

Welcome to the February 8, 2010 edition of the St. Marys Area Chamber of Commerce **"Business Bullet"**. This weekly e-mail newsletter is designed to keep you informed about upcoming programs, events and happenings in the St. Marys Area. We will also include features on member businesses and organizations that make things happen in our community. Each Monday morning you can start your week with information that is pertinent, concise and at your fingertips!

So, if there is something significant happening in your business or in a community organization that you are aware of, please let us know. We would like to feature it in the "Business Bullet" so everyone can hear about it. The more positive information that can be spread throughout the community, the better. Just send the information to us at businessbullet@stmaryschamber.org by Thursday afternoon in order to have it appear in the Business Bullet for the following Monday.

NEW ADDITIONS AND UPDATES

- ▶ The date for this year's **Chamber Annual Dinner** has been finalized, again! It is **Friday, March 26th**. This has proven to be a very busy spring and has necessitated our having the dinner on a Friday night this year for the first time. Our event was originally scheduled for Saturday, March 27th, but when we discovered that the newly formed Keystone Elk Country Alliance was holding their kick-off banquet that evening, we made the decision to move ours. The St. Marys Chamber supports the efforts of the Keystone Elk Country Alliance and recognizes the potential impact of the new elk center on our area. We encourage everyone to attend BOTH events!
- ▶ We are thrilled to report that the booth spaces for the **"Think Spring Mini Expo"** are nearly filled! This event will be held on **Saturday, February 20th** at the Red Fern from 9 am to 1 pm and we currently have the following exhibitors signed up to participate: Advanced Business Computing Services, Peg Armanini Hearing Healthcare, Bath Fitters, Congressman Glenn Thompson, Coudreit Roof Cleaning, Custom Wall Designs by Jacinda, DuBois Business College, Elk County Tea Party, Elk Regional Health System, Elk County Sheriff's Office, Goetz's Flowers/Tupperware, Great Lakes Healthcare, Helpmates, Knepp Fencing, Lime Light Works, MaryKay Cosmetics/Perfect Day Bridal Salon Plus, Mclean Publishing/Tri-County Sunday, Mike's Custom Services, O Interiors, Pampered Chef, Penn Central Door, Phillips Jewelers, Printing Plus, Rhino Linings, Ridgway Bilo, Ridgway Chamber of Commerce, SK Office Supply, St. Marys Country Club, St. Marys Daily Press/Ridgway Record, St. Marys Apartments, State Rep. Matt Gabler, Tim Piccirillo, Veolia, Welcome Home Center, Winery at Wilcox and Yellow Book. There are a limited number of spaces remaining. If you are interested in participating, contact the Chamber office at 781-3804 or Salter Communications at 834-0070 For more information check out the attached flyer. [Mini Expo](#)
- ▶ **A workshop on the New Electricity and Natural Gas Pools will be held on Wednesday, February 10th at Gunners.** Join us to learn how you can save money on your electricity bill and lock in a 6-year low for your natural gas bill. Let us help you put money back into your business! Lunch will be included at a cost of \$10/person. This program is being provided as a joint project of ChamberChoice, OnDemand Energy Solutions and the St. Marys Area Chamber of Commerce. **Please RSVP to 781-3804 or swilson@stmaryschamber.org by Monday, February 8th.**

- ▶ **The University of Pittsburgh at Bradford is offering an Adobe Dreamweaver class at the CEC on February 27th.** **Adobe Dreamweaver:** This course will cover the basics of designing an attractive and efficient Web page for your business or organization. Along with learning design concepts, you will also learn how to use Dreamweaver to develop your page, work with text, add hyperlinks, add images and use tables to streamline your Web page. The class will be held on *Saturday, February 27, 2010, 9 AM to 4 PM*. For more information, contact the CEC at 781-3437.

MARKET UPDATE

The market is down by over 3% today as concerns over the state of the global economic recovery have unsettled investors and erased February's early gains. Unemployment benefit claims rose to 480,000 last week, exceeding expectations of 455,000. It also raises concerns among investors that tomorrow's government report will fall short of the anticipated 15,000 gain in payrolls. The markets were also adversely affected by concerns about European debt levels.

Investors were focused on the bad news and appeared to look past both an increase in worker productivity and a gain in factory orders. The volatility index rose by 20% as fear that investor fears have increased since mid-January.

Economic data can be uneven during the early stages of a recovery. While labor market data has stabilized over recent months, it is still a long way from being healthy. Although a gain in payrolls would be welcomed, it will still take years to regain the jobs that have been lost during this downturn.

The market regained significant value in 2009, but the start of 2010 has been met with uncertainty and a downturn in stock prices. This does not mean that we are facing a double dip recession or that 2010 will be a repeat of 2008. It means investors are still concerned about the global economy. Donald B. Nicholson, CFA, Chief Investment Officer, Northwest Savings Bank Investment & Trust Services, (814) 452-1000

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Is your business poised to profit from gas boom activity? Join local businesses for a four-part seminar series hosted by Clarion University of Pennsylvania's Small Business Development Center and presented by Penn State Cooperative Extension and get valuable insights that will help you understand, explore, and take advantage of business opportunities arising from the Marcellus Shale. "[Your Business and Marcellus Shale](#)" - Topics to be Discussed: February 10: Local Business Success Stories and Lessons Learned II; February 17: Partnering Industry and Local Business Panel. Time: 7:30 am to 9:30 am. Location: Clarion University of Pennsylvania, Small Business Development Center, 330 North Point Drive, Suite 100, Clarion PA 16214 - Cost: \$60 four-part series or \$20 per class (Includes Breakfast) How to Register: Register Online now: web.clarion.edu/SBDC/training/businessws.asp or Call Continuing Education at (814) 393-2227 or Toll Free (800) 672-7171. Please direct questions to: sbdc@clarion.edu
- ▶ The Indiana University of Pennsylvania is offering a non-credit certificate program in [Employment and Labor Relations](#). This very useful certificate is being offered by the same faculty who teach in the highly successful Master of Arts degree in Employment and Labor Relations on the main campus of IUP. The program is being offered in a one-day-a-week

format for six weeks in a user-friendly model designed for the convenience of those persons who work while simultaneously seeking to further their education and career opportunities. For more information on this program, contact Wendy Kopczyk at 724-357-4841 or wkopczyk@iup.edu.

If you do not wish to receive the "Business Bullet", please reply to this email with Unsubscribe in the Subject Line.