

PROSPECTOR

CONNECTING COMMUNITY & COMMERCE SINCE 1913.

BUILDING A STRONG BUSINESS COMMUNITY

A chamber of commerce is the one organization best positioned business organizations and associations allow for businesses to to be the voice of the business community and help to build a work together to continue to build a strong community. strong economic region. The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Montgomery County has been doing just that for the past 105 years. Originally founded as the Lansdale Board of Trade, it was chartered as the Lansdale Chamber of Commerce in 1941. Growing to a size that covered the footprint of the school district, the name was changed in 1963 to the North Penn Chamber of Commerce. Following a merger in 2008 with the Suburban Chamber the combined organization became the PennSuburban Chamber of Commerce. Today, the name reflects the growth in the service area and programs and have become recognized as The Chamber the community is to participate in one of the chambers giving for the Greater Montgomery County area.

With over 800 members including Chapter relationships with two local business associations, the number of connection opportunities for business development and strategic partnerships exceeds that of what can be achieved from local or national networking member meetings or unstructured card exchanges. organizations. Forbes Magazine, considered one of the top business information resources lists joining a chamber of commerce as a must do for all businesses. An article in American Express Open Forum states that "there are a lot of places for businesses to network nowadays with meetups and online communities, but your chamber of commerce is the only one of those entities that is actually looking out for your community and trying to improve things where you are."

Delivering the opportunity to have a voice in your community is professional presented through the municipal managers and county commis- development and sioners' breakfast and meet the candidate's forum. In addition, charitable activities. collaborating on events with county departments, nonprofit

The Shop Members First initiative encourages members to buy from members. The economics clearly show that when local businesses have more support the entire community is stronger.

The Chamber recognizes the need to educate and engage the next generation of leadership, which is accomplished through numerous programs for personal and professional development and a Young Professionals Network.

One of the most effective ways to build a strong relationship with programs. When you give to your community, your community tends to give back to you.

The Chamber understands that the business owner and executive's time is valuable and is no longer interested in monthly Partnership Network (BPN), Business Connectors and Hit Your Mark are unique events hosted by The Chamber that have proven success in growing regional commerce.

Today as businesses and communities are more dependent upon each other for their success, The Chamber helps by keeping

members informed, educated and involved in government,



BEST CHAMBER OR NETWORKING GROUP



IN THIS ISSUE President's Message **Member & Chapter News** Shop Members First

Upcoming Programs Welcome New Members Member Renewals Member Milestones

Member Highlight **Recent Events & Photos Prospector Advertisers**

CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair

Michael Coakley, Kreischer Miller

President/CEO

Pamela A. Kelly

Vice Chair

Gaetan Giannini, Montgomery County Community College

Secretary

Nanette Carney, The Carney Group

Treasurer

Duncan Reed, Edward Jones Investments

Immediate Past Chair

Daniel J. Reavy, McMahon Associates, Inc.

Board Chair Emeritus

Gary E. Brown, *Univest Bank and Trust Co.* Lon Seitz, *Seitz Leatherman & Kolb, LLC*

Board Member Emeritus

Robert G. Rosen, Esq.

Members of the Board

Bill Allen, Allen Door & Service Corporation

Nancy Bednarik, Merck & Co., Inc.

John Ernst, Borough of Lansdale

Gregory Gifford, Rubin, Glickman, Steinberg & Gifford, P.C.

Mary Griffith-Alfarano, Fulton Bank

Jim Madanci, ShopRite—Hatfield

David Magagna, Alcom Printing

Allyson Malack, Doylestown Health

Paul Nye, Lombardi & Associates

Sheri Strouse, Harleysville Bank

PROSPECTOR

Published bi-monthly by the

The Chamber of Commerce

for Greater Montgomery County

217 Church Road, Suite C, North Wales, PA 19454

Phone: (215) 362-9200 | Fax: (267) 613-8865

Chamber Satellite Office 676 DeKalb Pike, Suite #208, Blue Bell, PA 19422

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



"Although no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending." ~ Carl Bard

Have you lost track of the your New Year's resolutions for 2018? If working on your business was one of them,

there is still plenty of time to make amends and The Chamber is a great resource to help. Whether looking to add staff, fine tune some skills or increase your new prospect pipeline we can help. There is professional development programming, networking and community engagement opportunities on our calendar in the coming months. Check out our website or give us a call. We are happy to help.

