

2010 *MCCC* LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

During the Chamber's Legislative Breakfast, held in early January, Marion County's local state-wide delegation was given the Chamber's top legislative issues for this year's session. Topping the list are:

- ▶ Demolition and replacement of the WV State Office Complex
- ▶ Support and lobby for FSU to receive equitable funding from the state
- ▶ Support for the Advanced Technical Training Center

In addition, the Chamber felt the following items, although not state legislative issues, were issues that the *MCCC* to support in the next year:

- ▶ Assist FGH in their efforts to retain the Sole Provider Status
- ▶ Support and lobby for passage of the 2010 Board of Education School Bond
- ▶ Continued development along the Gateway Connector
- ▶ Support for Phase II of the Gateway Connector, county-wide bridge repair/replacements, and highway upgrades

At the Board of Directors Work Session in January, the Board approved a resolution in support of finalizing all details to begin construction on the new WV State Office Complex, and a resolution in support of the Advanced Technical Training Center to be located in Marion County. Both resolutions have been sent to Governor Manchin and the Chamber received an acknowledgment from him.

If any member would like a copy of the resolutions or the Chamber's 2010 Legislative Agenda, please call the office or visit the website at www.marionchamber.com.

Reverend "Jack" Squires Youth Leadership Scholarship Fund

As a reminder, upon his death, Reverend Squires set up a fund to establish a scholarship in his name to be awarded each year to a graduate of the Chamber's Youth Leadership Program who was planning to attend Fairmont State University. The scholarship is awarded at the Annual Dinner where he was honored each year.

Without funding and donations, it will be hard to continue his wishes, therefore, if any member would like to contribute to this fund, please make your donation payable to Rev. Donal Squires Scholarship Fund, and mail to the *MCCC*. All donations are deposited in an account at BC Bank in Fairmont and copies sent to Rev. Squire family.

Chamber Members Invited to Manchin Clinic Business After Hours

All chamber members are invited to a special Business After Hours at the Manchin Clinic South, located behind Middletown Mall – co-sponsored by WesBanco Insurance Services. The event will take place on February 25th from 5:00 – 7:00 pm and will offer information on health care options. The *MCCC* feels this will be a great opportunity for our small business community to learn more about choices for their healthcare needs. Members are asked to RSVP to the Chamber (304 363-0442). Please encourage your employees to attend as these events are open to employees of all members.

Planning for Spring Events Underway

Although, technically, it is still winter and the snow is still falling, the Chamber's Event's committee is well underway with plans for upcoming Chamber events.

The Spring Home & Garden Expo will be held March 6th & 7th at the Middletown Mall. This event has grown steadily over the years with vendors from the tri-state area showcasing their products and new services. Advertising will begin soon on this event, so please watch for details. Sponsors for this year's event are Allpro Home Improvements, Biafore Landscape Development, Capital Doors, Froggy, Hauge's Flower Store & Garden Center, Time Warner Cable and WDTV. If you would like more information on the show or would like to get involved, please call the Chamber at 304 363-0442.

Monte Carlo Night – Please mark your calendars for April 17th to attend this fun and exciting event. Held last November, this night proved to be one of the most exciting and fun-filled evenings for all in attendance. Time & location will be announced in the next few weeks and members will be contacted with the details. In the meantime, please call us if you would like more information or would like to be a sponsor.

Spring Golf Outing – Green Hills Country Club will, once again, be the location of the *MCCC's* Spring Golf Outing. This year's event will be held on Friday, May 7th so mark you calendars, round up your foursome, and get those clubs ready. If your business would like to be one of the sponsors for this year's outing, please contact us.



Chamber Health Care Program Moving Forward

As the healthcare debate continues in Washington DC, chambers across WV are working hard to provide options to their member's healthcare needs. The *MCCC* is doing their part by participating in a state-wide effort to offer healthcare services. ChamberChoice, made up of a variety of healthcare plans, is now available to all members and their employees. Partnering with approximately 15 WV chambers, the goal of ChamberChoice to educate members on the changes in the healthcare industry and work closely with them to provide the most efficient healthcare.

“No doubt this has been an interesting experience for the Chambers,” said Tina Shaw. “Our only goal is to have a louder voice in healthcare changes and to offer our small businesses healthcare products using local agents.”

