



November/December 2009

Letter from the President

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Upcoming Events & Meetings

- December 12th - Hanukkah
- December 14th - Executive Meeting
- December 17th - Chamber Open House
- December 24th - Christmas Eve
- December 25th - Christmas Day

You're Invited...

*Please join us for a
Christmas Open House
Thursday, December 17th
11:00am - 2:00pm
Chamber Office
606 Broad Avenue, 2nd Floor
Belle Vernon*

*Stop by for light refreshments and
holiday fun!*



This year is rapidly coming to an end. I am asking you to bear with me as I will be jumping to several different subjects. I will be touching on the Holiday Season and also recent news events.

I am calling this the Holiday Season because I know we are approaching Thanksgiving, Chanukah, Kwanzaa, Christmas and New Years. I am seeing early signs like Christmas decorations to encourage shoppers to begin shopping early to boost our economy. We do need to make local purchases to help our economy rebound.

Although "Politically Incorrect", I want to possibly be the first to wish you all a "Merry Christmas". I do not call a decorated pine tree a "Holiday Tree". They are "Christmas Trees" and that is what I call them. It does not bother me to see a manger scene on display or a menorah a few hundred yards away. This is Christmas season a time to celebrate a special event.

It irks me when I see signs and people saying Happy Holiday and not Merry Christmas. People who believe in God are sick and tired of being pushed around. America is not an atheist country. Do not hesitate to wish each other a Merry Christmas.

In light of recent events...terrorist attacks, school shootings, mass murders at the health club in Bridgeville, murders at the Texas Army base, etc. I think it started when Madeline Murray O'Hare complained she didn't want prayer in our schools, and we said okay. Then someone said you better not read the Bible in school. And, we said okay. Now, some say they do not want to have "In God We Trust" on our money. It is time each and every one of us take a stand. I hope we find God again, before it is too late!

Now in regard to the National Health Care Plan the government is trying to force on us. Recently, the National Health Care Plan passed in the House. It is my belief that this plan will hurt all of us small business owners. It will also hurt individual tax payers. We will be burdened with additional taxes. We will have penalties imposed on us if we do not participate in the National Plan. Our government should not be in the insurance business. Again, I suggest you learn more details of the plan and ask your elected representatives to vote against approval, if you agree with me.

Finally, before closing I would like to thank you all for allowing me to serve as President of the Greater Rostraver Chamber. I would like to thank all board members and officers for their help in making this year a success. I also would like to thank all members for their membership and participation. Most of all, I would like to thank Gina Lynn, our Executive Secretary, for working with me. Gina has been a large part of our success.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

Ron Kesten, President
Greater Rostraver Chamber of Commerce

Wild Tanz

November 2009 GRC Business of the Month

Wild Tanz opened in 2005 and has been growing ever since with their high-end equipment. Not only do their tanning beds give you a gorgeous glow, you are also pampered with air conditioning, aroma therapy, high pressure facials, separate shoulder tanners and a misting cool down.

Wild Tanz also offers a fabulous summer tan with their Mystic tanning booth. The ultra clean facilities and unique jungle theme will welcome you right in. A wide variety of tanning lotions and supplies will help enhance your amazing tan.

Tan your way into the holidays, and pick up a gift certificate for your friends too! Take a walk on the wild side, and leave with more than just an incredible tan.

Wild Tanz is now operating winter hours and is open Monday through Friday, 10:00am to 8:30pm, Saturday, 9:00am to 4:00pm and Sunday, 10:00am to 3:00pm. Wild Tanz is located State Rt. 51, Rostraver side entrance of the BP gas station, 2nd Floor. 724-379-6433. Thank you to all of the loyal customers of Wild Tanz – you are much appreciated!



