

## — Excellence in Education Luncheon —

Each year, the Norwin School District and the Norwin Chamber of Commerce are brought together by Partners in Progress to help administer programs of benefit to area students. At year's end, these efforts come together in the Excellence in Education Luncheon, which honors the top 5% of the graduating class (or the top 20 graduates, whichever is greater), based on class rankings from the end of their junior year.

2007's Excellence in Education Luncheon takes place on Friday, May 18th at Stratigos Banquet Centre, 131 Colonial Manor Rd., North Huntingdon. Individual and corporate sponsorships make the event possible, and SPONSORS ARE NEEDED. Your \$60 individual sponsorship helps keep this program going and provides for a memorable and motivational day in the lives of our young achievers.

This year, the honor goes to 21 students, whose proud parents and grandparents may also attend and share in the student's hour of distinction. During the luncheon, each honoree is presented with an engraved leather binder, displaying their name, class, and Excellence in Education. As of this writing, the guest speaker had not yet been scheduled.

"It is a significant event for these students," said Rosanne Barry Novotnak, the coordinator of the Excellence in Education Luncheon. "The luncheon is a sign that the community has come together to congratulate our students on a job well done. They come away with increased self-confidence and the spirit necessary to meet the challenges ahead." Rosanne also serves as the Vice President of Partners in Progress.

For more information, and to BECOME A SPONSOR, call Rosanne at 724-863-0888.



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### Norwin Chamber of Commerce



**Great Business. Great Community. Great People.**

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#### MISSION STATEMENT

The Chamber provides regional leadership through total member involvement

#### VISION

The Norwin Chamber of Commerce is an active organization of area businesses, industries and organizations promoting regional economic & community interests.

### NORWIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2007

**James Duffy, Chairman of the Board**  
*Attorney at Law*

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**Pamala Mielnicki, Welcome New Neighbors**

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*Joseph F. Ott Funeral Home, Inc.*

**Dr. William Roscoe, All-Kare Chiropractic Clinic**

**Nancy A. Smith, Irwin Bank & Trust Company**

**Jill Taylor, First National Bank of Pennsylvania**

**Patricia Altman, Borough of Irwin**

**Dr. John Boylan, Superintendent, Norwin School District**

**Thomas Kerber, Sr., Township Commissioner, North Huntingdon Township**

**Rosanne Barry Novotnak, President**

**Sandy Albert, Administrative Assistant**

**Gayleen Fisher, Volunteer**

**Cathy Schehr, Volunteer**

#### NEWSLETTER

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### MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 1 Partners In Progress**  
9:15 a.m. – Norwin High School
- 1 Membership Committee**  
11:00 a.m. – Norwin Chamber of Commerce
- 7 Monthly Chamber Luncheon**  
11:30 a.m. – Colonial Grille
- 12 North Irwin Borough Council Meeting**  
7:00 p.m. – Council Chambers
- 12 Irwin Project Meeting**  
7:00 p.m. – Details: Donn Henderson  
724-263-9576
- 13 Executive Board Meeting**  
8:00 a.m. – Norwin Chamber of Commerce
- 14 Business to Business Mixer**  
5 – 7:00 p.m. – Four Seasons Travel
- 14 Irwin Borough Council Meeting**  
6:00 p.m. – Council Chambers
- 15 Norwin Community Picnic Committee**  
12:00 p.m. – Norwin Chamber of Commerce
- 20 Board of Directors Meeting**  
7:30 a.m. – Norwin Chamber of Commerce
- 20 Golf Invitational Committee Meeting**  
9:00 a.m. – Norwin Chamber of Commerce
- 21 North Huntingdon Township Commissioners**  
7:00 p.m. – North Huntingdon Townhouse
- 22 Annual Dinner and Expo**  
5:00 p.m. – Stratigos Banquet Centre
- 28 Annual Career Fair**  
7:00 a.m. to Noon – Norwin High School

# Vocal Point

Norwin Chamber of Commerce

MARCH 2007

### A Message From the Board

## The Norwin Chamber Welcomes a New President

In January, the Board of Directors was pleased to announce that their search for a new President of the Norwin Chamber of Commerce had been concluded. Rosanne Barry Novotnak, our interim President for some months, was hired to fulfill the duties of Chamber President on a full time basis.

Rosanne brings unique qualifications to her new position, having served on the Norwin Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors for 5 years. For over 15 years, Rosanne has been the owner of Norwin Hills Cruise & Travel, Inc., located in North Huntingdon. Her entrepreneurship, along with her memberships in the Westmoreland Business Referral Association, Network to Success, and the Women's Business Network, give Rosanne special insight into the challenges faced by small businesses in the Norwin area.

