



**NEWSLETTER – December 31, 2009**

#### **MEETING REMINDER**

The general meeting of the Chamber is held on the first Tuesday of the month. **The next meeting will be held at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, January 5** at the Route 6 Diner. If you haven't attended a Chamber meeting in a while, join us for dinner or a snack so we can get reacquainted.

#### **CHAMBER ISSUES PRIZES FOR BEST HOLIDAY LIGHTING**

On Thursday, December 10, for the 10th consecutive year, Senior Center members boarded a McKeirnan school bus, driven by Judy Carlson, to view and judge the outdoor lights in the Smethport Borough and along E. Main Street to Myra's restaurant.

The Chamber of Commerce put up cash awards of \$50.00 for 1st place, \$30.00 for 2nd and \$20.00 for 3rd place.

About 20 judges left the Senior/Visitor's Center, accompanied by carolers Judy Barr, with sons Andrew and Aaron, and daughters Katie and Emma.

First prize went to **Jim and Georganne Sample** of 222 East Water Street. Second prize went to **Todd and Lori Smith** of 108 West Green Street. Third prize went to **Dean and Tara Morey** of 203 Nelson Street.

Following the award, Georganne Sample sent a card with the following note: "Although Jim and I decorate for the enjoyment of all to share in the season of Christmas, without thought of the contest, we thank you for enjoying it enough that you considered us worthy of noting. There are so many beautiful homes and all are worthy of a prize."

Honorable mentions went to the McKean County Courthouse and the Boy Scouts for their displays.

#### **WEBINAR: PA ROOM TAX AND OTHER LODGING TAX QUESTIONS**

On Tuesday, January 12 (2:00 pm - 3:00 pm), PTLA will host a webinar titled "PA Room Tax and other Lodging Tax Questions" presented by Keith A. Clark of Shumaker Williams, P.C.

Keith Clark has been General Counsel for the Pennsylvania Tourism and Lodging Association since the early 1980s and has been working with the Association, the PA Association of Conventions and Visitors Bureaus, and individual CVBs on room tax issues since 1982.

He will address questions concerning not only Room Taxes and Amusement Taxes, but also Pennsylvania Hotel Occupancy Taxes, Sales Taxes, and, as time allows, any other questions relating to the hospitality industry based on his 40 years of experience in representing hotels, restaurants, bed and breakfasts, and attractions in Pennsylvania and other states.

He will focus on "the good, the bad, and the ugly" side of room taxes; including: more than a dozen individual enabling statutes and the methodology for making sure that the county commissioners are "in the right pew" when they consider room taxes for their counties; interpretation issues, including their applicability to state and federal agency, employers, non-profits, time share projects, traditional and non-traditional lodging facilities, etc. He will provide experienced advice on dealing with county commissioners who want to subsidize their general budget with room tax revenues and the unique issues faced by regional CVBs.

To participate in this webinar, all you will need is a phone (the call will be free) and computer with internet access. Cost is \$49 for PTLA members (\$69 for non-members).

### **ARTIST / VENDOR OPPORTUNITIES**

Call for Submissions: Art of the State: Pennsylvania 2010. Exhibit Dates: June 27-September 12, 2010. A juried exhibition open to established and emerging Pennsylvania artists creating paintings, photographs, sculpture, crafts or works on paper. Entry forms are available at [www.statemuseumpa.org](http://www.statemuseumpa.org). Deadline is February 22, 2010 (postmark). For more information, contact exhibit co-sponsor, The Greater Harrisburg Arts Council, at 717-238-5180.

### **NEW PRODUCTS PROMOTE TOURISM IN OUR AREA**

A selection of 32 prints is now available featuring landmarks from our area such as the fallen tower #13 of the Kinzua Viaduct.

In addition, the *Kinzua Viaduct Documentary - Tracks Across the Sky* is available in DVD or VHS formats. There is also *Pennsylvania Wilds: Images from the Allegheny National Forest* and *Gamble for Glory* which tells the story of the world's first billion dollar oil field. All products can be viewed at [www.theforestpress.com](http://www.theforestpress.com)

Single pieces can be ordered and bulk orders are available at special pricing for resale at ANFVB member locations. All funds generated from the sale of these items are directly used to market and promote our region for tourism and tourism development. For details, please call Linda Devlin at 1-800-473-9370.

### **USE PA WILDS LOGO ON YOUR SIGNS AND BROCHURES**

The Pennsylvania Wilds logo has been used on tourism brochures, business signs, promotional accessories and other items. If your business, non-profit organization, community or outdoor group is interested in utilizing this trademark logo, you must first get permission from the Department of Community & Economic Development. There is no cost to use the logo. The application process is described at: [www.pawildsresources.org/logo.html](http://www.pawildsresources.org/logo.html).

## **BIOMASS UPDATE**

A draft feasibility study for the planned Combined Heat and Power (CHP) facility for Smethport has been submitted to the Technical Group of the Smethport Woody Biomass Leadership Team. The results are being reviewed.

## **MEMBERSHIP 2009**

As of December 31st, the Chamber has 47 individuals, businesses and other organizations as members. Members highlighted in yellow have joined since the last newsletter:

ADP Rentals  
Allegheny National Forest Vacation Bureau - ANFVB  
Ascent Solutions  
Barbara Bowman  
Bill Lake Real Estate  
Buchanan Bros. Pharmacy  
Casella Waste Systems  
Chef Specialties  
Colonial Radio Group  
Corner Restaurant & Bar (Annin Enterprises Inc.)  
Diane Covert  
Dr. D.L. Rumsey  
Enchanted Mountain Advertising  
Edward Jones FA Keith Delacour  
Ferman's Auto  
Forcon Inc.  
Garden Club  
George and Deborah Tufts  
Hancock Forestry  
Heritage Suites (Bradford)  
James B. Kane, Jr. DMD  
James P. Miller, Attorney at Law  
Jennifer Messinger  
Keppel Stone Works  
Kwik Fill  
Lakeview Living & Rehabilitation  
Les Jordan, Jr.  
Lindgren's Variety Store  
McKean County Fair  
McKean County Historical Society  
Northwest Savings Bank  
Olsen & Tenglund Inc.  
Phillis Barnhart  
Radio Shack  
Ronald Tanner  
Rt. 6 Diner  
Senior Center  
St. Elizabeth of Hungary R.C. Church  
St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
Smethport Area School District  
Smethport Drive-In  
The Country Porch  
United Refining Company of Pennsylvania (Warren)  
United Way  
Veterans of Foreign Wars – V.F.W.

Wayne and Mary Lee Pearson  
Woods Baker & Ross

\* **NOTE:** If you do not see your name / organization on this list, please drop a note to:  
njmuller@comcast.net.

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Nathan Muller, President; Rose Bishop, V. President;  
Diana Covert, Secretary; Lu Vandermark, Treasurer; Jeff Keppel; Jackie Taylor; Scott  
Christie

**WEBSITE:** smethportchamber.com

**FREE ADVERTISING:** If your business is located in the Borough, Smethport Web will host  
an advertising banner at no charge. Send advertising copy, images, and contact information  
to **advertising@smethportpa.org**. Don't miss this opportunity to use the power of the  
Internet to enhance your business. All the design work will even be done for you!