La Beaute Hair Designs

December 2009 GRC Business of the Month



Seated: Owner, Renee Sasko; Standing left to right, Aileen Luckowski, Ryann Farquhar, Sandy Murray and Lisa Kustron; Standing back row, Tom Mimidis, Andy Solan and Ron Kesten, GRC

La Beaute Hair Designs, 1228 Rostraver Road, is the area's premier full service salon. Owner and stylist Renee Sasko first opened the doors to La Beaute in 2006, and has remained committed to the needs and expectations of her ever-growing clientele. "My clients expect the best and I, along with my staff, will settle for nothing less," said Sasko.

La Beaute uses Goldwell color, one of the most well respected brands in the beauty industry, and Dermalogica facial products. The salon also carries products from OPI, Aquage, Pureology, KMS, and Unite.

The staff at La Beaute, which includes stylists Ryann Farquhar, Lisa Kustron, Sandy Murray, and esthetician Aileen Luckowski, share the same level of client commitment and love for the industry as Sasko. Last year, they attended hair shows and classes in Las Vegas, Hershey, and Pittsburgh. "The hair industry is constantly changing and we have a responsibility to our clients to bring them the latest techniques and the best products," said Sasko.

La Beaute Hair Designs is open Tuesday through Saturday, and stylists are available for appointments and walk-ins. Services include cuts, color, dimensional and corrective color, highlights, perms, special occasion styles and makeup, hair removal, manicures, pedicures, facials, massage, and eyelash extensions. To make an appointment, call 724-929-9100.

The salon also hosts events like "A Night of Beauty" that features special prices on pampering services. "Our clients deserve to feel as beautiful on the outside as they are on the inside. These events make it affordable for everyone to experience a little bit of some much deserved luxury," said Sasko.

Renee Sasko, along with her husband Jim, have two children, Derek, 15, and Dominic, 4. Renee has been a stylist for 9 years.

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GRC News

2010 GRC Board Officers Announced

2010 GRC Officers

President...*Ron Kesten*, Kesten Restaurant Equipment
Vice President...*Keith Peer*, CPA & Financial Services
Treasurer...*Bernie Zunic*, Charleroi Federal Savings Bank
Secretary...*Deborah Puglia*, Howard Hanna Simon Realty

2010 GRC Executive Board :

Pat Alberts - Monongahela Valley Hospital

Mary Esther Antal - First National Bank

Thomas Mimidis

Tom Patterson - Patterson Plumbing

Leonard Pirilla -Perry Drug Store

Gerald C. Smith

Frank Spoto, Jr., Esq. - Attorney

Andrew Solan

Rachel Willson - BVA Federal Credit Union

Mary Lou Taylor, National City/PNC Bank will be leaving the GRC Board this coming year. Mary Lou has been a valued member of the GRC and Executive Board for many years. Her generosity of time, talent and treasure to the GRC Membership will be missed and hard to replace. We wish Mary Lou the best!

Rostraver Township Light up Night

The cold weather didn't keep the crowd away for this annual community event. The group gathered for the parade which included participation from the Mon Valley Leathernecks, Rostraver Midget Football League players, Froggy and the Pickle radio, Rostraver Central, Webster and Collinsburg Fire Departments, Rostraver Police Department, Rostraver/West Newton EMS, Belle Vernon High School Interact Club, Leo Club, West Newton Community Festival Beauty Pageant Queens, and of course the highlight of the night, Santa!

Thanks are extended to the planning committee; Bernie Zunic, Andy Solan, John Harvey & staff at WCCC - Mon Valley, Rachel Willson, Deborah Puglia, Bob Mesher, and Jerry Fronzaglio.

Special thanks are extended to Jerry and Sue Fronzaglio, Bill, Ruth and Tony Ruozzi - Bill's Golfland, Bob Mesher and the Rostraver Township Lions Club, Jon Okonsky - LSR Lawn & Landscape, Wally Fronzaglio - U.S Marine Corps Reserve, Robyn Frederick & Staff - Dunkin Donuts, Deb Puglia, Tom Simon and staff - Howard Hanna Simon Real Estate Services, Fantastic Sam's and students from the Interact Club for the activities they provided throughout the evening.

