



The Chamber Chatter Box



www.bbwchamber.com

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



As the end of the year approaches, many businesses begin to focus on tax planning. However, it is important to also reflect on the past year and to plan and budget for the upcoming year. Highlighting the successes of the past year can be a great morale builder for your employees. Don't forget to review and update your website and social media profiles. Balancing all of this with the personal

commitments of the holidays can be overwhelming. Remember to take time for yourself and make de-stressing part of your planning. Your customers will expect you to take time off around the end of the year. Forbes magazine advises that you give your customers ample notice of your plans and communicate your availability, more than likely, they'll be quiet around the holiday season too. Planning ahead is the best way to ensure a smooth and stress-free vacation.

Consider taking a break from your planning and join the chamber for our Christmas lunch on December 3rd at the Georgetown Centre. Networking, a delicious lunch and a great speaker are all planned. Also, the Chamber will once again focus on giving with a collection for the South Hills Interfaith ministries Angel Emporium. See this newsletter for a complete list of activities provided by your fellow Chamber members this month. Your attendance at these events are appreciated.

As 2015 comes to a close, we find our world a bit unstable. Political events and the tragedies caused by terrorists around the world continue to threaten our way of life. We cannot let them be successful! Many people report feeling helpless to change the course of these events. When this happens, controlling what you are able to control can ease these feelings of helplessness. We as the business community can do our part by continuing our success and making our country strong. We place our faith in our leaders and hope for the very best outcomes. When some things go wrong, take a moment to be thankful for the many more things that are still going right. Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season to all.

President

LUNCHEON & GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

December 3, 2015

The Georgetown Centre
526 East Bruceton Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15236

Noon

Guest Speaker

Dennis Wodzinski

Congregational Archivist

Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God



As the archivist for the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God, Dennis will share some of his favorite stories and discoveries, including more than 90 years of holiday traditions and history of the sisters, some of the interesting discoveries in the Archives, as well as aspects of the congregation's rich and diverse history.

The Chamber will once again collect gifts for South Hills

Interfaith Ministries (SHIM) Angel

Emporium

Each year, SHIM provides gifts to families in their programs. Children and adults "shop" separately, and then wrap their presents to exchange at home.



Gifts are needed for all ages and genders! Simply purchase a gift and bring it unwrapped to the chamber luncheon on December 3rd. **A suggestion gift list can be found on the Chamber and SHIM websites.**

Advance reservations requested:

\$20 with reservation

\$25 for non-members and those without a reservation

Contact Mary Dilla - secretary@bbwchamber.com

TAKE THE POLAR PLUNGE!



Join John Slater and the polar crew as they take on the mighty Monongahela on January 1st! For more information contact John Slater (412-881-4100).

WOMEN'S NETWORKING LUNCHEONS

Friday, December 11
Noon
Brookdale Senior Living
1050 McNeilly Road



The monthly luncheon meeting* of the Women's Networking of the Brentwood Baldwin Whitehall Chamber of Commerce will be held on Friday, December 11 at **Brookdale Senior Living**. Please plan on attending and bring a friend. We welcome members and non-members.

If you or any of your friends are looking for new marketing opportunities to showcase your products and services, please reserve a table and share this information. Display tables are limited and will be reserved on a first come first served basis.

This month we will take the opportunity to network with each other and shop with our vendors. Hope you can join us and take a break from the hustle and bustle of the holidays!

Lunch for Chamber Members - \$20 - Bring a friend!

Lunch for Non-Members - \$25

Display Table \$10

Please make a reservation by contacting our secretary:

Mary Dilla - secretary@bbwchamber.com

At our Christmas Holiday Bazaar and fundraiser for the South Hills Interfaith Ministry Food Bank, the Women's Networking raised a total of \$806. This event is always fun with opportunities to network, shop, and win prizes in addition to fund raising, and this year was the best! Thank you for your generosity, kindness, and hospitality. An additional \$235 was raised at our General Meeting luncheon for the SHIM food pantry, bringing our total donation to \$1,041.

Dottie



Wishing you Happy Holidays!
and a

Healthy and Prosperous New Year!
- Your Board of Directors

Welcome New Members!

William P. Egan, CPA, PC—412-401-7036
info@egan-cpa.com

Riley Settlement Services—Suzy Brucker
412-564-5840 sb@rileysettlement.com

2015-2016 Officers

President Mary Ann Laudato, Pittsburgh Asphalt Co.
Vice President Virginia Weida, Virginia Weida Design
Treasurer Sean J. Hayes DC, Hayes Chiropractic
Secretary Mary Dilla

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT!

Goff Backa Alfera & Company, LLC (GBACO)
3325 Saw Mill Run Blvd.
412-885-5045

It seems as though our time just keeps flying by faster and faster. Suddenly it's the Holiday season and we think about our blessings and for some, troubles. My blessings include a wonderful wife and two great daughters and sons-in-law. During this time of year we try to push our blessing to others, so they are as blessed as we are. Pushing these blessing to others is not very hard. It can take a kind word of encouragement or praise, even suggesting a chamber colleague for business referrals. We can always help each other and our chamber by doing our individual part. Let's make an additional effort to help our chamber and thus each other by saying that good word, making that referral and supporting our chamber with your time and efforts.

Here at Goff Backa Alfera we try to take that approach by working with our clients and utilize them and their services as vendors for our firm. With this approach we continuously build our relationships. We also approach this with our own employees and is included in our mission statement. **GBACO's** mission is to provide our clients with the highest value and technical expertise available without sacrificing the personalized service that is our trademark. Additionally, we maintain our commitment to our employees through open communication, career development, training, and encouraging our employees to perform consistently beyond expectations when serving clients.

Please consider that extra effort now and when moving forward. Give that word of encouragement or even that referral. Support your chamber and together all of our businesses and communities will grow and prosper.

Happy Holidays!

Bob McKown

UPCOMING CHAMBER MEMBER EVENTS... A complete list and more details can be found on the Chamber Website!

DECEMBER:

2nd – Baldwin Holiday Festival, Baldwin Borough Bldg. 6 – 8:30 PM

3rd – Manor Care Holiday Party 4:30 -6:30 PM

5th – New Wine Harvest Church Christmas Bazaar, 11 AM – 4PM

5th – Greenhouse Winery Holiday Open House, 11 AM – 7 PM

5th – McGinnis Sisters Taste of the Holiday Open House – 11AM

12th – Benson Lincoln Story Time with Mrs. Claus, 11AM – Noon,

13th – Brentwood Library Holiday House Tour, 12 – 4 PM

19th & 20th – New Wine Harvest Church presents a Family Christmas Dinner Theater Experience.

20th – Passport to Pittsburgh, LLC presents “Joyeux Noel!”, *Parisian Christmas in Pittsburgh*, 11:30AM – 5 PM

Board of Directors

Amy Burch	Andre Hulsman	Jennifer Scott
Dottie Coll	Mary Ann Laudato	Terry Unger
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