

Why Join Your Local Chamber?

Marty Chapman, President

A national study commissioned by the American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) and conducted by The Schapiro Group, an Atlanta-based market research firm, details a number of important perceptions by consumers and business owners about the local chamber of commerce and the businesses that are their members:

- Consumers are 44% more likely to think favorably about a business when they know the business is a member of the local chamber.
- Consumers are 63% more likely to buy goods and services in the future from a company that they believe is a member of the local chamber of commerce.

The study also reported good news for businesses that sell to other businesses:

- When business decision-makers believe that a business is a chamber member, they are 37% more likely to think favorably of the business; 51% more likely to be highly aware of it; 58% more likely to think positively of its local reputation; and 59% more likely to buy goods and services from it.

One additional finding emphasizes a positive perception for the local chamber itself:

- Regarding the chamber's impact on the local economy, 82% of respondents believe that the **local chamber of commerce helps create jobs and promotes local economic development.**

The results of the study are evident: Consumers and business owners have an increased positive perception of a business when it is identified as a member of the local chamber of commerce. For information on membership in the **Putnam County Chamber of Commerce** call **304.757.6510**.

Welcome New Member!

Ronnie W. Matthews
Putnam County Circuit Clerk
3389 Winfield Road
Winfield, WV 25213
Phone 304.586.0203; Fax 304.586.0221
E-mail: bgmphd@verizon.net

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!

Thirteen lawyers from **Dinsmore & Shohl's** Charleston and Morgantown offices were recently selected by their peers for inclusion in the 2010 edition of The Best Lawyers in America®. In addition, Dinsmore & Shohl is ranked by Best Lawyers as the #1 law firm in the United States in two major practice areas - Workers' Compensation and Mining Law. The firm is also ranked by Best Lawyers as the #1 law firm in West Virginia for two practice areas including Antitrust and Intellectual Property Law.

Fastsigns will celebrate 15 years of business in West Virginia on September 12, 2009. Fastsigns is very grateful for the support they have received from Chamber members and the community over the past 15 years. They will have an open house on September 15 from 7:30 am - 10:00 am for Putnam County Chamber Members. They will have coffee and snacks and welcome Chamber members to the shop for a look at how signs are made as well as show off a few machines. In honor of the 15th Anniversary they are offering 15% off all in-house products to Chamber members during the month of September. All they need to do is identify themselves as a member of the Putnam County Chamber when placing the order.

Jenkins Fenstermaker, PLLC, a Huntington based law firm, announces that six of its attorneys recently were selected by their peers for inclusion in the 2010 edition of The Best Lawyers in America. Jenkins Fenstermaker is a multi-practice, full service regional law firm with 19 members.

Kanawha Valley Community & Technical College, formerly *West Virginia State Community and Technical College* will be holding a free informational session for online training programs in Medical Transcription and/or Medical Coding on September 16, 2009. Persons interested in either training program should attend the free informational seminar on September 16th from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in Room 112 of the Cole Complex on the Kanawha Valley Community and Technical College campus in Institute, West Virginia. Register online at www.wvsctc.edu/ContEd.htm. You may also call 304-766-5113 or e-mail workshops@wvsctc.edu to register. For information on other programs offered by the West Virginia State Community and Technical College, visit the web site at www.wvsctc.edu.

KOMAX Business Systems will host their 5th Annual Charity Golf Tournament, September 23, 2009 at Little Creek Country Club. Proceeds will go to Make a Wish Foundation. For more information contact Bob Maxwell 304.744.7440, or visit the website at www.komaxbusinesssystems.com

The **Small Business Administration** is offering a loan program, America's Recovery Capital (ARC) also referred to as the ARC loan, an interest-free loan of up to \$35,000 for existing small businesses now available through SBA Preferred Lenders. For more information about the programs offered by the SBA, visit the web page at www.sba.gov or contact the answer desk at 1.800.U.ASK.SBA.

Steptoe & Johnson is pleased to welcome David G. Hammond as Of Counsel in the firm's Charleston office. Hammond will focus his practice in the areas of commercial transactions, real estate and land use, coal, oil and gas and natural resources. Hammond was named to *Chambers USA's America's Leading Lawyers for Business* and was ranked highly by the law firm referral source, Martindale-Hubbell. He is active in the community, particularly Habitat for Humanity, which named Hammond "Volunteer of the Millennium" for his work in Kanawha and Putnam Counties. Hammond also serves as a member of the Kanawha County Building Commission.

2009 Business Expo

Thursday, November 12

The date for the Annual Chamber Business Expo has been set for Thursday, November 12 and will be held at the Hurricane Community Center in Valley Park. Plans are underway now to make the 2009 Business Expo better than ever ~ watch for more information on this annual promotion and networking event.

Business After Hours

Tuesday, September 29, 2009

5 PM – 7 PM

A Tailgate Style Networking Event Hosted By:
Triad Engineering Inc.

Business After Hours is open to members and their guests.
Cost is \$10 per person with RSVP, pre-payment is preferred; \$15 for walk-ins
RSVP to 304.757.6510 or chamber@putnamcounty.org by Friday, September 26

The **CHASE** sponsored drawing will be given away!
You must be present to win!