The following GRC members generously donated items for the goody bags: Bill's Golfland, Bennett Vending, BVA Federal Credit Union, Charleroi Federal Savings Bank, Comcast Spotlight, Dunkin Donuts, Greater Rostraver Chamber, Hoss's Steak & Sea House, Mt. Vernon Assisted Living, Perry Drug, Sciore Family, Rostraver Township Lions Club, PNC Bank, Rostraver Shop-n-Save and WalMart.



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MVH Offers RN to BSN Nursing Degree

Waynesburg University's RN to BSN program began offering its 13-month blended program at Monongahela Valley Hospital in Carroll Township in October. The partnership serves as a way to offer convenience to working adults. Recruiting for the February 2010 class currently is underway. "This is the first time we have provided this type of program for our RNs right at the hospital," said Susan Campus, MVH's Nurse Educator.

"We have six RNs in the program now and expect more to enroll for the next class. Nurses who work elsewhere also are able to take class here if it is more convenient for them. This will definitely benefit those who live in the area," she said.

Designed with the working adult in mind, Waynesburg University's 13-month RN to BSN program offers convenience and flexibility. Classes are held on Tuesday from 6 to 10 p.m. with classes on the hospital campus for the duration of the 13-month program. The individual classes within the program are approximately five weeks in length and offered back to back as opposed to the concurrent way most colleges offer multiple courses. Structured around the cohort concept, student groups who begin together stay together throughout their curriculum. This concept allows for increased networking and relationship building. The functionality of the program allows students to balance a personal and professional life while meeting desired educational goals and enhancing individual career options.

Waynesburg University's program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The University offers financial aid opportunities, liberal arts courses that are available online, and the evaluation of transfer credit.

The RN to BSN program is also offered at Southpointe Center in Washington County and elsewhere. Call 1-888-481-6029 or visit www.waynesburg.edu.

MVH Offers Diabetes Prevention Study

Are you worried about developing Heart Disease or Diabetes? Consider enrolling in the REACT (Rethinking Eating and Activity) study sponsored by Monongahela Valley Hospital's Center for Diabetes and Endocrinology and the University of Pittsburgh Diabetes Institute. The REACT study is an Internet-based study that can help you lose weight, eat healthy, and exercise and there is no cost for the program.

To find out more about this study or to inquire about upcoming screening dates, please contact Karen Pritts Monongahela Valley Hospital's Center for Diabetes & Endocrinology at 724-258-1483.

Regional Cancer Center Receives Donation

MarBill Diamonds & Jewelry recently presented a donation of \$6000 to The Charles L. and Rose Sweeny Melenzyer Pavilion and Regional Cancer Center. The donation will be used by the Cancer Center for its charitable programs that benefit patients and services at the Monongahela Valley Hospital Cancer Center and specifically for breast cancer care.



In observance of breast cancer awareness month, MarBill Diamonds and Jewelry in Belle Vernon developed a special promotion. They matched all cash for gold payouts of all MVH employees and screening attendees who brought in gold during the week of October 26. "It was just one way we wanted to give back to the community," said MarBill co-owner Linda Horrell.

In addition to the cash for gold donation, MarBill offered 20% discounts to all MVH employees and screening attendees for their Christmas shopping, the company donated jewelry that was raffled off during the luncheon screening event and all participants received a complimentary designer scarf.

As part of its efforts to respond to the needs of cancer patients in the mid-Monongahela valley region, Monongahela Valley Hospital opened its Regional Cancer Center on July 1, 1985.

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Rachel C. Willson
PRM Representative



Winter Activities

Join the Center for Fitness and Health for the following winter activities and keep the whole family moving!

Holiday Kid Camp

Get the kids moving and having fun instead of moping around the house! Bring them to the Center for Fitness and Health for a few hours of pool and fitness activity!

