

THE WEST VIRGINIA CENTRAL NEWSPAPER

PROUD MEMBER OF THE WEIRTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



From The President

Our 2018 Chamber Membership Directory will be heading into production soon. Thank you to everyone who placed an ad in this year's Directory. Your continued support helps to make our programs successful.

Our 82nd Annual Chamber Membership Meeting and Banquet will take place on Tuesday, March 27th at Mountaineer Casino, Racetrack & Resort. This is another great opportunity to network with your fellow business men and women. Please join us by calling the Chamber to make reservations or send in your response card. Cocktails with the Wheeling Symphony on the Go begin at 5:15pm and dinner at 6pm.

The Dr. Barbara A. Matey High School Business Symposium will take place on Thursday, April 18th. 120 high school juniors from both sides of the river will come together to learn the ins and outs of being in business. It is one of our most successful programs and our youth reap the rewards. If you would like to sponsor a table, volunteer as a table facilitator, donate items for their goodie bags, or help out in any way, please call the Chamber.

Our Spring "Shop Around Your Home Town" advertising campaign is kicking off next month. This is a great opportunity to have quality advertising at a great rate. Filming as already started, call the Chamber to get involved. Remember your commercial will also be on our You-Tube channel and on our website so that you can link back to your own website.

Ladies Day at the Chamber will take place on Thursday, April 26th at St. Francis Center. This year's theme is "Fashion, Friends & Fascinators." Thank you to our sponsors First Choice America CFCU, 106.3 the River/OV Sports Network, WTOV-9 and The Weirton Daily Times. More information is available by contacting the Chamber.

Hog Wild in the Hollow, renamed last year to Brew, 'Que & Country will take place on Friday, May 18th at the Serbian Picnic Grounds. If you are able to donate a door prize, call or email the Chamber.

We are already working on our "Wine & Dine" event at Williams Country Club. This year's event will take place on Saturday, September 29th. If you were a sponsor last year, you will get the first opportunity this year.

Brenda

Upcoming Committee Meetings

Committee Meetings

(All meetings are held in the Chamber Conference Room- Please RSVP) If you would like to join a committee, please contact the Chamber.

April 2: Retail Merchants Committee, 9:30am

April 4: Special Projects Committee, 9:00am

April 9: Education Committee, 3:00pm

April 10: Membership Committee, 9:00am

2018 Chamber Events

(Please RSVP to the Chamber)

March 23-25:

Home & Garden Show

St. Florian Hall

Wintersville, OH

March 27:

Annual Membership Meeting & Banquet

Mountaineer Casino, Racetrack & Resort

Cocktails 5:15pm

Dinner 6pm

April 5:

Leads to Success Breakfast

Brightwood Center

7:30-9:00am

April 18:

Dr. Barbara A. Matey HSBS

Holiday Inn/Undo's Weirton

April 26:

Ladies Day at the Chamber

St. Francis Center

11:00am-3:00pm

All meetings are held in the Chamber Conference Room.

Business Spotlight

Family Connections Inc. would like to thank Joanne Dobrzanski for her 40 years of dedicated service to this organization. Joanne began her career with Family Connections in 1978 as a residential childcare worker. In 1996 she accepted the position of executive director and has served in this role for 22 years.

Joanne has been instrumental in advocating for Brooke Place residents, as well as children throughout West Virginia. She has served on the WV Child Care Association Board of Directors for more than 20 years, advocating for our state's at risk population.

She has supported hundreds of young women as they have walked along their yellow brick road through trauma treatment and celebrated their success as they healed.

Joanne has been our fearless leader, demonstrating a devotion to our young women and staff members that has been unfaltering. She laughs with us, she cries with us, and she is our supporter of everything good. While she will be missed by all of us at Family Connections, she certainly has earned some time off. We all congratulate Joanne and wish her a wonderful retirement.

Any Chamber member interested in having your business spotlighted in The Town Crier and WV Central Newspaper should write a short article in Word format and call the Chamber at 304.748.7212 or e-mail services@weirtonchamber.com to be scheduled.

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"Your Chamber and You"

In an attempt to connect various ethnic groups, who had landed in the newly minted town of Weirton, Weirton Steel Company initiated and supported the Festival of Nations in 1934. It was celebrated every year on a large scale. The Festival/Pageant of Nations was last held in 1944. Then it hibernated.

