



MARION COUNTY  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

2010  
*Legislative*  
AGENDA

Government Affairs Division - Key Objectives

Communicate to elected officials our positions on legislative issues; offer assistance in monitoring good business legislation; to generally be the liaison between government and the business community in matters where governmental decisions affect business in our region, state, and nation.

## ***2010 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA***

### **DEMOLITION & REPLACEMENT OF THE WV STATE OFFICE COMPLEX**

*The WV State Office Complex, located in downtown Fairmont was closed in 2009 for structural damages, displacing over 200 employees. A new Complex has been designed and a suitable location has been found. The MCCC not only supports the new office complex, but we strongly encourage the Marion County Commission, City of Fairmont, and the State of WV to finalize all plans so construction can begin soon. This complex is imperative for the future growth of downtown Fairmont and with the Gateway Connector opening in the fall of 2010, it is imperative that community leaders work together to complete this project.*

- ◆ Ensure demolition of current facility is scheduled for 2010
- ◆ Work with all parties to finalize property selection and a timetable for construction
- ◆ Facilitate any meetings between state, county, and city officials to make sure project is completed in a timely manner.

### **SUPPORT AND LOBBY FOR FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY TO RECEIVE EQUITABLE FUNDING FROM THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA.**

*Fairmont State University continues to rank last in state support (based on in-state FTE's) among the HEPC institutions which creates a financial burden. Without continued progress toward equitable funding, budget cuts and tuition increases are inevitable.*

- ◆ Meet with local state Senators and Delegates to ensure their support and continued efforts during the 2010 Legislative Session.
- ◆ Lobby other community leaders to support this effort educating them on the importance and fairness of this request.
- ◆ Become pro-active and support FSU's lobbying efforts to remind Senators and Delegates that, to date, only one of the four annual base budget increases was provided to FSU and this community deserves better.

### **SUPPORT FOR ADVANCED TECHNICAL TRAINING CENTER**

*The Marion County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) supports the construction of the Advanced Technical Training Center in Marion County in addition to a continued partnership with Pierpont Community and Technical College.*

- ◆ The MCCC will work with state and local officials to ensure this facility is built in Marion County and work with Federal and State officials to secure an appropriate site.
- ◆ The MCCC will partner with Pierpont Community & Technical College in designing a program for students in the Youth Leadership and Senior Forum that will introduce and promote the new training center.

*See Reverse Side for Other Chamber Priorities*

## **2010 ADDITIONAL CHAMBER PRIORITIES**

### **FAIRMONT GENERAL HOSPITAL SOLE PROVIDER STATUS**

**Support and assist Fairmont General Hospital in their efforts to retain their Sole Provider Status through insertion of appropriate language in proposed federal legislation by July 1, 2010.**

*Fairmont General Hospital is both an economic engine in its own right and a cornerstone for economic development in the region. The loss of the Sole Community Provider Status will have a devastating impact on the economy of Marion County which could include loss of jobs and closure of "services of convenience" resulting in a need to travel to access these services.*

- ◆ Meet with local state Senators and Delegates to update them on status and garner their support and assistance in our efforts with Federal Legislators
- ◆ Spearhead a letter writing campaign by designated individuals to influence Senator Byrd and Rockefeller along with Congressman Mollohan. Letters should be written by Governor Manchin, State Elected Officials, Community Leaders, FGH Board Members, and FGH Unions
- ◆ Support FGH's efforts as they broaden the issue by attempting to engage the American Hospital Association in the argument to prevent "raider hospitals" from encroaching upon existing hospital's service areas.

### **2010 BOARD OF EDUCATION BOND CALL**

**Support upcoming Marion County Board of Education 2010 Bond Call**

*Marion County desperately needs a new East Fairmont Middle School. This is a very crucial step for future economic development and residential growth. This effort must be supported on the contingency that the School Building Authority grants Marion County the promised funding.*

- ◆ Work with Board of Education and Bond Committee to publicize and lobby for the passage of this bond.
- ◆ Engage the business community in this effort by showing them the positive outcomes, economic advantages and student opportunities derived from updated school facilities.

### **GATEWAY CONNECTOR DEVELOPMENT**

**The MCCC supports continued development on the Gateway Connector as to maximize the economic potential.**

*With the opening of the Gateway Connector slated for fall of 2010, the ease of traffic flow in downtown Fairmont will be greatly enhanced. The Marion County Chamber sees this as an opportunity to create additional commercial and meaningful development at the top of the Connector bringing additional economic development opportunities to Marion County.*

- ◆ MCCC to work with the County Commission, City of Fairmont, and the Marion Regional Development Corporation to identify new business opportunities along the Connector that will enhance the economic opportunities for Marion County.
- ◆ MCCC will continue their development initiatives; stay proactive in the planning and design of Connector economic development and partner with MRDC and other agencies to attract new business to this area.

### **HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE**

**The MCCC supports Phase II of the Gateway Connector; Coal Run Hollow Expressway in addition to county-wide bridge repairs/replacements and highway upgrades. The Chamber must stay pro-active in highway opportunities.**

*In order for Marion County to grow its economic base and meet the needs of the business community, we must continue to lobby for federal and state highway dollars. The Gateway Connector, when completed, will allow traffic to flow directly from Interstate 79 to downtown Fairmont. That, in itself, will be an economic enhancement for downtown Fairmont, but we can't stop there. We must move that traffic throughout the county in a faster and easier way so as all parts of Marion County can grow their economic base.*

- ◆ Work with the City of Fairmont to promote and attract development along the Gateway Connector
- ◆ Stay involved with federal and state legislators to ensure funds will continue to be placed in federal and state highway bills.
- ◆ Support and work with state, county, and city officials on the 4<sup>th</sup> St. Bridge repair/replacement
- ◆ Support and work with state officials on South Fairmont road projects along with all other transportation infrastructure projects throughout the county.