

The Importance of Small Business

Marty Chapman, President

How important are small businesses? Small businesses:

- Represent 99.7 percent of all employer firms.
- Employ half of all private sector employees.
- Pay 45 percent of total U.S. private payroll.
- Have generated 60 to 80 percent of net new jobs annually over the last decade.
- Create more than 50 percent of nonfarm private gross domestic product (GDP).
- Produce 13 to 14 times more patents per employee than large patenting firms. These patents are twice as likely as large firm patents to be among the 1 percent most cited.
- Are employers of 41 percent of high tech workers (such as scientists, engineers, and computer workers).
- Are 53 percent home-based and 3 percent franchises.

Information courtesy of the Small Business Administration, Office of Advocacy.

In West Virginia, the most recent data show that the state has 31,386 small employers, and they employ 96.4% of the state's workforce! Clearly, during this time of financial stress and economic instability, it is the state's small businesses that provide an economic base for its families and communities. This clearly applies here in the Putnam County region. Although we are fortunate to have a complement of large employers and manufacturing in this area, it is important to note that more than half of the Chamber membership is comprised of small businesses – those who are on the front lines and in the trenches, commercially speaking.

The Chamber exists to serve its members, to promote local businesses and give assistance wherever possible. In the spirit of gratitude and generosity during this season of giving, please remember to consider our local businesses for goods and services - our economic strength and recovery to more successful times depends on your support.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy, safe and prosperous holiday season and New Year.

Welcome New Members!

Affordable Closet Systems

Lyle Helmick, President

Jeanne Helmick, Executive Design Consultant

3057 Mt. Vernon Road, Hurricane, WV 25526

Phone: 304.760.5114; Fax: 304.760.6104

Jeanneaffordableclosets@yahoo.com

www.affordableclosetsystems.com

Beth's Massage Therapy

Beth Stewart, Owner

3534 Teays Valley Road, Hurricane, WV 25526

Phone: 304.397.4000; Cell: 304.590.0681

wvzina@yahoo.com

Freedom Team Enterprises, LLC
Jim & Mary Martha McCune, Owners
803 Lakeview Drive, Cross Lanes, WV 25313
Phone: 304.541.9400; Fax: 304.776.7185
jim@mrattitude.com
www.jimmccune.info

Send Out Cards
Dale L. Miller, Owner
1408 Gilbert Drive, Charleston, WV 25302
Phone: 304.610.5852
distinctadvantage@suddenlink.net
www.sendoutcards.com/40083

Sun Valley Marketing, LLC
B. G. Hamrick, President
214 Sun Valley Estates, Scott Depot, WV 25560
Phone: 304.389.9721; Fax: 304.551.0028
BGHamrick@sunvalleymarketing.com
www.BGHamrick.com

Thank you to our Renewing Members for your continued support of the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce! Your investment proves your willingness to support and build a better business climate to live, work and play in Putnam County!

Member News!

Thank you to **Toyota Motor Manufacturing WV, Inc., Tetsuji Okuda** for hosting a very successful Business After Hours in **October!** In addition to networking, Toyota offered members attending the opportunity to take a plant tour or attend an Environmental Presentation. The winner of the **Chase** Sponsored drawing valued at **\$1000** was **Chris Heller, IT Solutions Associates, Inc.**, had he been present!

Make a lasting difference for your loved ones. One of the most effective ways to make a lasting difference for your family, community or a charity is to incorporate life insurance into your wealth transfer strategy. Life insurance can help enhance the value of the assets you pass on to create a legacy, offset expenses your heirs may ultimately be responsible for, and provide the funds to pay estate and probate taxes. To help preserve the legacy you've built for your family's future, please call **Lana Gibson** with **Edward Jones Investments** at 304-776-5110 today.

Step toe & Johnson is pleased to welcome **Michael McCarthy** as a new associate in the firm's Charleston office. McCarthy will focus his practice in the area of litigation. McCarthy received his undergraduate education from Washington and Jefferson College and his legal education from Washington and Lee University. While at Washington and Lee, he was the Executive Editor of the *Washington and Lee Law Review*.

The FCA 9th Annual Sports Memorabilia Auction will be Tuesday, December 9th at 5:30 p.m. at St. George Orthodox church in Charleston. The silent auction begins at 5:30 p.m. and the live auction will begin at approximately 7:00 p.m. \$5 Admission fee and finger foods are

provided. The auction proceeds benefit the FCA office that serves Kanawha and **Putnam county schools**. For more information, call 304-344-9005 or visit www.fcawv.com and look for the Sports Auction link.

Eleni Kontos-Miller, a Huntington native, is the most recent attorney to join **Jenkins Fenstermaker, PLLC**. "Eleni is a great addition to our growing law firm," said Barry Taylor, the law firm's CEO. "She has considerable training and skills in litigation and we know our clients will enjoy working with her." Jenkins Fenstermaker, PLLC, is a multi-practice, full service regional law firm based in Huntington, West Virginia. For more than 75 years it has been prominent in the West Virginia legal community. The firm represents individuals, local businesses and a number of Fortune 500 companies.