Weirton Area Museum and Cultural Center revived our old tradition in 2009 to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the town of Weirton. Once again the Festival brought together a large number of ethnic groups. Enlarged photos of the old times decorated the Millsop Community Center. Ethnic dances/music enlivened the stage as people enjoyed the food from several countries. Festival was loved by all those who attended. They requested the Museum Board to arrange the Festival again next year. What was meant to be a one time event became an annual event.

Time flies. We are onto the 10th Anniversary of the Festival of Nations. Going forward, the Festival will be held every year on 3rd Saturday of March in Weirton.

Next Festival will be celebrated on Saturday, March 17, 2018 from 11 am to 4 pm at the Weirton Millsop Community Center, 3420 Main Street, Weirton. Elevator is available in this indoor facility. Admission is FREE. Dances and music will be performed on the stage and on the floor. Various ethnic foods will be available for purchase. Senator Joe Manchin will be our special guest as we celebrate the 10th Anniversary. So far we have confirmations from African/ Americans, China, Frontier Persons, Greece, Hungary, India, Japan, Middle East, Norway, Phillipines, Ukraine, and the USA.

Everyone is requested to attend the Festival, support 'Unity in Diversity' and see the Melting Pot in action.

YOUR CHAMBER AND YOU -

A Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting ceremony for your new business is just one of the benefits the Weirton Area Chamber of Commerce offers to new businesses opening in the City of Weirton and all of the surrounding local areas. This is a free service to you and assures you of the best possible start in opening your business. This is a promotion we provide to all new businesses.

We know you are busy so we can take care of inviting guests to your grand opening, including existing Chamber members, Board members, city and county officials, and members of the press. A representative from the Weirton Daily Times and WTOV-9 will interview you about your business to promote your opening. The chamber will share that information on our website, our Chamber App, our Facebook page and Instagram.

Our goal is to make sure you receive a proper welcome to the local business community and that people in Weirton and the surrounding local areas know about you and how to find you. We are happy that there has been such an influx of new businesses to our area and can't wait for the opportunity to welcome more. Please call the Weirton Area Chamber of Commerce when you are ready to schedule your grand opening and let us take care of the rest.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

In 1997 a group of parents of children with autism began a support group. Little was known about the disorder and families were looking for answers, support, and assistance. The group began networking, researching, and planning, which lead to the Autism Society of America Hancock County Chapter being chartered in 1999.

Fundraisers, grants, and donations helped to establish educational programs for educators, parents, and caregivers.

Continuing education programs, fully approved by WV law enforcement agencies, were held for police and first responders. Picture Exchange Communication books were given to each attendee. The book is to help the responders deal with the communication issues associated with autism. These are kept in each responder's vehicle to assist in relating to a child on the Autism Spectrum. A Hancock County Deputy was able to put the information to use within a week!

In 2003 the Chapter purchased computers for each speech therapist in the Hancock County school system. These computers were equipped with software to produce the pictures used by many of the children who have difficulty forming words and expressing their needs.

Parents of children on the Spectrum raised the seed money necessary to bring "Project Lifesaver" to Hancock County. Now, a wristband is all that is needed to track a lost person.

Over the years Hancock and Brooke County have become more collaborative. That relationship is now extending down the Northern Panhandle and the group name was officially changed to Northern Panhandle Chapter.

The chapter continues to hold events and in April 2017 hosted it inaugural "Walk/Run" for Autism Awareness Month.

One in every 68 children now has an Autism Spectrum Disorder. These children will be adults in our communities and in our workforce. Our goal is to have each person on the Spectrum using their talents and abilities to their full potential, being happy, and seamlessly fitting into our society.

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If you are interested in learning more about Catholic education at St. Joseph the Worker School please contact the principal, Mrs. Recheal Fuscardo. 304-723-1970 or email: r.fuscardo@weirtonstjoseph.net

Weirton County

Chamber of Commerce

Thanks WV Central Newspaper

for providing **NEW**

Chamber members the opportunity to receive a complimentary full page advertising



Our Newest Members:

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

This-N-That Virtual Shoppe

Dave Cline, II

929 Main Street

Follansbee, WV 26037

304.527.7349

davecline37@gmail.com

facebook.com/TNTVIRTUALSHOPPE/