



NEWSLETTER – March 31, 2010

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, April 6th** 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.

DIRECTOR SLOTS UP FOR VOTE

It is important to attend next week's Chamber meeting (April 6th) to vote for expiring slots on the Board of Directors. The slate consists of the following people:

- Les Jordan, Jr.
- Lu Vandermark
- Rose Bishop
- Christy Andrulonis
- Diana Covert
- Barbara Ness

At the meeting, ballots will be issued. You will have the opportunity to select from the names above or to write in your own candidate. Write-in candidates must be Chamber members.

You must be in attendance at the Chamber meeting to vote. Voting by proxy is currently not permitted.

BUSINESS & VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

The Chamber is seeking your nominations for the annual Business of the Year and Volunteer of the Year awards. Nominees for Business of the Year must be Chamber members. Nominees for Volunteer of the Year do not have to be Chamber members, but should reside in the Smethport area. A formal invitation to provide nominees will be emailed to the membership by early next week.

DINNER SPEAKER

Our featured speaker for the 9th Annual Chamber Dinner will be Dr. Timothy W. Kelsey, Professor of Agricultural Economics, and State Program Leader, Economic and Community Development, with The Pennsylvania State University.



As State Program Leader, he provides statewide leadership for Cooperative Extension programs focused on place-based economic development, leadership development, community decision-making, and community-based agricultural development.

He comes highly recommended from several sources. His topic, "Community and Economic Implications of Marcellus Shale for Smethport," will delve into the challenges Smethport will likely face as the development of the Marcellus Shale continues. He will provide a balanced assessment of the good and the bad so that businesses, residents, and the Borough Council can be better prepared.

For your reference, more information about the dinner is available on the Chamber website at: http://www.smethportchamber.com/annual_dinner_2010.htm. You can also download and print additional RSVP forms if you need them.

Reminder: Dinner reservations are due April 15th.

RECYCLE OFFICE EQUIPMENT THROUGH HAMLIN LIBRARY

Hamlin Memorial Library is conducting a recycling fundraiser that will also protect the environment. There's nothing to buy. Simply donate your used consumer electronics and unwanted, broken or mismatched jewelry. Your used item(s) may be tax deductible.

All donated items will be sold for recycling in accordance with EPA regulations. 100% of the proceeds will help pay for the library's new addition plus other library projects.

The library is currently collecting the following items:

- Cell Phones
- Laptop Computers
- Inkjet Cartridges
- Digital Cameras
- Digital Video Cameras
- Handheld Game Systems
- Radar Detectors
- Electronic Book Readers
- MP3 Players
- GPS Devices

Drop off any items you would like to recycle at the Hamlin Memorial Library.

TOUR ARRANGED FOR SMETHPORT

As part of the Chamber's participation on the Steering Committee of Leadership McKean, a chartered school bus from McKiernan Bus Co. will transport 20 participants in the program to tourist destinations throughout McKean County.

The goals of the program's Tourism module, part of a multi-faceted 13-week course (held once a month on Fridays), includes:

1. Defining the role of tourism and how it impacts the county economy.
2. Becoming a knowledgeable and conversant ambassador for key county tourist attractions, through first-hand experience.
3. Using this experience to favorably influence the perception of visitors and others who hear about and visit the region through such means as participating in discussions on blogs, Facebook, and Twitter.

A highlight of the tour on May 14th includes a stop in Smethport for a walking tour of the Historic District, which includes a detailed look at the interior of the Bouton House. This will be followed by lunch at the Route 6 Diner before departure to Kinzua Bridge State Park.

SMETHPORT TOWN WIDE YARD SALES

The annual town wide yard sales event will be held Friday, April 30th and Saturday, May 1st from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Flyers created by Jackie Taylor have been strategically placed around town.

The Chamber will promote the event with radio advertising on The Mountain (radio station 106.3 WXMT), as well as print ads in The Bradford Era and Moneysaver.

UPDATED LOCAL DIRECTORY NOW AVAILABLE

The local directory of Smethport businesses has been revised by Anne Potter, Diana Covert and Michele Burns.

This handy guide includes contact information for places of worship, banks, utilities, restaurants, and health care services, as well as government and community organizations. It even includes a historical sketch of Smethport.

It's the perfect companion to your local phone book. Hard copies are available now at the Borough office. A PDF copy will be available for download on the Borough and Chamber websites next week.

START PLANNING YOUR "SECTION 179" DEDUCTIONS NOW

Section 179 of the tax code is set to completely expire in 2011, unless Congress extends it, possibly with enhancements.

What is Section 179?

This is a provision in the tax code that allows businesses to take huge deductions on purchased or leased equipment and software as soon as these items are put to work.

For tax year 2010, a business that spends less than \$530,000 a year on qualified equipment can write-off up to \$134,000 in 2010.

There's talk in Washington by the Obama Administration to enhance Section 179 with a 50% bonus depreciation, which could add even more savings to your bottom line.

Because Section 179 works differently according to how a corporation is structured, you need to check with your accountant for the specific details of IRS Section 179 and its application for your business in 2010.

Armed with the facts, you can implement a purchase plan that will offer the most bang for the buck, while maximizing your tax write-off.

NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE

In case you need to refer to a past newsletter, the Chamber website now has an archive at: www.smethportchamber.com/chamber_newsletter.htm

MEMBERSHIP 2009-2010

Just a reminder that Chamber membership renewals for 2010–2011 have gone out through regular mail... Please be sure to renew as soon as possible. If you have misplaced the form that came in the mail with the Annual Dinner announcement, you can download another copy from the Chamber website at http://www.smethportchamber.com/membership_form.htm.

As of March 31st, the Chamber has 48 individuals, businesses and other organizations as members.

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
Hamlin Bank & Trust Company

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
Ross and Jovanna Porter
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.

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

WEBSITE: www.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!