Farewell to 2013 . . . Welcome 2014

It’s hard to believe that the year is coming to an end, but what a great year 2013 has turned out to be! One of my main objectives as your president this year was to add new and creative events and features to the Chamber; I’m happy to report we accomplished this successfully.

Some of the new events that we added this year included Chamber Night at the Reading Phillies game, which turned out to be a huge success for the Chamber. We also held our first annual Chamber Bowl and saw more than 55 members and friends participating in this fun event. We also had our first Main Street Future Focus Summit this year, in which 120 people attended and heard presentations from renowned speakers.

The Chamber established a new group called the “Young Professionals,” in which events were held to specifically entice younger employees of our members to get more involved with the Chamber. The YP events, which were held on a bi-monthly rotation, proved to be an excellent opportunity to network with other people who are in the early stages of their careers, and bounce ideas off of one another.

The Chamber has added a new part-time employee, Amy Davis, who has been instrumental in our Chamber’s success this year and will continue supporting our growth. She has also been instrumental in assisting our executive director with our special events and daily administrative duties.

Finally, our social media outreach has been extremely successful. We have more than doubled the number of people that have subscribed to our Facebook page to receive frequent notifications of Chamber happenings and photos of our events.

It has been my distinct privilege and honor to serve as the Chamber’s president during 2013. I look forward to staying involved with the Chamber as much as possible and continuing to watch the Chamber grow.

Todd Darlington

I count it a great privilege, honor and blessing to assume the role of president of the Western Chester County Chamber of Commerce in 2014. I am conscious of the fact that I have some big shoes to fill! All my predecessors have given their time and talents to help strengthen and grow our Chamber.

The Western Chester County Chamber of Commerce has, and always will have, a very special place in my heart. Many years ago I discovered just how unique this Chamber truly is. For those of you who know me, you know that I always say, “This Chamber is remarkable, like no other...an overwhelming feeling of being home, surrounded by love.”

As your president, I promise to bring my energy and passion to everything I do. I am committed to the continued growth of our member body. Our Chamber is now looked to as one of the most progressive, dynamic chambers in Chester County. This is something we should all be very proud of! The WCCCC has been instrumental in making our community stronger and more viable. Our Chamber is dedicated to connecting you to new ideas, resources and relationships to help you achieve your goals.

My initiative for 2014 is one of volunteerism and I believe it will help to strengthen our Chamber and community even more. My volunteer vision was realized many months ago as I reflected on the importance of my childhood. From the time I was very young, my parents encouraged me to live a life of giving, of volunteering. Winston Churchill once said, “You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give.” I would like to encourage the growth of our relationships with our non-profit members. This initiative is still a work in progress but I have a dedicated team working with me to help make my vision a reality!

I look forward to serving as YOUR president in 2014 and hope the new year brings you much joy and prosperity.

Adrienne MacKenzie

Our Mission:
Connecting our members to new ideas, resources, and relationships to achieve their goals.

Our Vision:
A thriving region that is well connected, innovative & accessible for community & business growth.
When Amy Stackhouse first became involved with Western Chester County Chamber of Commerce, she knew she wanted to join a committee, but didn’t know which one would be the best for her. “I ‘test drove’ a few committees. I liked the work that the Program Committee does, and they needed help, so that’s how I decided,” said Stackhouse, who is operations manager for Zeke’s, a division of Rhoads Energy Corp.

She enjoys the way the Program Committee divides tasks, assigning a Signature Event to each committee member, who then “drives” that event. Stackhouse warmed up by organizing the Horse Race for two years, and then graduated to the Annual Dinner in 2012. She just completed her mission in 2013 with a very successful Annual Dinner at Applecross Country Club.

“It’s very rewarding to work with all the people you need to when organizing an event like the Annual Dinner. Like any project, you develop relationships that grow into sincere friendships. I worked closely with [WCCCC Executive Director] Donna Siter, who helped me create a timeline for all the tasks and events that led up to ‘the event.’ It’s great when it all falls into place,” Stackhouse said.

She described her view of the Program Committee in much the same way. After meeting every fourth Thursday at 4 to 5 pm, and then working with committee members on various projects, she has developed deeper relationships than she could have by just attending networking events.

“I knew from the start [of her involvement with WCCCC] that you get out of it what you put into it. And the more you gain visibility in the Chamber, the more you can get your company’s name out there,” noted Stackhouse.

Although membership on the Program Committee has involved an investment of time, Stackhouse said she considers it to be a modest investment that pays off in a big way: “Every Chamber member should make an investment in committee membership. You’ll be glad you did.”
CNC Manufacturing Relocates to South Coatesville

CNC Manufacturing, a rapidly expanding precision machine shop, pulled up its stakes from Kennett Square and moved to the borough of South Coatesville. CNC President Tom Walser said he simply needed more room, at the right price. In business for 16 years, it has had a 20 percent increase in employee hires for 2013 and a 10 to 20 percent estimated increase of workers for 2014.

Walser conducted a countywide search and settled on South Coatesville for purchase of the shop’s new home of 35 employees. He said there were few places available for sale in the county. By purchasing the 37,000-square-foot former wood shop structure in South Coatesville, CNC’s shop workspace doubled in size.

Walser said he has already hired locally from a strong pool of workers and applicants show every day seeking good-paying jobs.

South Coatesville Councilwoman Terry Bruno said she is excited to welcome CNC to the borough and anticipates attracting many more new business partners.

“Our working hand-in-hand with the Chester County Economic Development Council in finding CNC Manufacturing was a key piece in making sure that the Comprehensive Plan and Revitalization study of 2010 did not just sit on the shelf,” Bruno said. “Our plans promote many more businesses coming to our borough, especially with the planned revitalization of South First Avenue.”