Best, Pam

CHAMBER STAFF

Kim Nguyen, Vice President, Member Services

Sara Baumgardner, Communications Coordinator, Foundation Administrator

Danielle Bridge, Membership Development Director

Wendy Custer, Member Relations Manager

Steve O'Driscoll, Member Development

Carol Schultz, Events Coordinator

THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR SPONSORS















































3RD POWER YOUR POTENIAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE CONTINUES TO INSPIRE

The Chamber hosted the **3rd Annual Power Your** Potential: Montgomery County Women's Conference on



March 22nd at Normandy Farm Hotel & Conference Center. A sold-out crowd enjoyed networking and hearing from Honorary Chair, Tracy Davidson, NBC10 News Today; Keynote Speaker, Sheila

Hess, City of Philadelphia; and Keynote

Representative Speaker, Lisa Thomas-Laury, author and journalist; as well as from speakers and panelists in the *Power Sessions*.



Pam Kelly with Lisa Thomas-Laury



2018 Power Your Potential: Montgomery County Women's Conference



Award Recipient,

domestic violence.

More The Woman of Excellence Award was given to Marci Schankweiler, Founder and CEO, For Pete's Sake Cancer Respite **Foundation**. Marci spoke on overcoming adversity, following her passion, and giving back by supporting families Marci Schankweiler effected by cancer.

Power Your Potential is proud to include the Young Women Student Program, which provides juniors and seniors in college the opportunity to attend and

participate in the Conference. Each student in attendance was partnered with a mentor who accompanied them throughout the Conference.

Guests of the conference were invited to bring a new or gently used purse to be donated to **Laurel House** and the Women's Center of Montgomery **County**. Thanks to the generosity of the attendees, hundreds of purses were collected to empower survivors of



Tracy Davidson and Temple U. student, Kyra Miller, with donations for domestic violence organizations.

Merck & Co., Inc., was the Presenting Sponsor for the third year, and was joined by thirty-one more sponsoring organizations.



2018 Conference Planning Committee with Honorary Chair, Tracy Davidson, NBC10 News Today



Guests from Presenting Sponsor, Merck & Co., Inc.

MEMBER NEWS

<u>Ambler Yards</u> will be offering a new amenity to the community, The Farm Stand at Ambler Yards, offering seasonal fruits and vegetables, as well as pastured meats, cheeses, canned goods and more.



American Heritage Credit Union is now holding a "Biz Kid\$ Expedition," a unique field trip opportunity for local high schools and middle schools to help their students learn important life skills that aren't taught in the everyday classroom.

<u>Baum, Smith, & Clemens, LLP</u>, announced the following new hires: Michael Lombardo, CPA as a Tax Senior, Michael J. Stevens, CPA, MST as Tax Manager, and Joshua Lerch as a Staff Accountant.

<u>Biondo Creative</u> was named by CEO Report as a 2018 Velocity50 Award winner in the Emerging Growth category. The Velocity50 Awards are CEO Report's most prestigious awards program of the year, honoring the region's fastest growing companies.

<u>Boardroom Spirits</u> has distilled and bottled a vodka specifically to celebrate the 125th birthday of Philadelphia's iconic Reading Terminal Market, which will be available for purchase at the Market all year.

<u>Fairlie & Lippy, P.C.</u> announced that Steven F. Fairlie, Esq. has been nominated for the Lifetime Achievement Award among America's Top 100 Attorneys for Pennsylvania, which is awarded to less than .5% of all attorneys. Mr. Fairlie also has been selected among America's Top 100 Criminal Defense Attorneys and America's Top 100 High Stakes Litigators for Pennsylvania in 2017.

