, state and federal government and work with the school to support career development programs, creating our future employees and business owners. I've listened to our Executive Director facilitate communications in challenging situations and does an outstanding job creating events that promote our businesses and support our communities." said George. "TACC can make a huge difference for furthering the vision and goals of your company. I would encourage each of you – if you need advocacy for a community event, if you need assistance with a government affairs issue, if you need someone to facilitate a connection to assist you, your business or your community – your Tuscarora Area Chamber of Commerce is there for YOU."

Mercersburg Academy Assistant Head of External Affairs, Mary Carrasco and Director of Annual Giving and Volunteer Relations, Will Waldron educated attendees on the advantages and highlights of their EITC program. Will explained that companies can designate state tax dollars to go to the school's EITC program. EITC scholarships have provided thousands of lifeboats to families looking to escape failing public schools, as well as to families struggling to remain in non-public schools. Each time a child moves from a public to non-public school and each time a child is able to stay in a non-public school as a result of the EITC, both taxpayers and families win! Since 2002 EITC donations have allowed 85 Pennsylvania students to attend Mercersburg.

Information about the Business Person of the Year is on page 7.

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The Chamber News is a monthly newsletter of the Tuscarora Area Chamber of Commerce. Submit your information by the 19th of each month for inclusion. The Chamber reserves the right to edit content of submissions for space limitations. Ideas, opinions and statements expressed in articles by contributors are not necessarily those of the Chamber.



Mary-Anne Gordon - Executive Director

Community Advocates & Civic Involvement

Our mission states, we exist to improve the quality of life for those living and doing business in the greater Tuscarora community. We do this in many ways by working for and with the community.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Mercersburg Townfest - The chamber took the reins of Mercersburg Townfest more than 10 years ago. Now in its 31st year, the event has grown 5 fold and brings more than 5,000 people to town the final Saturday every September. We see the event as a way to showcase the beauty of Mercersburg in a unique festival atmosphere. With more than 100 upscale art and craft vendors, Kids Corner, and our partnership with the United Methodist Church's Fall Fest and Silent Auction, we envision the event doubling in size again in the coming years. Visit www.mercersburgtownfest.com.

First Friday Mercersburg - A celebration of music, art and commerce the first Friday of each month May through October 2010 4-7pm on Main St. Mercersburg, www.firstfriday.mercersburg.org.

Franklin County Visitors Bureau - We serve on the board of the Visitors Bureau and facilitate relationships with local civic groups, event coordinators and businesses with the county tourism office.

PUBLIC EDUCATION INVOLVEMENT

The Chamber forged a strong relationship with the Tuscarora School District in the past 3 years. We started with a diverse group (Education Committee) of employers, educators and administrators from the TSD, Penn State, Wilson, Shippensburg U, Waste Management, and Summit Health to identify need (communication, scholarships, programs) in JB and how the chamber could facilitate relationships to address that "need". From this committee grew;

Mock Interview Day - Lee Ann Witter-Keefer's Economics class, first and second semester each year research career options, prepares resumes and are interviewed by volunteers from region chamber member businesses. The "Mock Interview" is an effort to expose students to "real world" scenarios and provides the students with honest and clear feedback about improving resumes and interview skills.

College & Career Night - The Tuscarora Area Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring Career and College Night at JBHS May 4th 6-8:30pm. Executive Director Mary-Anne Gordon coordinated the event with JBHS teacher Lee Ann Witter-Keefer. They anticipate 20+ colleges, universities and military branches and 20+ local/regional businesses to participate. This event is designed for JB students and their families to explore college and career possibilities and opportunities, but is not a "job fair". This event is being held in conjunction with "Arts in Action" the same night at JBHS.

Fix JB Sports Campaign - The chamber is represented in this effort by many members, board of director members, and Executive Director Mary-Anne Gordon as a Campaign Chair. It is no mistake the theme chosen for the Campaign is "Our Children, Our Community, Our Future." These words reflect the components necessary for success and the beneficiaries of the endeavor. Initiatives funded by the Campaign will benefit us all and the community where we work and live.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Through strong relationships with local, regional, state and federal government, the Chamber keeps the Tuscarora community and its businesses on the minds of our elected officials.

WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU?

Do you need advocacy for your community event? Assistance with a government affairs issue? Someone to facilitate a connection to assist you, your business or community? Call the chamber at 328-5827 or email info@tachamber.org.