With 130 customers, the international business ships precision parts for several industries, including medical, aerospace, electronics and the military. Precision CNC metal and plastic parts made in South Coatesville ship around the world to Mexico, Asia and Canada.

Future Focus Study factoids

Did you know?

Some workers commute long distances for jobs in Western Chester County and only about 30% of employees live here. Here is a list of some of the major employers in our region.

Employee numbers are approximate.

- Coatesville VA/Medical Center - 1,300
- Coatesville School District - 1,000
- Sikorsky Global Helicopter – 900
- ArcelorMittal – 850
- CTDI, Inc. – 700
- Brandywine Hospital - 675

Black History Month Lecture

As part of a continuing series, and in conjunction with Black History Month, the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum will feature Dr. Craig Stutman, Professor of Policy & History at Delaware Valley College, who will speak on the Lukens vs. Goodman case. Dr. Stutman has done extensive research on Coatesville and African American History in Pennsylvania. The lecture will take place on Thursday, February 6, from six to eight pm at the Lukens Executive Building in Coatesville. Go to steelmuseum.org for details.
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51 Peters Road
The Joint Commission named Brandywine Hospital one of the nation’s “Top Performers on Key Quality Measures,” one of 1,099 hospitals earning the distinction for attaining and sustaining excellence in the following measure sets: heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia and surgical care.

“Brandywine Hospital’s first priority is providing patients with high quality, safe and effective care through proven practices that improve outcomes and the patient experience. We are proud to be named to The Joint Commission’s list of Top Performers,” said Bryan Burklow, Brandywine Hospital’s chief executive officer. “The credit goes to our medical staff, employees and volunteers whose hard work every day makes this possible.”

Dr. Kenneth Doroski, Brandywine’s chief of staff, said, “It’s an honor to have the standard of care we provide here recognized on a national level.”

“Brandywine Hospital and all the ‘Top Performer’ hospitals have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to quality improvement and they should be proud of their achievement,” said Dr. Mark R. Chassin, president and chief executive officer of the Joint Commission.

Brandywine Hospital is a 169-licensed-bed, private-room, acute-care medical facility that has provided a continuum of care to the community for more than 100 years. Key services include cardiology, emergency medicine, orthopaedics, bariatric surgery, behavioral health, robotic surgery, a specialized eating disorders unit and wound care.

Brandywine Hospital is fully accredited by The Joint Commission. For more information, visit BrandywineHospital.com.

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WCCCC Chamber Bowl
at the Palace Bowling & Entertainment Center

11 Teams with more than 55 Members • Bowling Pins awarded for Top & Most Honest Scorers
More than $200 raised for the WCCCC Scholarship Fund • Next Chamber Bowl: Fall 2014

Photos courtesy Todd Darlington, Verizon & WCCCC President
Members look forward to the Western Chester County Chamber of Commerce’s (WCCCC) Membership Appreciation Luncheon each year, and this one did not disappoint.

Networking, camaraderie and a delicious buffet lunch made for a delightful midday event hosted, sponsored and catered by Freedom Village. Tours followed of the beautiful 55+ continuing care retirement community situated on 30 country acres.

Outgoing WCCCC Board President Todd Darlington of Verizon said a few words about the organization’s successful 2013. He thanked not only all members for their support and active participation, but also current Board members and volunteers. Todd also thanked outgoing Board members Diane Fasnacht of Fashay Consulting and Bob Holliday of the Brandywine Watershed Regeneration Initiative. He then introduced President-Elect Adrienne MacKenzie of MacKenzie Motivational Speaking & Team Building.

Todd noted the many events and activities coming in 2014 starting with the Membership Extravaganza on Jan. 22, 2014, 5 to 7 p.m. at the Downingtown Country Club. This event is free to all members and guests. Read more about it on page eight of this newsletter.

As 2013 comes to a close, the Chamber would like to sincerely thank its Platinum Sponsors: Brandywine Hospital, Citadel, Freedom Village, Marriott Courtyard, PECO, Pennsylvania American Water and Verizon.
Thanks to our Annual Dinner Sponsors

M. Cynthia Quinn
Certified Public Accountant

7 Red Oak Drive
Coatesville, PA 19320
(610) 380-1040

110 North Union Street
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Upcoming Events

**January 22, 5 - 7 pm**

**WCCCC Member Networking Extravaganza**
Downingtown Country Club, 93 Country Club Rd. Downingtown
Join us for our largest Networking Event of the Year! Make your New Year’s Resolutions come true by expanding your business connections at one of the best Chamber events of the season.
Come and meet the new Board of Directors, Committee Chairs and our wonderful members and guests. Enter to win fabulous door prizes; one new member has the chance to win a free one-year membership!
WCCCC is constantly growing due to your support and involvement. At the Extravaganza we reward you for your referrals!

**Recruiting Members Receive 20% Membership Discount**
for each new member joining.
**New Members signing up Receive 10% Membership Discount.**

**February 6, 11:30 - 1 pm**

Parkesburg Point Youth Center – Lunch and Tours of their New Facility
356 Main Street, Parkesburg

**February 20, 11am - 1:30 pm**

**Economic Development Luncheon**
Chester County Public Safety Training Facility, 137 Modena Road, Coatesville

WCCCC represents the following municipalities:
Atglen Borough
Caln Township
Christiana Borough
City of Coatesville
East Brandywine Township
East Fallowfield Township
Elverson Borough
Highland Township
Honey Brook Borough
Honey Brook Township
Modena Borough
Parkesburg Borough
Sadsbury Township
South Coatesville Borough
Valley Township
West Bradford Township
West Brandywine Township
West Caln Township
West Fallowfield Township
West Sadsbury Township

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