

JEFFERSON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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BULLETIN NO. 559

FEBRUARY 1, 2007

The monthly membership meeting of the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce will be held on Thursday, February 22, 2007, at 12:00 noon at the Epic Buffet at **Charles Town Races & Slots**. We urge all members to attend this luncheon when President Chris Colbert will present donations in the name of your Chamber to the County's Fire Companies, our Partners in Education – Charles Town, Harpers Ferry and Shepherdstown Middle Schools, and other organizations in our County. These donations, made possible through your support as members along with the continuing success of our Mountain Heritage Arts & Crafts Festivals, will help these organizations continue their fine work in our community.

Please contact your Chamber by February 19 to RSVP. Members and guests will enjoy the buffet for \$10.00 per person including tax and gratuity.

LEADERSHIP JEFFERSON

In January, Leadership Jefferson participants planned the History and Culture Module. They toured Happy Retreat and the **Old Opera House** and visited **Shepherd University** to meet with the director of the **Contemporary American Theater Festival**. We thank Nina Vogel of the **Washington House Inn** for sponsoring the breakfast, and **William H. Gordon Associates** for sponsoring a portion of lunch. This month participants will take a trip to Charleston. Plans include meeting with our local legislators and observing proceedings during the Legislative session.

REVISIONS TO CHAMBER BYLAWS APPROVED

We thank the Bylaws Committee: Chairman John Sherwood, Chris Colbert, Chuck Ellison, Julie DeHaven, Pat Dockeney, Frank Fargo and Nina Vogel, who worked on revisions to the Chamber bylaws that were approved by its members at the January 25, 2007 monthly membership meeting. Some minor modifications were made for clarity and others were more significant, including the following:

Board of Directors: (1) allowing the President up to six one-year term member appointments rather than **three** as previously permitted; (2) asking members to submit names to be considered for the Board to the Nominating Committee in care of the Chamber office (preferably in writing) no later than **March 31st** with nominations not taken from the floor the day of the election; and (3) requiring the slate for election to be submitted to the membership no later than 10 days prior to the election.

Officers: (1) a sitting President who wishes to be considered for a second term must notify the Executive Director by January 1st so the request can be presented to the Nominating Committee for consideration; (2) Presidents can serve only two consecutive terms; and (3) adds the 1st Vice President to those who may sign checks (two signatures required) and are bonded.

Committees: Members can be notified by the Chamber office by email or telephone of meetings.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Terri L. Evans

Keller Williams Realty
184 Flowing Springs Road
Charles Town, WV 25414
(304) 261-1186
Real Estate

U.S. Cellular

Rod Barker, Representative
764 Foxcroft Avenue
Martinsburg, WV 25401
(304) 264-0400
Communications

Patton Harris Rust & Associates

Beth Dowell, Representative
10212 Governor Lane Blvd., Suite 1007
Williamsport, MD 21795
(301) 223-4010
Consulting Firm

Charles E. Lowery

29 Ryan Way
Shepherdstown, WV 25443
(304) 261-1377
Individual

As of this date, we have 477 members who have paid their fair share investments for a total of \$50,622.00 for fiscal year 2006-2007.

NEWS FROM CHAMBER MEMBERS

Panhandle Home Health is pleased to announce their inclusion in the 2006 HomeCare Elite™, the inaugural compilation of the most successful home care providers in the United States. This ground-breaking review names the Medicare-certified agencies whose performance measures in quality, improvement and financial performance are among the top 25% of providers nationwide. Additionally, the 2006 HomeCare Elite indicates those providers ranked in the Top 100 and Top 500 of providers nationwide. **Panhandle Home Health** provides premium in-home health services to residents of Jefferson, Berkeley, and Morgan Counties. Their staff of licensed and credentialed professionals includes registered nurses, physical therapists, medical social workers, and home health aides. For more information about **Panhandle Home Health**, please call (304) 263-5680 or visit their website at www.panhandlehomehealth.org.

American Public University System, a distance learning institution based in Charles Town, recently helped the Charles Town Library update and expand its community Internet station. "It's important that our community — like our students — has access to knowledge," says Wallace E. Boston Jr., president and chief executive officer. "We're pleased to support the library, which is a gateway to knowledge for many in the area." The Internet station is one of several local university initiatives, including donations toward computers at two local elementary schools. The University System also recently renovated an historic Charles Town building, which now is the Academic Center.

The successful operation of a business is like a puzzle, comprised of many pieces. Safety training for staff members plays an important piece of that puzzle. The **Small Business Development Center (SBDC) of Blue Ridge CTC** offers OSHA – Healthcare Safety Training for Employers and Managers workshop from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on February 21-22 at the **Blue Ridge CTC**, 400 W. Stephen Street, Martinsburg. Pre-registration is required and there is a \$25 fee for each day or \$35 for both days. Deadline to register is February 16. To register, please call the **SBDC** at (304) 260-4385 or visit www.BlueRidgeCTC.edu/sbdcweb.

NEWS FROM CHAMBER MEMBERS (cont.)

Give a gift of a singing valentine! Just in time for Valentine's Day, the **Sounds of the Shenandoah** is offering a package of up to 2 songs, a card, roses and candy at a cost of \$40. Be ready for your special valentine and call Dave Webb today at (304) 725-1518.