Chambers participating in the program are working closely with ChamberChoice to design and offer a wide variety of products and services to their members. If you would like more information, please call the chamber office.

FACES of Coal

The Marion County Chamber has joined forces with Chambers across the state and numerous other businesses to support the FACES of Coal initiative moving through the state. The Federation for American Coal, Energy and Security (FACES of Coal) is an alliance of people from all walks of life who are joining forces to educate lawmakers and the general public about the importance of coal and coal mining to our local and national economies and to our nation's energy security. In addition to keeping tens of thousands of people employed in good-paying jobs, coal is the lifeblood of our domestic energy supply, generating half the electricity consumed in the United States today.

Each member should have received a special mailing from the Chamber asking for you and/or your business to join this initiative. Coal in our state is vital to not only our economic future, but the future of our nation. In 2009, Marion County had 16 coal mines that employed approximately 590 people. Direct wages to those employees was over \$36,875,000 and severance tax paid to the county, which is vital to economic development, was over \$1.5 million. In 2009, Marion County was the 5th largest coal producing county in the state for underground and surface mining. (*Source: Coal Facts 2009*) Please take some time and visit www.facesofcoal.org to learn more about this state-wide initiative.



LUNCHEON HONORS ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS *By Glenna McCormick*

The Marion County Chapter of Administrative Excellence, the local chapter of the International Association of Administrative Professionals® (IAAP), is honored to show its appreciation of administrative professionals working in our area by hosting the Annual Administrative Professionals Day Luncheon from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday,

April 21, 2010 at West Virginia Banquet Room and Conference Center (beside Valley Worlds of Fun), 2017 Pleasant Valley Road, Fairmont, WV.

Administrative Professionals Week was established as an annual opportunity to recognize the valuable contributions of office support staff and to encourage students to consider administrative careers. Over the years, Administrative Professionals Week has become one of the largest workplace observances. The event is celebrated worldwide; bringing together millions of people in support of staff who are invaluable in today's workforce.

The Marion County Chapter of Administrative Excellence was chartered on January 24, 2003. Our corporate sponsors are West Virginia High Technology Consortium Foundation and West Virginia United Health System.

To make reservations to attend the Administrative Professionals Day Luncheon, call Glenna McCormick at (304) 333-6447 or send an email to gmccormick@wvhtf.org. The cost of the luncheon is \$20.00 per person. As in previous years, each registrant will be greeted with a flower and a gift. Following lunch, the honorees will have several chances to win valuable door prizes that have been donated by area businesses. Registration and payment must be received by noon on Friday, April 16, 2010.

To find out more information concerning the regional chapter of IAAP, visit our website at www.iaap-MarionCounty.org.

Small Business Committee Sets Agenda

The 2010 Small Business Committee, chaired by Guy Baroni, VP of CreateTank, met at the Board of Directors Work Session and established the following objectives for the upcoming year.

Two seminars will be offered to all members:

- ▶ Using Media to Promote Your Business for Free
– tentatively scheduled for late April or early May
- ▶ Using free software to assist with business growth
– tentatively scheduled for late June

Lead a fact-finding tour to Huntsville, Alabama to learn how they successfully integrated the community into their rapid business growth – scheduled for late fall.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb 25th **5:00 –7:00 PM**

*Business After Hours
Manchin Clinic South
located behind Middletown Mall*

March 6th & 7th

*Home & Garden Expo
Middletown Mall*

*Saturday - 6th
10:00 AM—5:00 PM*

*Sunday - 7th
12:00 PM - 4:00 PM*

March 16th **8:00 AM**

*MCCC Executive Committee
Chamber Conference Room*

April 2nd

*Holiday
Chamber Offices Closed*

April 17th

*Monte Carlo Night
Location and time TBA*

April 20th **8:00 AM**

*MCCC Executive Committee
Chamber Conference Room*

May 7th

*Golf Tournament
Green Hills Country Club*

May 18th **8:00 AM**

*MCCC Executive Committee
Chamber Conference Room*



Mr. Bob Marquardt, CEO of Fairmont General, and his wife Norma at a welcoming reception co-hosted by the Chamber.

The MCCC Welcomes Newest Members

We look forward to working with you!

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