Hamburg, Rubin, Mullin, Maxwell & Lupin, PC has announced that Michael A. Luongo has joined the firm as an associate. He will practice primarily in the areas of business litigation as well as assist clients with personal injury matters.



<u>Illustrated Designs, Inc.</u>, is celebrating its fiftieth year in business. A family-owned and operated company, Illustrated Designs attributes its success to relationships and innovation.

McCloskey Partners, LLC announced the hiring of the following: Melina Chiartas, promoted to full-time recruiter position, Belinda Tschorn, PHR, SHRM-CP as a Human Resources Business Partner, and







Sarah Betteridge as a Human Resources Generalist.

Merck Sharp & Dohme Federal Credit Union presented Raymond

O. Hoffman Memorial Awards to five high school seniors. For 47 years, the Hoffman Memorial Award has recognized high school seniors who are active in their community and represent the "People Helping People" philosophy of credit unions.





Montgomery County Community College received the Riegelman Award for Excellence in Public Health from The League for Innovation in the Community College. The institutions honored at the Innovations Conference exemplify the connection

between community colleges' longstanding role in preparing students for healthcare careers and the expansion of public health career paths into the community college sphere.

North Penn School District announced that A.M. Kulp Elementary School held a drive for Operation Gratitude in support of The Reporter and The Chamber's efforts to send supplies to our active military personnel.

QNB Bank recently named Mary Beth Liddle as Senior Vice President, Chief Accounting Officer/Controller. She is responsible for managing the Bank's accounting, regulatory reporting and tax functions while maintaining a system of internal controls.

Rubin, Glickman, Steinberg and Gifford, P.C. partner, Amy R. Stern, co-presented a seminar entitled Divorce 101 along with Marc Silverman, Senior Loan Officer, GMH Mortgage Services. The seminar covered common misconceptions in family law including divorce, child support, alimony, and asset division.



Univest Bank and Trust Co. relationship manager, Morgan Cooper, was recently honored with the Tomorrow's Promise Award at the Pennsylvania Bankers Association's (PBA) fifth annual Women in Banking Conference. The award is presented as part of PBA's Women in Banking Recognition of Excellence Program, which is dedicated to honoring men and

women in the banking industry who promote and inspire women in the workplace to reach their full potential.

We Empower Leaders founder, Claire Brown Kohler, has completed the rigorous training to become a Certified David Bayer Transformational Mindset and Business Facilitator. The David Bayer methodology is a very successful and structured approach that helps people achieve their highest goals by examining both their thought and their business practices.



MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

LANSDALE SCHOOL OF

Happy Hour at Whole Foods

Wednesday, April 11 | 4:00-5:30 PM You are invited to join the Lower LOWER GWYNEDD BUSINESS ASSOCIATION Gwynedd Business Association to mingle and visit the Spring House Whole Foods. Talk to their knowledgeable staff and enjoy beverages as you network with area business owners and professionals.

Free appetizers will be served from 4:00 until 5:30 pm. Drinks will be available from the Whole Foods bar throughout the evening (cash). Registration: lowergwynedd.biz

Girls Night Out



Friday, April 6 | 6:00-9:00 PM Skippack Village | Shop, Dine, Discover Includes beverages, appetizers and var-



Fabulous Friday Nights, 6 - 9pm

SHOP • DINE • DISCOVER www.skippackvillage.com



Quick-buy car options from Merck Sharp & Dohme FCU



ONLINE APPLICATION process now at msdfcu.ora/OuickApply



E-SIGNATURE online and save a trip to the credit union



EXPRESS CHECK Pre-approval, and a physical check to take to any dealership

Current rates as low as 2.49% APR!*

For more information visit MSDFCU.org/AutoLoans, call (215) 996-3700 or stop by any branch location.



Lansdale School of Business

(LSB) is a founding member of The Chamber, and is celebrating its 100 year anniversary this year. LSB offers specialized Associate



Degree and short-term programs areas such as Medical Assisting, Massage Therapy, Accounting, Paralegal, Computer Technologies, and Medical Billing and Coding. Classes are held at the main campus

in North Wales as well as a satellite campus in Phoenixville.

