



Vocal Point

Norwin Chamber of Commerce

April 2007

A Message From the President

Something for Everyone!

It takes no more than a glance at this newsletter to see that the Norwin Chamber of Commerce has something for everyone! From Warm Welcome Boxes and Member Referral programs to our popular Member Luncheons and Business to Business Mixers, every month offers a new opportunity for you to become known among hundreds of Chamber members.

Let's start growing your own reputation by participating in a Chamber event. Sponsors are still needed for this year's annual Golf Outing. Participants are always in demand to help at ribbon cuttings throughout the year. And there's no better way to "spring" into action this month than by attending our April Luncheon or Mixer. It's how our most successful members meet area business leaders and form lasting partnerships; so please feel welcome and join us!

If you're a bit shy, there are still great advertising opportunities at the Chamber, including our inexpensive monthly flyers that accompany every Vocal Point mailing. For more information on all of these programs, just glance through the articles in this newsletter, or call the Chamber at 724-863-0888.

Rosanne Barry Novotnak

New Member Referrals

Did you know you earn twenty five "Chamber Dollars" when a business you refer joins the Chamber? You can use your Chamber Dollars toward advertising inserts, monthly luncheons, even your membership dues. Best of all, you become a hero to the new member you refer, because they receive one free networking lunch, one free insert in the Vocal Point, one free use of the Boardroom, and limitless networking possibilities. This is definitely a win-win proposition, so don't miss out. Refer a new member today!

Warm Welcomes!

Wouldn't it be great if every new Chamber member received a gift box chock-full of fun and useful promotional items from existing members? Thanks to the new "Warm Welcomes" program, now they do! Including your promotional item, emblazoned with your company name and logo, provides a welcoming and memorable gift for new members who just may need your services in the coming year. And it's FREE!

Pamala Mielnicki, owner of Welcome New Neighbors, in conjunction with the Norwin Chamber of Commerce, has put together this terrific FREE member benefit. "Gift certificates, coupons, calendars, pens, key chains, maps, staplers, playing cards, and even light bulbs, have made it into our 'Warm Welcomes' boxes," Pamala explained. "These boxes make a great impression on new members, and we include your promotional items for free. All you have to do is supply them!"

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Continuation of "Warm Welcomes!"

"Warm Welcomes" also offers the opportunity for members of the Ambassadors Committee to participate in delivery of the gift boxes and make a personal impression on new members. "In time, we hope to develop the program into an annual appreciation box for every member," Pamala continued.

The program is open only to Chamber members and represents an opportunity no member should pass up. For more information on participating in the program and/or joining the Ambassador Committee, contact the Chamber office at 724-863-0888, or call Pamala at Welcome New Neighbors, 724-989-2006. You can visit Welcome New Neighbors website at www.NorwinCommunityGuide.com.

Still Time to Sponsor 2007's Excellence in Education Luncheon

This year's Excellence in Education luncheon is almost upon us. The date is May 18th at Stratigos Banquet Centre, from 11:30 am to 1 pm. Your \$60 individual sponsorship helps keep this program on track to honor the top 5% or top 20 graduates (whichever is greater) from the Norwin School District. 21 students will be honored in 2007.

The luncheon is a sign that the community has come together to congratulate our students on a job well done, so make your contribution today. Call the Chamber at 724-863-0888.

40th Annual Thunder Bucket Classic Breaks New Ground

Each year the Norwin Community Picnic features the renowned Thunder Bucket Classic, a traditional softball game in which the Norwin Rotary takes on teachers from Norwin High School. It's a hotly contested game over a worn but honored bucket, and while that part of the competition remains the same, this year things will be different.

While the 75th Annual Norwin Community Picnic takes place Wednesday, August 1st, the Thunder Bucket Classic is moving to Sunday, July 29th at the Norwin High School. It's all for the better though. The event is becoming a fundraiser for the Chamber's annual scholarship program, including such fun additions as a 50/50 raffle and an ice cream social generously sponsored by Chamber member Kerber's Dairy.

If you've never attended this event, this is the year to start. If you have always enjoyed this famous softball challenge, come out this year to support our scholarship efforts and see who wins the 40th Annual Thunder Bucket Classic.

Good Friday Breakfast

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. Doors open at 6:45 am, with breakfast scheduled for 7:30 am. The program concludes at 9:00 am.

Tickets are \$10 each and are available through the offices of the Norwin Chamber and at local churches. For more information and to purchase tickets please call the Norwin Chamber of Commerce at 724-863-0888.

Norwin Seniors Softball Association

The Norwin Senior Softball Association is looking for senior athletes to participate in upcoming games this summer. Each year the N.S.S.A. provides a sports activity for over eighty seniors aged 55 and above, including women, minorities, and the handicapped.

The Police Athletic Association has made their ball fields available to the N.S.S.A., and each year the Association makes a donation for the use of the fields. We'd love to have you enjoy the sportsmanship, camaraderie, and physical exercise of the N.S.S.A., so please contact Bill "Sharky" Rollason, President of N.S.S.A at 724-863-4201. A nominal fee is charged to players.

April's Business to Business Mixer

Join us on April 11th from 5 to 7 pm at Michelle's Hair Boutique and Bella Boutique on Main Street in Irwin. Michelle DiClaudio will be your host and will introduce you to the services of her hair boutique and day spa.

"We want long term relationships with our clients," Michelle explained. "And we have a team of committed, positive, and successful individuals who provide the highest quality services possible in a fun and friendly atmosphere."

From trusted referrals to business partnerships, becoming known in the business community is one of your keys to success. If you've never experienced a Chamber Mixer, April's event is a great place to start. Enjoy refreshments and networking in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

To learn more about Michelle's Hair Boutique and Bella Boutique, please visit their website at www.michelleshairboutique.com.

Note: There are still a limited number of openings to host Business to Business Mixers in 2008. Yes 2008, - you have to reserve early if you want to host one of these popular get-togethers! If you are interested in promoting your business through one of these popular mixers, please contact the Chamber at 724-863-0888.

Promote Your Business with a Prize at the Golf Outing

2007's Golf Invitational is set for Friday, June 8th, but between now and this popular event at the Youghiogheny Country Club, we need your Sponsorships and Prizes. Make your mark at the Golf Invitational by becoming a tee sponsor, donating a door or skill prize, or volunteering to help on the day of the event.

Everyone knows golf is where deals are made and jobs are won, and this is no less true at this wonderful networking opportunity, brought to you each year by the Norwin Chamber of Commerce. Call us at 724-863-0888.



April Luncheon

Join us Wednesday, April 4th for the Chamber's Monthly Membership Luncheon. In April, the event is dedicated entirely to networking, allowing members get to know one another, exchange business referrals, and become acquainted with the capabilities and current concerns of those in attendance.

Unlike many other referral groups, the Chamber Network places no limitation on membership by competing businesses. We believe good referrals are borne of familiarity, trust, and cooperation, rather than limiting the number of like businesses involved.

April's Membership Luncheon takes place from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm at K-Vay's on 2271 Mars Hill Rd. Costs are \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members and guests. Reservations are required, so please call the Chamber by noon, April 2nd at 724-863-0888.

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

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Attorney at Law

Jim Gallagher, Immediate Past Chairman of the Board
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John Duncan, Vice Chair of Governance and Finance
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Diana Falk, Norwin Public Library

Ed Michalek,
Giant Eagle of North Huntingdon

Pamala Mielnicki, Welcome New Neighbors

John Ott,
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

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