Nichols DeHaven & Associates CPAs states that a group of human resources professionals in our area would like to organize a Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM) chapter in Jefferson County. They have been informed by SHRM that there must be a minimum of 25-30 members to form a chapter. There currently isn't a chapter less than 30 miles away from our area, so if you know of any HR professionals that would be interested, please have them email Samantha Brewster, PHR at email: sbrewster@morningsidehouse.com The purpose of a SHRM Chapter is to provide a forum in which to serve the HR Professional and to promote the Human Resource Profession. A Chapter provides a set time and place where HR Professionals can meet on a regular basis to network, share ideas, and learn about their profession as well as provide an opportunity for HR professionals to engage in professional development.

City Hospital's medical staff has elected new officers for 2007. Dr. Joseph Cincinnati, orthopedic surgeon, will serve as president with Dr. Dimitri Misailidis, radiologist, filling the position of vice president. Dr. John Ellis, emergency medicine specialist, will serve as the secretary-treasurer. Other members appointed to the executive committee include Dr. William Wear, pediatrician, representing the department of medicine and Dr. Robert Strauch, general surgeon, representing the department of surgery. Members-at-large include Dr. Karoly Varga and Dr. Dawn Jones. As past president, Dr. C. Dong Park will remain on the executive committee along with **WVUH-East** President/CEO Roger Eitelman.

American Military University (AMU), a distance learning institution based in Charles Town, has signed a cooperative degree program agreement with the FBI National Academy Associates (FBINAA). Law enforcement professionals and others who have completed FBINAA's executive leadership management program can now receive up to 15 graduate credit hours toward certain master's degree programs at AMU (www.amu.apus.edu/fbinaa). These programs include criminal justice, homeland security and management. Other related graduate programs may be eligible as well. AMU (www.amuonline.com) is a member of the **American Public University System**, a regionally and nationally accredited distance learning institution serving more than 20,000 civilian and military students worldwide. AMU has one of the nation's largest homeland security programs. FBINAA is a non-profit international organization that provides advanced law enforcement training.

American Military University (AMU), a member of the **American Public University System**, has named Dr. Frederick Stielow as its dean of libraries and educational materials. Stielow is leading a team of experienced research librarians and course materials specialists. They will work with faculty to unlock the full range of Web resources for the university's electronic classrooms. The new dean had been recruited to complete construction on AMU's virtual research library, which serves students in over 130 countries. Stielow earned a dual doctorate in history and American studies at Indiana University and a master's degree in library science at the University of Rhode Island. A former Fulbright scholar in Italy, Stielow has authored ten books including "Building Digital Archives..." and "Creating Virtual Libraries."

NEWS FROM CHAMBER MEMBERS (cont.)

Decker & Company PLLC, *Certified Public Accounting and Consulting*, recently opened its office at 1020 Winchester Avenue in Martinsburg to serve clients throughout the Eastern Panhandle. The firm specializes in business and individual tax planning and preparation; audited, reviewed, and compiled financial statements; business advisory services; new business setup; and bookkeeping training and assistance, including QuickBooks®. **Decker & Company PLLC** provides solutions to your tax and accounting needs. They are your confidential trusted advisor and business partner. Why? Because they are a small business just like yours that expects value in the goods and services it receives from others. *Providing a quick response, quality service, and personal attention to every client are their firm's standards.* The firm is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and the West Virginia Board of Accountancy. David W. Decker, CPA and owner of the firm, has 20 years of Public Accounting experience and is a graduate of **Shepherd University**. Beth Jones, a senior accountant, also is a graduate of **Shepherd University** and has 10 years of public accounting experience. Beth specializes in small business accounting setup and consulting as well as tax preparation. She is a Quickbooks® Certified Proadvisor and has taught Quickbooks courses on behalf of the West Virginia Small Business Development Center. **Decker & Company PLLC** is accepting new clients. For a FREE initial consultation, call David or Beth today at (304) 263-0200.

Hospice of the Panhandle will host a program of information and support for people who are coping with the death of a loved one. The Circle of Hope is a six-week series that includes lecture, discussion and sharing of topics related to grief and healing. The Circle of Hope will be offered in Jefferson County on Tuesday, February 20 – March 27 from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. There is no cost to participate but prior registration is required. The session is closed after the first class. For information or to register, call Larry Crawley-Woods at (304) 267-1870.

Travel back to the late 1950's, the Eisenhower era, where small town values and religion are at the foundation of every family. Now meet the Pazinskis family, an off-center Polish-Catholic family just trying to get by day-to-day in Buffalo, NY. Living over the family's tavern insures that this is no *Father Knows Best* or *Donna Reed* environment. The hero of our story is the family's 12-year-old son, Rudy, who is confronting his doubts about the Catholic Church, trying to keep at arms length from the overbearing Sister Clarissa and find some sense in this baffling world. He believes God put us on earth to "have fun," and he's trying to figure out why his family isn't having any. When Rudy announces that he has changed his mind about being confirmed in the Church he sends his family and Sister Clarissa into turmoil. *Over the Tavern*, a comedy that will tickle your funny bone as it touches your heart, is playing at the **Old Opera House** in Charles Town on February 9-11 and 16-18. For reservations, call the **Old Opera House** at (304) 725-4420.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Feb. 9-11 *Over the Tavern* – **Old Opera House**, Charles Town
16-18

Feb. 19 Office Closed – President's Day

Feb. 22 Monthly Membership Meeting – Epic Buffet, **Charles Town Races & Slots**

March 2-4 Home Show 2007 – Sponsored by the **Eastern Panhandle Home Builders Association** – Martinsburg Mall