ANNUAL BUSINESS EXPO & NOVEMBER BUSINESS AFTER HOURS ~ NETWORKING EXTRAVAGANZA ~

Thank you to **Yeager Airport, Brian Belcher, C.M., Director of Marketing & Air Service Development** for hosting the **Annual Business Expo/November Business After Hours!** The Expo was held at the Hurricane Community Center on November 12 from 4-7 pm and provided a great opportunity for 30 local chamber businesses to promote their products and services. A well-attended Business After Hours took place concurrently with the Expo with over 125 attendees and guests being treated to a delicious variety of food and refreshments catered by Gino's Pizza and Tudor's Biscuits. The **Chase** sponsored drawing was valued at **\$1100** and would have been won by **Deborah Baker, Family First Realty** had she been present!

Wonderful displays of products and services from a wide range of Chamber businesses filled the facility. We want to recognize those who participated in the Business Expo for their efforts in making this event a huge success! But first, a special thanks to **Putnam County Parks & Recreation** for Community Center set up assistance. Also a thank you to **Putnam County Board of Education and Sleepy Hollow Golf Club** for assistance with exhibitor tables and finally a thank you to **City National Bank and Putnam County Parks** for promotion assistance!

CONGRATULATIONS BUSINESS 2009 EXPO EXHIBITORS – JOB WELL DONE!

Aaron's Products
Ahead Human Resources
AT&T Mobility
CAMC Teays Valley Hospital
Capitol Medical
City National Bank
FastSigns
Greenhouse of Teays Valley
Hampton Inn
Kanawha Valley Community & Technical College
Manpower Temporary Services
Marshall University Teays Valley Regional Center
Norbert's Enterprises/Newton Mfg.
Par Four Family Entertainment
Pinnacle Supply, LLC

Putnam County Library
Putnam County Convention & Visitor's Bureau
Regency Place, Genesis Healthcare
Sherwin Williams Company
Sleepy Hollow Golf Club
Teays Physical Therapy Center
The Printing Press, Ltd.
Travel Doctors Teays Valley
Triad Engineering, Inc.
Tri-County YMCA
United Talent Staffing
United Way of Central WV
ValPak of WV
Valley Sign Shop
Yeager Airport

Congratulations to "Budget Blinds" Chamber December Business of the Month!

My dog ate my..... (blinds?).

This age-old excuse for not having your homework is not so funny when it refers to the nice blinds or shades that you just bought. Fortunately, if you bought those blinds or shades from **Budget Blinds of Teays Valley**, you would have nothing to worry about. Budget Blinds has the only 5-year, no questions asked guarantee on their blinds and shades.

Budget Blinds is locally-owned and operated by **Richard Shell** of Hurricane. He is joined by Brian King and Juanita Webb in the operation of the business that is based on shop-at-home convenience. Richard's van serves as a travelling showroom for customers who need to match their custom window treatments to existing décor. Juanita manages the office and lends decorating expertise to the softer side of window coverings, and Brian makes it all come together. "Brian and Juanita are my extended family," said Shell. "I am truly blessed to have them by my side."

Budget Blinds has a product for any budget, residential or commercial. In addition to blinds, they offer their customers the best value in shades, shutters, draperies, valances, and other specialty window coverings. "We have seen a marked increase in interest for picture shades. Picture shades enable businesses to create ambiance inside or display their logo and wares to passersby. We can put a customer-owned image on a shade, or we can use a picture from my portfolio," added Shell.

For a free consultation, call Budget Blinds today at 304.201.5900 or on the web at www.budgetblinds.com. Through December 31, you may qualify for a manufacturer's rebate up to \$150.

**PUTNAM COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVES SLATE FOR 2010 DIRECTORS**

The Nominating Committee has recommended the following slate to serve on the Board of Directors for a three year term:

Betty McHale, *Workplace Solutions, LLC*

Recommended to serve of the Board of Directors for a second three year term:

Scott Edwards, *Netranom*

Sammy Gray, *West Virginia American Water*

Greg Massey, *AEP John Amos Plant*

Terry Mathias, *Ohio National Financial Services*

Cindy Skiles, *Teays Physical Therapy Center*

Jan Vineyard, *WV Oil Marketers & Grocers Association*

Pursuant to Chamber Bylaws, Article 3, Section 11, any member may nominate a candidate by providing, in writing, the name of the nominee and a written statement from the nominee that he/she is willing to serve. This notice must be signed by 10 active members of the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce.

December Business After Hours

**Sponsored by *AEP John Amos Plant,*
*Winfield, Visitors Center, Gate 1***



AMOS PLANT

**Thursday, December 10, 2009
5:00 pm -7:00 pm**

Business After Hours is designed as a premier networking event for members of the business community. This event provides a professional venue for business owners and their employees to make new contacts and increase their client base.