"I look forward to my work this year," said Rosanne. "As interim President, it was my pleasure to work with Administrative Assistants Sandy Albert and Pat Petrovich, as well as our great volunteers, Gayleen Fisher and Catherine Schehr. We developed a great team, and our work for members will only grow stronger now that the President's position has been decided and we can move forward on solid ground."

"There are many exciting projects underway this year, from the Annual Dinner this month, to the Golf Invitational in the summer, and the upcoming 75th Anniversary of the Norwin Community Picnic. We hope to keep these and other projects running smoothly, improve our member services, and look ahead to what changes can be made to keep the Norwin Chamber of Commerce growing strong."

### 2007 Golf Invitational

The work of the Golf Committee is going well, and we will soon be taking registrations. Mark your calendars for Friday, June 8, 2007, when you can enjoy a day of challenging golf, fun, and prizes at the beautiful Youghiogheny Country Club. Your entry fee includes greens fees, golf cart, lunch, course refreshments, open bar from 5-6, dinner buffet, prizes, and awards.

Skill prizes awarded for 1st Hole in One, Longest Putt, Men's Longest Drive, Women's Longest Drive, and Closest to the Pin. Watch the Vocal Point for future announcements, or call the Chamber at 724-863-0888 to learn more.



## 75<sup>th</sup> Norwin Community Picnic

Wednesday, August 1, 2007 is the date for the 75th Norwin Community Picnic. Lots of prizes and festivities are planned, so mark your calendars well in advance for one of the area's oldest and most beloved traditions. This year the Picnic Committee will be planning special ways to commemorate three quarters of a century of tradition.

Tickets go on sale near the end of June and represent a significant discount over prices at the gate. They can be used any weekday before or after the picnic, should you be unable to join us on August 1st.

If you have ever wanted to get involved, now is the time! We will need everyone's participation to make the 75th Annual Norwin Community Picnic the unforgettable anniversary event it deserves to be. Call the Chamber at 724-863-0888 for more information.

## Career Fair

This year's Career Fair is scheduled for Wednesday, March 28, 2007. The event is sponsored by Partners in Progress and takes place in classrooms at the Norwin High School. From 7:00 a.m. until noon, students from 9th through 12th grade have the opportunity to meet representatives of area businesses and learn what it takes to find the career of a lifetime.

As with last year's program, groups will be broken down into 14 different sessions according to business category, with each session lasting about 20 minutes. Students can participate in up to 2 sessions, with each session featuring 3 to 4 speakers. Businesses are slated to provide information about the education, training, and salaries of various positions, as well as descriptions of typical work days.

If you are interested in more information, or in participating in this or future Career Fair events, please call the Chamber office at 724-863-0888. You too can help raise our students' level of awareness regarding career choices close to home.

## Annual Dinner this Month

Don't miss the Annual Dinner this month, Thursday the 22nd at Stratigos Banquet Centre. The evening starts at 5:00 pm with an open bar, along with networking and a review of member expo tables. The dinner buffet will follow in conjunction with recognition ceremonies for our Board of Directors, Historic Members, and our Chamber Person of the Year Award.

Tickets are \$48 per person. This is your last chance to reserve an expo table, as a few are still available for \$25 at the time of this writing. You must be a member in good standing to reserve a table, as well as have a dinner ticket. (No sales of merchandise are permitted). For more information, please call the Chamber at 724-863-0888.

## Wanted: Scholarship Applicants

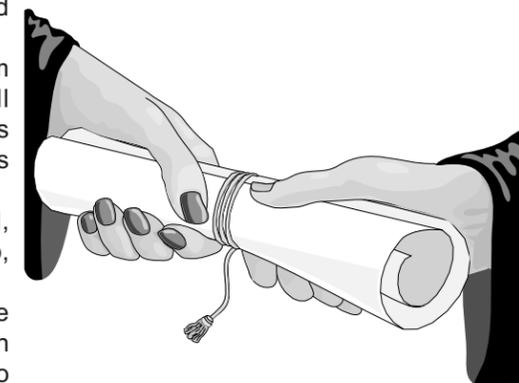
The Norwin Chamber of Commerce is seeking scholarship applicants for the 2006-2007 academic year. Applicants must attend Norwin High School, be a graduating senior in 2007, and have a minimum QPA of 3.0.

To apply, students must pick up a scholarship application from their guidance counselor at the Norwin High School. All applications must be returned, along with a copy of the student's grade transcript and a written essay, to the guidance counselor's office.

Last year \$3,000 in scholarship money was distributed, awarded to students who exhibited the traits of service, leadership, respect, integrity, volunteerism, and compassion.