Hear from President, Marlon Keller:

Q: How has LSB changed over the years?

A: When it was founded, LSB offered just two Accounting and Secretarial. It programs: primarily focused on training soldiers returning from World War I. Even into the



1980's, the secretarial curriculum was the largest program for the school. Since that time the school has expanded into computer technology and allied health programs.

Q: How many programs are now offered at LSB?

A: The school offers 11 specialized associate degree programs and 10 short-term diplomas programs designed to get graduates into their chosen career quickly.

Q: What makes LSB unique?

A: LSB has 100 years of graduates working in our community. Celebrating our Centennial gives us the opportunity to recognize our Alumni as part of our rich tradition. Our instructors have an impact on the lives of our students and in turn, our graduates make a difference in the community around us.

Q: What's next for LSB?

A: As we begin our next 100 years we will be thinking about 🚟



how we build on the momentum of the past and what impact we can have on future generations.

Q: How has membership in the Chamber helped?

A: An important component of any organization is the community. A strong community is extremely important for our students to learn, grow and flourish in new careers. The Chamber helps develop a strong business environment. LSB is proud to have been a Chamber member the past 100 years.



NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT

CONGRATULATIONS





Angel Flight East (AFE), celebrating 25 years, is dedicated to serving the community by facilitating free air transportation for children and adults with medical conditions who need to get to treatment far from home. Volunteer pilots use their own aircraft to fly patients to their destinations.

AFE serves the Northeastern region of the U.S., and for destinations beyond our reach, they link with other volunteer pilot organizations. Volunteer pilots pay for all expenses for each mission they fly. Most AFE patients require air transportation

numerous times over several years for treatment of and follow-up for their conditions including, but not limited to burn treatment, chemotherapy, eye conditions, specialized care for chronic congenital conditions or rare diseases, and more.

Contact Angel Flight East for information on their annual Angels' Wings Gala on April 28th. Visit angelflighteast.org.



Sebastian Riding Associates has been offering equine assisted therapy programs for children and adults living with a variety of physical, mental health and intellectual disabilities since 1975. The focus of their program is a safe, fun and healthy approach to growth and rehabilitation through equine activities and riding.

Offering much more than the traditional riding program, they strive to help riders achieve physical development, socialization and learning through fun activities. They build balance and symmetry, increase reach and range of



motion, develop speech and language, thought processes, planning, and sequencing. At Sebastian, they instill a great sense of success, confidence, and accomplishment in their riders.

Contact Sebastian Riding Associates for information on their annual Derby, Dine & Dance on May 5th. Visit sebastianriding.org.



ODD MAN OUT Media, LLC recently opened its doors for business in North Wales. Chamber staff and ambassadors helped Founder & CEO, Joshua Liberio, celebrate with an official ribbon cutting.



Shared Support, Inc. commemorated its new location with a ribbon cutting and celebration. COO, Christine Martin, and Behavior Specialist, Dr. John Thvedt, helped to cut the ribbon. Chamber VP Member Services, Kim Nguyen, is pictured on the right with Shared Support professional staff and clients.



Join us in congratulating Kim Nguyen, Chamber VP Member Services, on being inducted into the Rotary Club of Blue Bell. Pictured with Kim is Rotary president, Lei Barry.

WELCOME NEW CHAMBER STAFF!

Carol Schultz has joined the team as The Chamber's Events Coordinator. Previously, Carol served as an Executive Assistant at Unisys. She has been a Chamber volunteer for the past two years, assisting with the implementation of the Annual Women's Conference as well as the golf outing.