Camp is from 11am-1pm, with one hour being spent in the pool playing games and one hour playing land games and fitness activities. Dates: Monday, December 28th - Wednesday, December 30th.

Kids should arrive in their swimsuit and bring clothing for the land activities. \$20 per day. Call 724-379-5100 for more information or to register.

Dance Your Way Fit

Ballroom Dance Lessons starts Friday, January 8th through March 5th, (no class Feb 22nd), 7-9pm, beverages provided.

Learn the basic ballroom dances, including Waltz, Swing, Foxtrot, Cha Cha, Salsa and more!

\$190 for the 8 week session. Contact 724-379-5100 to register; registration is limited. A great holiday gift idea for the "Dancing with the Stars" celebrity in your life!

Shop Local

Please remember to support your fellow Chamber Members this holiday season and shop local for the items on your Christmas list. You will find a wide assortment of gift ideas from the members of the Greater Rostraver Chamber of Commerce.

Stumped on a gift idea, refer to your Chamber Directory or visit the directory online www.greaterrostraverchamber.org for a complete list of members and the products and services they offer. You are sure to find what you are looking for right here in the Greater Rostraver and Mon Valley area. *Happy Shopping!*

Monessen Heritage Museum

December 19 will mark the end of the Mon Valley Veterans Exhibit at the Monessen Heritage Museum. Hours are 10 AM until 3 PM on Wednesdays through Saturdays. The Greater Monessen Historical Society has begun recording oral histories of veterans. Anyone wishing to participate, please call 724-684-8460. Following the Veterans Exhibit, the Heritage Museum will close during the months of January and February to work behind the scenes. Anyone wishing to donate objects or visit can call to make an appointment.

The Museum Shoppe is stocked full of ethnic cookbooks, local history books and other unique gifts for the holiday season. Remember to shop locally and support the Mon Valley.

The Historical Society is also selling two unusual fundraising gifts that are in limited quantities. The first is a woven coverlet/blanket in shades of cream and black featuring the former Senior High School at Sixth and Reed, the old Vocational School built by the WPA, the Memorial Stadium built by the WPA, the Municipal Building, Monessen Public Library and District Center and the Heritage Museum. A sample is displayed at the Museum, and priced at \$50.

The second fundraising gift is for those hard to buy for people, who have everything, but love local history. We have a limited amount of the nearly one hundred year old slate chalkboards from the former Linden Elementary School building. They are priced to sell at \$20.00. Call before they are all gone!

Looking Ahead

The first Membership Meeting of 2010 will be held on Tuesday, January 26th.

A complete meeting schedule for 2010 will be included in your Membership Renewal packet and will available on our website.



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Library News

Rostraver Public Library has been blessed the last four years with generous donations from Rostraver businesses, patrons, trustees, Friends of the Library, and staff. This year, however, has not been a good year for public libraries. The state cut its contribution by 20.05%, the economy has been on a downturn, and many of our patrons as well as businesses are struggling to survive. Furthermore, our biggest benefactor, Virginia Campana, died in September. Mrs. Campana donated half of the funds needed to build our new library.

The library has fast become a center for the community: story times, knitting classes, book discussion groups, summer reading programs K-12, activities for boy scouts and girl scouts, a depository for items from the Rostraver Historical Society, the annual fair for the Rostraver Gardening Society, and a meeting place for several community groups.

As the library's income has diminished, the demand for services and activities has increased. This week the library is launching its annual campaign for donations. If you are able, we hope that you will donate.

***Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year to all!***

2010 Membership Renewals

The GRC would like to thank you, our members for your support and participation during this past year. The Chamber is successful because of your commitment and involvement.

Membership renewals for 2010 will be mailed shortly. Please plan to continue your partnership with the Chamber by renewing your membership for the coming year.

Benefits of membership are numerous and include referrals, networking, low cost advertising, sponsorship opportunities, membership meetings, community events, website listings and so much more!

Call the chamber office today for information on how to maximize your GRC investment!

***Please note our new
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