Scholarship program donations are managed by the Community Foundation of Westmoreland County. The Norwin Chamber of Commerce Executive Board volunteers its time to review the applications, select candidates for personal interviews, and choose the scholarship winners.

To learn more about the scholarship program, or to help sponsor a scholarship, please call the Chamber at 724-863-0888.



## Irwin Project / Main Street Project Update

For those of you who may not know, Bob Michaud, the original manager of the Irwin Project, recently made a career change, leaving Irwin Bank for a new job near Philadelphia. His position with the Irwin Project is now being filled by Irwin resident Jerry O'Brien, an attorney with a Pittsburgh law firm.

One facet of the Irwin Project is downtown's Main Street Project, which is responsible for implementing the Main Street grant. Key goals of this grant include business retention and development, as well as new business recruitment.

According to Donn Henderson, Main Street Project Manager, this summer we will see some façade improvements, helping to upgrade downtown store fronts for a more welcoming appearance. Donn is working with the Chamber, Irwin Borough, Irwin Bank, Irwin Business Professional Association, and others to identify community development projects that will aid with such goals as business retention, internet marketing, and other promotional techniques presenting Irwin as an affordable and fashionable place for surrounding communities to do business.

Starting in February, Mr. Henderson will be taking advantage of temporary office space at the Norwin Chamber of Commerce. "The Chamber was gracious in giving us space," said Donn. "This not only provides us with an office, but with access to meeting facilities as well. Working with the Chamber as a partner in community development is a win-win situation." How long the Main Street Project will be headquartered at the Chamber depends on developments as the project unfolds.

For more information on either the Irwin Project or Main Street Project, please call Donn Henderson at 724-263-9576.

## Good Friday Breakfast

Remember the meaning of Good Friday at this time honored event. The Norwin Chamber of Commerce and the Norwin Area Ministerium have announced that this year's Good Friday Prayer Breakfast will be held at Stratigos Banquet Centre, located at 131 Colonial Manor Road, North Huntingdon on the morning of April 6th. Breakfast begins at 7:30 am, with the program scheduled to run until 9:00 am.

Tickets are \$10 each and are available through the offices of the Norwin Chamber and at local churches. The Good Friday Breakfast began more than 20 years ago when Dr. Larry Dunster of the First Presbyterian Church in Irwin became determined to do something special for the community, providing inspiration and guidance to those of all faiths.

At the time of this writing, a guest speaker for 2007 had not yet been chosen. Past guest speakers have included:

- Reverend J. La Von Kinkaid, pastor of Laketown Heights United Methodist Church and adjunct Professor of Theology at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.
- Bishop Lawrence E. Brandt, of the Diocese of Greensburg.
- John Guest, author of ten books and co-founder of the Trinity Episcopal School of Ministry.
- Reverend Frank Sherman, the District Superintendent of the United Methodist Churches.

For more information and to purchase tickets please call the Norwin Chamber of Commerce at 724-863-0888.

## March Monthly Mixer

March's Business-to-Business Mixer takes place on Wednesday the 14th at Four Seasons Travel, located in Norwin Towne Square, North Huntingdon. Join host Kevin Powanda from 5:00 to 7:00 pm for a break from the ordinary. Find out why Kevin's motto has always been "Please Go Away!"

Four Seasons Travel has been in business for over 30 years, and specializes in all travel, both corporate and pleasure accounts, helping to ensure that your trip is properly planned and cost efficient. Learn about the latest trends and best buys in vacation travel.

Meet other Chamber members in a relaxed, social environment, while enjoying snacks and refreshments. Call the Chamber at 724-863-0888 to RSVP by March 12th.

## March Monthly Luncheon

Do you need help improving your business, or know someone who is starting a new business? Learn about SCORE at this month's Membership Luncheon, scheduled for Wednesday, March 7th at the Colonial Grille in Irwin. Bill McGarrity of Westmoreland SCORE is our speaker. This nonprofit organization with 389 chapters nationwide and over 11,500 members can help your business grow. Westmoreland SCORE is affiliated with the McKenna Business School at Saint Vincent College and relies on the services of 40 members who are retired owners or managers of large and small businesses and organizations. Westmoreland SCORE conducts six workshops each year and is dedicated to aiding in the formation, growth, and success of both new and existing small businesses in Westmoreland and Indiana Counties.

You can learn more by visiting the SCORE website at [www.scorewestco555.org](http://www.scorewestco555.org) or calling 724-539-7505.

March's Membership Luncheon takes place from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm at the Colonial Grille on Main Street in Irwin. Costs are \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members and guests. Reservations are required, so please call the Chamber by noon, March 5th at 724-863-0888.