THE FIRST STATE BANK'S NEW TEAYS VALLEY BRANCH NOW OPEN

The First State Bank celebrated the grand opening of its newly-constructed Teays Valley branch with customers and local officials on hand to cut the grand opening ribbon. The bank's new, full-service operation, which is now open for business, is based at 3754 Teays Valley Road in Hurricane, replacing the bank's former Hospital Drive site.

"We are proud to welcome community members and customers to our new facility," said Roy Hamilton, Vice President of The First State Bank Teays Valley branch. "It has always been our goal to live up to our motto by delivering our customers the service they deserve. Now, with the expanded functionality this new office affords, I'm pleased to say that our service is even better than before."

The new 6,900 square foot bank will feature two significant services not offered at the former Teays Valley site. With a 3-lane drive-thru offering full-service transaction capability and a drive-thru ATM, customers will experience expanded convenience and flexibility.

First State Bank's expansion to the new site resulted in four new positions, bringing its current staffing count in Teays Valley to twelve. The bank offers a complete line of personal and business banking products and its lobby is open for business Monday, Tuesday Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Drive-thru

service is also available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

For more information about The First State Bank, its locations or special offers associated with the Teays Valley branch grand opening, please call 304.757.2250. Information is also available at www.fsb-wv.com.

Community News

AEP Amos Plant Third Annual “Drive for a Cure”

A benefit golf tournament for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital

Join the Pre-Party ~ Open to the general public (limited seating)

BBQ BASH

Sleepy Hollow Golf Club

Friday, September 25, 2009

7:00 pm – 11:00 pm

\$20/per person \$35 couple

\$10,000 Putting Contest

“Drive for a Cure” Golf Tournament

Monday, September 28, 2009

10 am Pre-registration

Sleepy Hollow Golf Club, Hurricane

For both events you may contact Joe Haynes 304.759.3430 or
Margie Sutphin at St. Jude at 304.522.4081

For more information go to www.golf4stjude.com

George Washington Elementary School hosts Golf for Technology Tournament September 18, 2009

George Washington Elementary School is hosting its first annual Golf for Technology Tournament on September 18, 2009 at 9AM at Scarlet Oaks Golf Course. This tournament is a fundraiser for the technology fund at GWES.

GWES has raised enough money to purchase data projectors and smart boards for every classroom over the past two years. This year they are working to purchase responders to use with the technology that has been acquired. The responders will be placed on each student’s desk and while teaching a new concept, teachers will be able to ask questions and the students, using the responders, will answer. The responders will graph the results for the

students to see and the teacher will have the ability to confidently know who is struggling with the new concept or if the class as a whole is ready to move on or needs more time. These responders can be used in every subject and allow GWES teachers to use technology more effectively in the classroom.

Sponsorships are available at all levels, \$1000 major sponsorship, dinner sponsor \$300, breakfast sponsor \$150, and hole sponsorships at \$100. Team registrations are being accepted at this time; the cost for a four player team is \$300 and individuals are \$75 per person.

GWES expects to make this an annual event. We hope that you and your company will participate this year and in the years to come. GWES wishes to thank AEP John Amos and Gatens-Harding Funeral Home for their generous major sponsorship support.

If you have any questions please contact Kimberly Sayre, GWES PTO President, at 304.586.1713 or email Kim122199@peoplepc.com, or you may also contact the school at 304.586.2184.

Putts for Mutts & Caddies for Kitties Golf Scramble

Proceeds go toward New Putnam County Animal Shelter
Sleepy Hollow Golf Club ~ October 12th, 2009
(Rain date October 19th, 2009)

\$125 per person/ \$500 Team
Tee Time 10:30 am
Registration begins at 9:30 am

Free Late Lunch served after Tournament

Hole Sponsorships available for \$100
For more information contact Brian Donat 304.586.0201 or Karen Haynes 304.757.7584

Express Employment Professionals presents a FREE seminar

Leadership in Turbulent Times: Strategies for Surviving an Economic Downturn
Jack Smalley, SPHR

Tuesday, September 29, 2009
8:00 am – Noon
The Walker Theatre Entrance
Back of Clay Center
Corner of Brooks & Washington Streets
Charleston, WV 25301

Continental Breakfast served at 7:30 am. Please RSVP by September 24th to Express Employment Professionals at 304.746.8888 or email Sabrina.lee@expresspros.com

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Calendar of Events for September

Tuesday, September 1

Casino Night Planning Meeting; 1 pm, Chamber Office

Thursday, September 3

Generation Putnam Networking, Creekside Café, Hurricane
5 pm - 7 pm

Wednesday, September 9

Education Committee; Noon, Chamber Office

Monday, September 14

Membership Committee; 4:00 pm, Chamber Office

Thursday, September 17

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

Friday, September 25

Generation Putnam Meeting; 8 am; Community Center (at the Wave Pool)

Tuesday, September 29

Business After Hours; 5 pm – 7 pm, Sponsored by Triad Engineering Inc.
4980 Teays Valley Road, Scott Depot
RSVP required by Friday, September 25; Cost \$10 per person with RSVP, \$15 for
walk-ins with no RSVP

Thursday, October 1

Generation Putnam Networking, Totre's, Hurricane, 5 pm - 7 pm

Putnam County Chamber Staff

Marty Chapman, President

Sherry Chapman, Office Manager

Teresa Catanzarite, Membership Director

Gretchen White, Project Director

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

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