

Chamber Membership Update



The Voice for Business since 1928

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Highlights

- Lunch N' Learn
- Member Appreciation Picnic
- Business After Hours
- New Memberships
- New Board Member Appointments
- Member Recognitions
- Member Renovations

Events In The Works

- Christmas Parade

Committee Chairs

Member Care
Jason Starcher

Marketing:
Ray Dietz

Education:
Melissa O'Brien

Governance:
Kip Smith

Staff:

Kim Davis, Exe. Director

304.927.1780

Chamber Lunch N' Learn — Tuesday, September 30th



We invite you to join us for a **Chamber Lunch N' Learn** with **Guest Speaker Susan Moran**, Employer Program Specialist for Workforce Investment Board Mid-Ohio Valley at **12:00 p.m. (noon) on Tuesday, September 30**, at **Chestnut Ridge Winery**. WorkForce West Virginia is dedicated to boosting the economic development in our communities by offering area employers innovative and informative services that can change the way you do business. Come and learn about Recruitment, Employee Education, Tax Credit Information to On-Site Assistance for Business Downsizing and Laid Off Workers and many programs in between. Don't miss this great opportunity to learn what programs and free assistance WorkForce West Virginia can provide to your business. Cost to attend: Chamber Members - \$7.00; Non-Chamber Members - \$10.00. To attend, please call the Chamber Office, (304) 927-1780 by Thursday, September 25th.



Susan Moran
WorkForce Investment

Membership Appreciation Picnic—Oct. 7th

Guest Speaker

In honor of you, our Chamber businesses and supporters, we will be hosting a **Chamber Membership Appreciation Picnic** on **Tuesday, October 7** from **5:30 – 7:00 p.m.** at the **Roane County Committee on Aging Building**.



Nikki Bowman
New South Media

Nikki Bowman, founder of New South Media, will be the evening's Guest Speaker and will speak at 5:30 p.m. Ms Bowman, a Clay and Kanawha County native, is the Publisher and Editor of the successful magazines *WV Living*, *WV Weddings*, *WV Outdoor Living*, *West Virginia Focus* and Publisher of *Morgantown*. Ms. Bowman, a passionate advocate for West Virginia who has traveled West Virginia extensively, will share with us her unique experiences, knowledge and marketing expertise.

The menu will include: smoked pulled pork BBQ, grilled hotdogs, potato salad, macaroni salad, coleslaw, baked beans, tea, water and the ever popular ice cream sundae bar. **The picnic is FREE to all of our Chamber Member Businesses, their employees and family.** Please RSVP by calling the Chamber Office, (304) 927-1780, the number of employees and family members that will be attending from your businesses by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Tuesday, September 30.



Christmas Parade - Saturday, December 6



The Annual **Christmas Parade** has been scheduled for **Saturday, December 6, 2014** beginning at **11:00 a.m.** Any parties interested in participating in the parade or providing entertainment, please contact the Chamber Office or applications can be downloaded from the Chamber website.



Business After Hours—Held on July 10

Chestnut Ridge Winery sponsored a **Chamber Business After Hours** on July 10 with a great turnout! Participants were treated to wine tasting and hors d' oeuvres while we learned about the Winery's operations and future plans for expansion. I would like to thank Chestnut Ridge Winery again for sponsoring this event and providing a great networking opportunity for our members. If any other members are interested in sponsoring a Chamber Business After Hours, please call the Chamber Office at (304) 927-1780 or email us at rchamber@commission.state.wv.us.

New Chamber Members



We would like to extend a big welcome to our newest Chamber Member:

- R Fine House, Inc. dba The Closet



Kathy Burdette
Store Manager

Linda Sims, owner/operator of *The Closet* invites you to their store located at 646 Parkersburg Road in Spencer. The 501(c)3 opened its doors in July of 2012 to serve the needs of many through the generosity of others. The thrift store offers and takes donations for gently used clothing, toys and household items. Proceeds from the thrift store goes towards helping women and children in need. *R Fine House, Inc.* partnered with the late Roane County resident Jean Melarvie's Sunny Bank Farm Charitable Trust, which encompasses a 780 acre farm designated as a site to serve a humanitarian purpose. Development plans for the property include: expanding and renovating the existing home and building a larger residence to house women and children in need. For more information or to make a donation call The Closet at (304) 373-4646.



Ray Blackburn, Owner
Chuck Adams, District
Manager

Member Renovations

If you haven't been into **Wendy's** since their major renovations—you need to—it's clean, sleek, modern look is wonderful. You can choose to sit at the bar, a booth, table or take advantage of the lounge-type area which includes a working fireplace and large television screen. Ray Blackburn, the store owner, said the that every 20 years the stores gets an upgrade and this store was completely renovated, inside and out, in just three weeks. "Crews were working around the clock and with the renovations we can seat 84 patrons now. We also plan to hire five additional staff members as sales are expected to increase." Blackburn stated. Mr. Blackburn's enthusiasm was contagious as he greeted and spoke to patrons about the renovations, almost as a father would dote on his children. Mr. Blackburn not only takes great pride in his store but also this community as he stated. "I love this community and I knew I wanted one of my restaurants here, it's just a great place!"