10 Things You May Not Know About TWEP

1. TWEP Stands for Tuscarora Wildlife Education Project. We're located in the Charles Brightbill Environmental Center, which we maintain, on land next to James Buchanan High School.
2. We are a Community supported, 501C3 Charitable Foundation and are completely self supporting. We receive no tax revenue support, nor are we a part of the school district.
3. We have over 500 animals on display, many of which were taken by hunters over a half-century ago and are now endangered. All of our animals are donated by hunters or fishermen to the center or are retrieved by Pennsylvania Game Commission officers and donated to the center.
4. We maintain 14 naturalized acres that border a tributary of the Conococheague, with walking trails that are open to the public for quiet exercise, bird watching or quiet contemplation.
5. We provide educational programs and tours to the Tuscarora School District free of charge. These programs support, meet and exceed Pennsylvania State Education standards and objectives. Private school groups and groups of home school families regularly schedule visits to the center; they must pay a small entrance fee.
6. We are a member of the Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Project, a collaborative effort of local, regional and state organizations and agencies focusing public attention on the importance of the Kittatinny Ridge.
7. The Charles Brightbill Environmental Center is available to the public for indoor or outdoor meetings. Many organizations annually hold one of their monthly or otherwise regularly scheduled meetings at the center. The Center is open to the public free of charge on the first Sunday of every month, September – May.
8. TWEP offers 2 one-week summer programs for Elementary and Middle School Students who are residents of Tuscarora School District for a nominal fee of \$1.00/day. Campers are engaged in active, hands-on learning about animals and the environment.
9. We are the ONLY facility of this kind in the state of Pennsylvania. We are endorsed by the Audubon Society, Safari Club and private citizens who have written letters of support to the district, local papers and the Governor's office.
10. You can contact the Center to schedule a visit, to find out more about our programs, or to find out how you can help by calling 717-328-2126.



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MEMBERS NEWS.....

F&M TRUST

Officials at F&M Trust announced that Tammy L. Kelly has joined the bank as an assistant financial services officer and assistant community office manager at the McConnellsburg Office, 100 Lincoln Way East.

Kelly brings 12 years of financial services experience to her position, where she will be responsible for meeting the needs of consumers and businesses with the appropriate banking solutions to manage and grow their money. In addition, she will build, enhance, and expand customer relationships through deposit services and lending in the McConnellsburg area. She began her banking career at First Citizens Bank in Goldsboro, North Carolina, and most recently worked as a sales manager for Tower Bank in Fort Loudon.



A graduate of Chambersburg Area Senior High School, Kelly serves on the board of the Fort Loudon Community Center and enjoys volunteering. She has completed courses in business management, Spanish, and sales development. Kelly resides in Fort Loudon with her fiancé Ronnie, her son Colton, and step-children, Brooke and Brent.

UNITED WAY OF FRANKLIN COUNTY

Pam Anderson of Anderson Construction, a United Way of Franklin County Board member, gets a head start on this year's May of Caring activities by renovating one of the rooms in the UWFC Herb Essich building. Each year, May of Caring volunteers work with area non-profits to complete various projects for the agencies.

MERCERSBURG COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS

MCFA will host a series of demonstrations by local artists. Held monthly, the demonstrations will outline the processes of the featured craft. The community is encouraged to attend these informational sessions.

The cost is \$2.00 per person and free for students. Light refreshments will be served.

The series will be held in the St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Basement, located at 8 Linden Avenue, Mercersburg. Parking and entrance are around the back of the church. Each demonstration will begin with an introduction of the artist at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 20: Barb Peshkin - Calligraphy

Thursday, June 17: TBA

Thursday, July 15: Lynda Beckwith - Printmaking

Thursday, August 19: Ed Beard - Woodworking - Shaker Boxes

Thursday, September 16: Laura Shindle - Watercolor

Thursday, October 14: Kathy Diloretto - Stained Glass

Thursday, November 18: Pat Beard - Hand Weaving

Thursday, December 16: No Demonstration - Happy Holidays!

For more information about our organization visit our website at www.mcfapa.org or fan us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/MercersburgCouncilfortheArts

WEBER BUSINESS SERVICES

Liz Weber, CEO of Weber Business Services, LLC, Greencastle, PA, has been named to Chair the Strategic Planning Committee of the National Speakers Association for the 2011/2012 year. Weber is a management consultant specializing in strategic and succession planning, as well as leadership development. The National Speakers Association is a 3,000 member association serving professional, topic-expert speakers based in Tempe, AZ.

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- We are local people working to help you, our neighbors in the Mercersburg area!
- We can help you save money on all your insurance needs!

"Bell Insurance is the only Penn National Agent with an office in Mercersburg and we fully support the Chamber+ insurance program for Mercersburg Area Chamber of Commerce members." - Edward L. Bell



MANAGER'S CORNER: HAVE YOU CLEANED YOUR BUSINESS LATELY?

When was the last time you cleaned out your car, a closet, or a desk drawer? Why did you clean it? If you're like me, it was probably because when you used it last, you saw something funky on the floorboard, saw some clothes getting smashed in your closet, or you couldn't find something in your desk drawer. So, being efficient and organized, you cleaned up the mess.

However, why is it when we come across something funky or messy in our businesses, we don't always stop and clean it up right away too? Why is it we often accept inefficient, time-consuming, overly-expensive and otherwise funky systems in our businesses? Why don't we immediately clean up messy business practices?

Why? Because too often we're just comfortable doing the same tasks the same ways we've always done them. We're so comfortable doing them inefficiently, that we don't even see the mess. The mess has become normal and accepted. For many of us, when an employee asks, "Why do you do it like that?" we're surprised at the question. We've never even thought it needed to be cleaned up. Yet, by not seeing our own messy business practices, we're often behaving just as those individuals who have incredibly messy, cluttered, and stuff-filled homes, offices, and cars. When someone points out their messes, these individuals look surprised too. They don't see the mess. Their mess has become normal and accepted.