No stranger to this organization, **Steve O'Driscoll** has joined the Membership Development team. Steve was a member of The Chamber through his business SteveOMarketing and has served as an Ambassador and member of the Small Business Committee.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Árbol Professional Counseling, LLC

Eduardo Juarez arbolcounseling.com

Ashford Wealth Advisors

Michael Rama ameripriseadvisors.com

ASI Drives

Bob Banion asidrives.com

Assisting Hands Home Care

Karen Evans assistinghandscollegeville.com

Baccari Brothers

Franco Baccari baccaribros@comcast.net

Blue Chip Creative

Kevin Reilly bluechipcreative.com

BuxMont Web LLC*

Caryn Cziriak buxmontweb.com

cabbage

Caitlin Beck

Car-tel Communication - AT&T Springhouse

Barry Shapiro car-tel.com

CPR Heart Starters Safety Training LLC

Craig Spector cprheartstarters.com

Croydon Gate, Inc.

Raj Deshpande croydongate.com

Ferguson Facilities Supply

David Kinkead ferguson.com

Ferrara IT Services, LLC

Frank Ferrara III ferrarait.com

J.G. Petrucci Co., Inc.

Patrice Kane jgpetrucci.com

Kelly Anne Dolan Memorial Fund

Wendy Graham dolanfund.org

Methacton Education Foundation

Nikki Krelovich methactonfoundation.org

Modern Wealth Concepts LLC

Keith Donnell, CFP modernwealthconcepts.com

ODD MAN OUT Media, LLC

Joshua Liberio oddmanoutmedia.com

Paylocity

Bryant McKenna paylocity.com

Shared Support, Inc.

Alexandria Nocella sharedsupport.org

Tantamount Group, LLC

Ken Rhines tantamountgroup.com

Teamwork Wins

Adele Saccarelli-Cavallaro teamworkwins.org

TechWise Group*

Sabine Mueller techwisegroup.com

TOTALCRYO

Kyle Zorzi totalcryo.com

Underwriting Management Experts (UME)

Ann Marie Chapman umexperts.com

Vault Storage

Rolf Kaumann vaultstorageco.com

Village Physical Therapy and Wellness

Gabrielle Abate villageptandwellness.com

Meet the Chamber Board's Vice Chair

Gaetan Giannini, Dean of Business and Entrepreneurial Initiatives at **Montgomery County Community** College is The Chamber's Vice Chair for the Board of Directors.



Born in Parsippany, NJ he is a graduate of Parsippany High School. Gaetan

earned a BS in Mechanical Engineering Technology from Temple University, MBA from Seton Hall University and is currently working on a Doctorate in Education, specializing in higher education leadership at Gwynedd Mercy University. Gaetan has over 15 years of experience in sales and marketing management for technology based companies and has owned a marketing consulting firm. He is also the author of Marketing Public Relations: A Marketer's Approach to Public Relations and Social Media (Pearson-Prentice Hall 2010).

Gaetan lives in Lansdale, and when not working enjoys skiing, cooking and golf. He has two sons; a sophomore at West Chester University and a recent Drexel graduate.

Prior to his role at MCCC, Gaetan Spent eleven years at Cedar Crest College in Allentown where he was Dean of the School of Adult and Graduate Education, Chief Marketing Officer and a business faculty member.

In addition to serving on The Chamber's board, Gaetan is a member of the Board of Directors, Valley Forge Tourism & Convention Board; an Advisory Board Member, Abound/ Colleges of Distinction; Board Member of Allentown Jazz Fest; and Vice President, Center for Retailing Solutions, Kutztown University.

When asked on the value of The Chamber, Gaetan indicated that it is about connections. "For me there is an intersection between doing good and doing well, and the service orientation and focus on networking of the Chamber provide business owners and other professionals the opportunity to grow their businesses while serving a larger purpose."



Early Registration Discounts Available until 4/22!

Benefitting the Community Health & Youth Foundation!

Register Online At: BroadStreetReRun.com





Your best source for superior, credible testifying and consulting experts.





The Best Source For Experts Worldwide

800-523-2319

experts@tasanet.com | TASAnet.com

















10 years











AnB Education

Bee, Bergvall & Company

BQ Basement Systems

Christo IT Services*

Clemens Uniform Rental

College of Professional Studies, Villanova University*

Community Chiropractic Center*

Crowne Education

CycleBar

DJB Specialties Inc. / GForce Promotions

Driver Training Services*

Dunleavy & Associates*

Echelmeier Insurance Agency

Fitzpatrick Lentz & Bubba, P.C.