Premier Bank - Traders Division is about to become more accessible to it's customers. Gone is the black wrought iron fence and gate which is now replaced with a new, open entrance coming off of Main Street. The bank expects the new entrance and surrounding area to be open and landscaped in about a week. Customers will still be able to enter and exit off of Market Street as well.

Awards & Recognitions - Congratulations!

Armacell, LLC



Congratulations to **Armacell, LLC** and it's employees who received the **OSHA Safety & Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) Award** on August 6, 2014. Recipients are described by OSHA as an elite group of small businesses that maintain exemplary injury and illness prevention programs and Armacell is only one of 14 companies in the state that currently holds the distinction of be a SHARP recipient. Company officials and employees celebrated their honored distinction with West Virginia Labor Commissioner John Junkins and members of the community at the Heritage Park Community Building.

John Corkrean



Chamber Member and Board of Director **John Corkrean** and Barbara Smith were inducted into the **West Virginia University School of Pharmacy's Centennial Hall of Fame** on June 14, 2014. Both were recognized for their outstanding pharmacy career and meritorious contributions to the profession, school or health care society. John has been a pharmacist for 40 years with 37 of those being served in Roane County. Although officially retired in 2011, John still fills in as a substitute pharmacist when needed in Roane, Jackson and Calhoun counties.

Spencer Newspapers, Inc.



Congratulations to Chamber Member **David Hedges**, publisher of Spencer Newspapers who received the distinguished "**Adam R. Kelly Premier Journalist Award**" on August 9, 2014. The Premier Journalist award is the top individual honor bestowed by the West Virginia Press Association and was given to David in recognition of his service to the newspapers in the state, the press association and to his community. David has been providing coverage of our community for more than 30 years.

Spencer Newspapers also took home a number of awards that evening for their coverage in the Times Record and Roane County Reporter. For the 23rd consecutive year, the papers finished among the top weekly newspapers in a field of 40 newspapers in the state. David Hedges, Jim Cooper, Sandy Vecchi, Cathy Springston and staff came home with a whopping 18 awards in the Better Newspapers Contest and scored high enough, overall, to receive Second Place in the General Excellence Awards. Out of the last 20 years, the Newspapers have received First Place in the General Excellence Awards for 13 years and Second Place in the General Excellence Awards for seven (7) years.



Has your business received an award or honor? Let us know and we will share it with the Membership.

Introducing—New Plant Managers / Division President



Ken Carr

Please join us in welcoming three of our Chamber Members new Managers/Division President: **Kenneth Carr**, Plant Manager for Armacell, LLC; **Michael Allen**, Traders Division President of Premier Bank and **Michael Moore**, Store Manager for Spencer Wal-Mart.

Ken Carr joined **Armacell** as the Plant Manager in the Spencer plant effective August 25, 2014. Ken brings to Armacell a wealth of experience and knowledge in the areas of training and manufacturing management along with 20 years of military service. Ken most recently served as Production Manager for Armstrong World Industries in Beverly, WV and has also held management positions with Alcoa, Inc., Anheuser-Busch, Crown Cork and Seal. Ken received his MBA and Bachelor degree in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. He was raised in Buckhannon, WV and currently resides in Elkins, WV with his wife and two children. Ken is looking forward to working in the Spencer area and will be relocating to the area in the near future.



Mike Allen

Mike Allen comes home to **Premier Bank**—Traders Division as their new Division President. Mike started his career at Traders Bank in 1984 and served as its Executive Vice-President and Chief Administrative Officer until 2001. For the last 12 years, Mike has been a Financial Consultant with AXA Advisors. Mr. Allen is a graduate of Spencer High School, Glenville State College and Consumer Banker's Association Graduate School of Retail Bank Management—University of Virginia McIntyre School of Business-Virginia.

Michael Moore took over as Store Manager for the **Spencer Wal-Mart** on September 13. Michael comes to us from the Mason County Store where he was the Store Manager for one year. Michael has been with Wal-Mart for 13 years and previously served as Assistant Store Manager for the Spencer store. Michael and his wife, Kimberly, children Dakota, Zoe and Hadlee have made their home in Spencer for the last four years and said he was grateful to get the opportunity to be closer to home and looks forward to the opportunity in becoming more involved with the community.



Fred Radar & Adam Hall



**Cunningham House
B & B**

Chamber Member Steps Up To The Plate

Special Thanks goes out to Chamber Member Sherry and Sonny Truman of the **Cunningham House Bed & Breakfast** for partnering with the Parkersburg Area Community Foundation—Appalachian Fellowship Program and the Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Council by providing housing for one of programs interns, Adam Hall. Adam, working under the direction of Fred Radar, Community Development Director for the Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Council, will be working on MOVRC's new House Improvement / Development Project. Mr. Radar said that this was a pilot program and Spencer would be its first participant. Mr. Radar stated that they would be working with the City of Spencer to identify dilapidated housing sites that are not quite ready for demolition but could rather be rehabilitated and would try to find the necessary funds to rehab the identified properties.

New Chamber Board of Director Members Announced



The Roane County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors would like to welcome and introduce you to two of our newest Board of Directors Members: **Sandy Garrett** of Jack Garrett Ford and **Phil Holcomb** with Chestnut Ridge Winery.