So how can we clean up our businesses? We start the same way we start our spring cleaning efforts. Pick a room and start cleaning it up. In our businesses, pick an inefficient, time-consuming, or otherwise costly process and clean it up. What we'll find is that one cleaning effort will by default lead to another, and another, and another – just like spring cleaning – you can never stop cleaning just one closet.

Over time, your clean-it-now mindset and practices will positively impact your entire organization. As you and your employees continue to identify and clean-up messy practices sooner rather than later, your teams and your organization will become more efficient. Waste will be kept to a minimum, costs will be reduced, and time-wasting processes will be revamped.

Now isn't that a great return for cleaning up the funky practices in your business?

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Business Person of the Year Award Speech - as read April 22, 2010

The Business Person of the Year Award is our most coveted award where the membership honors one of its own. This year's recipient embodies professionalism with principled leadership, strategic thinking, balanced workplace values, tireless service to this community, and an unrelenting pursuit of excellence.

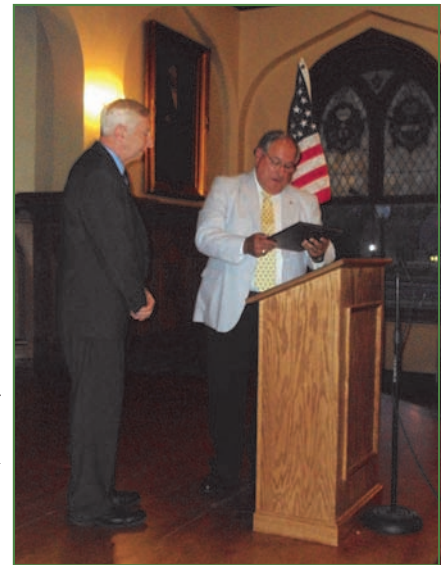
Born in York, PA in 1942, Don Shenberger's home life was less than ideal. By the age of 15, he had already had several altercations with the law and when given the choice of being placed in a juvenile institution or working on a church farm in Hagerstown, Maryland, he chose the church farm. The pastor there opened his home to this troubled young man and allowed him to live and labor there for several years. This choice marked the turning point in Don's life and in a short time he had accepted Christ and began a new life.

A few years later, still young and uncertain, he met his wife-to-be and in short order proposed to her. He was so surprised that she responded with a yes, he temporarily changed his mind. It wasn't long before he was called to serve his country in Vietnam. While there, his faith and the love of this young lady waiting at home encouraged and supported him, and after returning, he married the love of his life: Ruth.

Together they began a family that grew to eight children, living for many years on a dairy farm in Hagerstown, Maryland. Nearly 20 years ago, they began a business raising Persian and Himalayan cats and soon left the farm and moved to Clear Spring where Ruth raised the animals with the help of their children, and Don drove a tandem dump truck for Craig Paving. With farming being such a part of his life, he went on to begin a business of custom ag-bagging, eventually moving into sales and sold life insurance for some years.

One day Don spotted an ad in the newspaper about a printing business for sale in Mercersburg. After much research, discussion, and prayer he felt that this business just might be a fit for his family. Before long, Don was the new owner of Mercersburg Printing. Use to the hard work of farming and raising animals, the family members were quick to jump in and work long hours to learn their new trade and make sure this new business thrived.

It took many years of work, the support of the community, and a growing staff of excellent, hard-working employees to build the business to where it is today. It has been Don's focus from the beginning to meet the needs and hopefully surpass the expectations of his customers, to provide for his family not only the means to live, but a future business that will be a benefit to themselves and an asset to this community. He's always willing to go the extra mile to make sure each customer is happy with their job and that they have it when they need it. Don believes it is truly the blessings of God that have enabled his family to be part of this successful business.



Don Shenberger with Mayor Zeger

The 2010 Business Person of the Year is Don Shenberger, owner of Mercersburg Printing.

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JBHS SPRING MOCK INTERVIEWS

The Tuscarora Area Chamber of Commerce has partnered with the Tuscarora School District again to provide 'Mock Interviews' for the mandatory "Economics" class taught to Juniors, Thursday May 20, 2010. The "Mock Interview" is an effort to expose students to "real world" scenarios.

Here's How it Works

Each interviewer is set up at a table in one of the Life Skills classrooms. The teacher gives you resumes and applications. You will review them then call the appropriate student in for the interview. You will be given sample interview questions, but are free to improvise and will be interviewing the student for approximately 10-15 minutes.

Why should you be a Mock Interviewer?

These students are your next best employees and this process helps them prepare themselves for the world of work. For a very small commitment of your time and energy, you will receive huge rewards and be delighted at the caliber of the students in our school.

How Do You Get Involved?

Review the flyer inserted in this newsletter, sign the participant agreement and return it to TACC, PO Box 161, Mercersburg, PA 17236. Any questions contact Exec. Director Mary-Anne Gordon, 328-5827 or info@mercersburg.org.



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