Business After Hours is open to members and their guests.

Cost is \$10 with RSVP, \$15 for walk-ins and non-members
Please RSVP by December 8, for more information contact the Chamber
304.757.6510 or email chamber@putnamcounty.org

*The **Chase** sponsored drawing is valued at **\$1,200** and will be given away!
You must be present to win!*

PUTNAM CHAMBER ANNUAL DINNER
JANUARY 29, 2010

Save the Date for the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner Meeting! The dinner will take place on Friday, January 29, 2010 at Wellington's, beginning at 6:00 for the social hour with the dinner meeting immediately following.

Reservations for sponsorships are being accepted at this time and invitations will be mailed soon. Deadlines do apply to certain sponsorships. Confirm your sponsorship and/or reservation early since this annual event is a sell-out every year. Please email chamber@putnamcounty.org or call 304.757.6510 to coordinate your participation.

Sponsorships are as follows:

Gold Sponsor - \$2000 – Industry Exclusive – includes 10 seats

Listed on invitation (time permitting), individual company logos on Power Point presentation, program, placard and all press releases

Silver Sponsor - \$1500 – includes 10 seats

Listed as group Power Point presentation, program, placard and all press releases

Reception Sponsor - \$850 – includes 4 seats

Listed as group Power Point presentation, program, placard and all press releases

Associate Sponsor - \$500 – includes 2 seats

Listed program and placard

Table Sponsor - \$1,000 – includes 10 seats

Individual - \$75 per person

Community News

Mayo Lester Award Nominations

The committee for the Mayo Lester Community Service Award is now taking nominations. The award is to be presented by the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce at their annual dinner in January and is named for the late Mayo Lester. He was the first Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Putnam County Chamber in 1979 and was also the first recipient of the award given to him for his work toward the development of the Hurricane Community Park.

Some of the criteria used to select the award recipient includes extraordinary amount of devoted time, energy and personal resources for the betterment of a Putnam County project. It is not necessary for the recipient or the nominee to be a member of the Chamber. Nominations must include background information on the nominee and details of how this person has met the complete criteria. The person submitting the nomination should list their name and phone number so they can be contacted if additional information is needed. Nominations must be received no later than **Friday, December 4, 2009**.

To submit nominations or for more information on the complete criteria, please call the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce at 304.757.6510. Nominations may be faxed to 304.757.6562 or mailed to PO Box 553, Teays, WV 25569.

HIGH SCHOOL BUSINESS SYMPOSIUM
Friday, January 8, 2010

The teams have been formed, the business plans have been determined and the work has begun for the participants of the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce High School Business Symposium.

This symposium, a culminating experience for students who complete an entrepreneurship program sponsored by local banks through the Chamber's Education Committee, includes teams of high school students from Buffalo, Hurricane, Poca & Winfield. The program emphasizes leadership skills, identification of hypothetical business' values, vision and mission and development of a product to market and sell with the goal of making a profit.

The teams of students, under the observation of their sponsors, will present their projects to an audience of business professionals, community leaders and general public at the Putnam County Board of Education office on Friday, January 8, 2010 at 8:30 am, snow date will be January 11, 2010. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please contact the Chamber office at 304-757-6510.

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Calendar of Events for December 2009

Tuesday, December 1

Generation Putnam Cheers (Networking Event)
5 pm-7 pm; City National Bank, Hurricane
Cost: Free with NEW unwrapped toy or \$10 donation
Appetizers & drinks will be available

Friday, December 4

Annual Dinner Committee Meeting
9 am; Chamber Office

Saturday, December 5

Generation Putnam
Christmas for Kids in the Community – Hand Out Day
8 am; John Henson Senior Building, Hurricane

Thursday, December 10

Business After Hours
5 pm – 7 pm, AEP John Amos Plant, Visitor's Center, Winfield
Cost: \$10 per person with RSVP; Walk-ins \$15
RSVP to chamber@putnamcounty.org or call 304-757-6510

Friday, December 11

Generation Putnam Business Meeting & 2010 Planning Session
Noon; Sleepy Hollow Golf Club

Thursday, December 17

Putnam Chamber NOW (Network of Women)
8 am; Chamber Office

The Chamber office will be closed December 24 & 25, 2009 in observance of Christmas. The office will also be closed January 1, 2010 in observance of New Years Day.

Marty Chapman, President

Sherry Chapman, Office Manager

Teresa Catanzarite, Membership Director

Gretchen White, Project Director

Office Hours: 9 am—4:00 pm, Monday-Friday

Physical Address: 5664 St. Rt. 34, North, Winfield, WV 25213

Mailing Address: PO Box 553, Teays, WV 25569

Phone: 304.757.6510 **Fax:** 304.757.6562

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