For Pete's Sake Cancer Respite Foundation

Fulton Bank

GMH Mortgage Services

Greenfield Senior Living of Lansdale*

Greentree Management & Insurance, Inc.

Gwynedd Mercy University

Healthsource of North Penn

Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant

Laurell Technologies Corp

Living Branches*

Mainstay Engineering Group Inc.

ManorCare Health Services

McHenry Creative Services, Inc.*

Millennium Moving Company, Inc.*

Montgomery Mall

Montgomery Theater, Inc.

North Penn Art, Inc.

Republic Services Co.

Rotary Club of North Penn

Round Guys Brewing

SERVPRO of Warminster | Lansdale | Blue Bell

Skippack Business Owners Association

Staybridge Suites

Suburban Community Hospital

Sunbelt Network

TH Consulting

The Greene Turtle*

Tri-J Solutions, Inc.

TruMark Financial Credit Union, Gateway

TruMark Financial Credit Union, Plymouth Meeting

TruMark Financial Credit Union, Trooper

Windsor Financial Group/MassMutual

Wojcik Landscaping Inc.

World Wide Stereo

*Indicates Centennial Member

RECENT EVENTS





The Chamber held its 2nd Business Networking Bonanza in collaboration with Eastern Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, Fort Washington Business Alliance, Greater Horsham Chamber of Commerce, Women of Willow Grove



(WOW!), Lower Gwynedd Business Association, and Colonial Business Association. Thank you to Ambler Yards for hosting, as well as the 240 attendees who made the night such a success.







make The Chamber the largest and strongest business organization in the County.

PA State Senator, Bob Mensch, visited members of The Chamber board to offer an update on the activities in Harrisburg.





We held our first Hit Your Mark targeted networking event at the Montgomery **Township** Community and Recreation Center with Montgomery

Township's Business Development Partnership. Thanks to Wegmans Food Markets for the complimentary breakfast, and to all who attended to make some connections with us.



The March NetNow event was held at The Simple Greek in Dresher. We invited the Fort Washington Business Alliance for the chance to collaborate and bring new connections to our members.



The Chamber partnered with The Reporter to support military personnel with donations to create care packages through Operation Gratitude. Pictured: Tammy Sergeyev, AnB Education, with her donation.

IN APPRECIATION

The Reporter has reached the 60-year milestone as a member of The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Montgomery County. Thank you to The Reporter for its many years of support to The Chamber and the community. Executive Editor/Content Director, Ann Cornell, is pictured here with Advertising Manager, Beth Douglas.





Chamber staff and Ambassadors helped to welcome new members at the Maximize Your Membership lunch sponsored by **Elm Terrace Gardens.**

THE POWER CONTINUES...

Inside Out: The Benefits of Self-Awareness and Managing

YOUR EMOTIONS

11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Blue Bell Country Club

1800 Tournament Drive, Blue Bell

\$35 Members | \$45 Guests

Presenter: Tish Squillaro, CEO and Founder, CANDOR Consulting





NETWORKING AFTER HOURS

5:30—7:30 p.m.

Village Handcrafted Cabinetry

200 West 8th Street, Lansdale

FREE



Celebrate Cinco De Mayo at our upcoming networking event, co-hosted with the Home Builders Association of Bucks/Montgomery County as well as the Montgomery County Development Corporation, and enjoy food truck dining.

2018 BUSINESS EXPO

12:00 Lunch & Keynote Speaker 2:00—6:00 p.m. Expo

Gwynedd Mercy University

Griffin Complex, Gwynedd Valley

\$35 Lunch Program | FREE Expo with Business Card

Network with 90+ area businesses; sample local food & beverages; enjoy door prize raffles and more. Lunch Speaker: Wayne Kimmel, Managing Partner, SeventySix Capital, and Author.





Looking for referrals? Consider joining one of The Chamber's weekly Business Partnership Network groups. Contact me at danielle@chambergmc.org or 215-362-9200.