

The JCCC News

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October 2009

Up and Running

JCCC website @ www.jacksonchamberwv.com

Wes Harvey

JCCC, Program Director

In modern society where business is increasingly driven by technology and people want answers at their fingertips, it was essential to enter the digital age. One of the first items that I wanted to address was to make sure that the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce (JCCC) had an online presence. This was accomplished when the JCCC website went live in mid-August.

Besides introducing the purpose of the JCCC and the services that we provide, I have integrated a membership directory and a calendar of events into the site. Various sources of information on Jackson County can be found throughout, and there is a section where people can request information that may be specific in nature. You can even check the local weather forecast for Ravenswood or Ripley directly from our homepage.

Eventually, my plan is for our website, www.jacksonchamberwv.com, to be the premier resource for information on the county. Visitor guides and relocation information are items on our project list. As this is going to be

Continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Up and Running
- 2 Committee Members Needed
- 2 September Business Meeting
- 2 Future Meetings Set
- 3 WV Business Summit
- 4 JCCC Membership Application

BAH at STAR Plastics

Business After Hours Huge Success

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Our first Business After Hours (BAH) was a tremendous success and a great kickoff event for the JCCC. STAR Plastics was a wonderful host for the evening, and thanks must be given to Doug Ritchie and his employees that made the event possible. Another star of the evening was chef Dick Waybright, who cooked up a mouth-watering pulled pork meal for all attendees. With more than sixty people in attendance, the event became standing room only.

At the BAH I spoke on the approach that am taking with the JCCC, which is to go out and listen to our members. Doing this gave me the chance to find out what was at the pulse of the area businesses. To me it was no great surprise to learn that businesses want to give back to the communities and to provide good jobs for their employees. Other key areas where businesses have asked for our assistance are in networking opportunities, assisting with membership education and business development, and being an advocate for the business community.

WV Business Summit

At the beginning of September, I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the WV Business Summit coordinated by the WV Chamber of Commerce. This annual event brings together hundreds of business leaders across the state to focus on issues vital to West Virginia businesses. In past years the topics presented at the WV Business Summit were more specific to just our state. However, this year Health Care Reform, Cap & Trade, and the current state of the national economy dominated the agenda.

Besides becoming informed on the issues that are affecting business across the state, the WV Business Summit is the site of the annual meeting of the West Virginia Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (WVACCE). This meeting

Continued on page 3

a highly visible and easily accessible source for information, I welcome any input that you would like to give. Please visit the website and check back often for updates.

Committee Members Needed

One of the topics discussed in our Executive Committee meetings is the need to identify members willing to serve on committees for the JCCC. It is paramount to have input and direction from our membership as we grow and become more instrumental in shaping the future of our county. As has been mentioned, we want to match your interests with our needs when filling committee positions.

As we look to enhance the offerings of the JCCC, we will focus on several key areas. Our immediate needs are to fill positions on the following committees: Ambassador Program, Events (Annual Dinner, Golf Tournament), Membership Education, Public Policy, and Tourism (Creation of Travel brochures, relocation guides, etc.). If you would like to contribute one of these committees please contact me at wharvey@jacksonchamberwv.com or call 304-373-1117.

September Business Meeting: Gene Kitts Discusses the EPA versus Coal

One of the things that I tried to do at the WV Business Summit was to network with those that can help the JCCC and to identify potential topics that our members need to be educated. One such topic was the issue of Cap & Trade and more specifically how the EPA was lodging an attack on the coal industry which is vital to our state's economy. Mr. Gene Kitts, the Senior Vice President – Mining Services with International Coal Group spoke specifically on this issue at the WV Business Summit, and he gladly came up to our September meeting to enlighten our membership on the issues that the coal industry and our state are currently facing.

It is not too often that a high level executive of a company goes out and starts working at the grassroots level to rally opposition to government agencies like the EPA. However, when the EPA stated that economic development along a section of road in southern West Virginia was going to be a bad thing, Mr. Kitts took it to heart and hit the road. A native of Mingo County, Mr. Kitts knows all too well that southern West Virginia has historically been disadvantaged and can use all the economic development it can get.

Essentially the EPA has had a study that concludes certain types of mayflies are not found below valley fills from surface mining. These insects are particularly sensitive to dissolved

solids in water. The quality of the water is considered good and fish populations are healthy. However the absence of a couple genre of mayfly has put the issuance of surface mining permits on hold. Surface mining in West Virginia accounted for forty-two percent of the coal mined in our state and \$172.5 million in coal severance tax revenues alone. Factor in the tens of thousands of jobs that are related to the mining industry in West Virginia, it is not hard to realize the drastic consequences to our state's economy.

At the end of the presentation Mr. Kitts talked about an organization that he supports called the FACES of Coal. On the FACES of Coal website the organization is described as an "alliance of people from all walks of life who are joining forces to educate lawmakers and the general public about the importance of coal and coal mining to our local and national economies and to our nation's energy security." If FACES of Coal interests you, please check them out on the web at www.facesofcoal.org.

K.S. of West Virginia was kind enough to host our September meeting, and their facilities and hospitality were absolutely terrific. Thanks again to Fumiyuki Hioki, Tim Bailey, and Mitzi Sampson for their hard work and the great meal that was provided. If you have any suggestions of future speakers or topics that you would like to have addressed, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Future Meetings Set for the Remainder of 2009

The meeting times for the remainder of 2009 have been set. The October meeting of the JCCC will be held on the 29th at noon. Kimberly Donahue of the SBA will discuss the roles of the SBA and provide details of The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The meeting will be held at the dining hall at Cedar Lakes Conference Center.

Other dates to mark on the calendar are November 19th, December 3rd, and January 28th. Please note that on December 3rd we will have a Business After Hours (BAH) at I-77 Ford Mercury from 5:00 – 7:00 PM. Please extend your thanks to Jim and Robin Blankenship, as I know that they will be wonderful hosts. We are also looking for hosts for future BAHs. Please let me know if you are interested so that we can contact you prior to our next BAH event.

CALENDAR OF JCCC EVENTS

OCTOBER MEETING

PLACE: CEDAR LAKES CONFERENCE CENTER

TIME: NOON

DATE: OCTOBER 29, 2009

Monthly Business Meeting – the speaker will be Kimberly Donahue of the Small Business Administration. She will discuss the role of the SBA and cover elements of The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

NOVEMBER MEETING

PLACE: PARCHMENT VALLEY

TIME: NOON

DATE: NOVEMBER 19, 2009

Monthly Business Meeting

DECEMBER BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

PLACE: I-77 FORD MERCURY

TIME: 5:00-7:00

DATE: DECEMBER 3, 2009

JANUARY BUSINESS MEETING

PLACE: JACKSON GENERAL HOSPITAL

TIME: NOON

DATE: JANUARY 28, 2009

CALENDAR OF MEMBER EVENTS

OCTOBER 23RD & 24TH

What: 165th Anniversary Promotion

Where: Vail Furniture 103 Church St in Ripley

October 24TH

What: Chili Cook-Off

When: 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Where: Eldercare of WV 107 Miller Dr. in Ripley

October 31ST

What: Haunted House

When: 6:00-8:00 PM

Where: Jackson General Hospital

November 6TH

What: Hatchet Game Tailgate

When: 5:00 – 7:30 PM

Where: Ripley High School (Anti-Drug Coalition)

gave me direct insight into the inner workings of other local chambers around the state. The directors from the other chambers were very helpful with offering suggestions and extending offers of help in the future.

One of the chamber leaders in attendance was Marty Chapman, with the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce. We have discussed holding some joint events in the future such as a Jackson County and Putnam County Day at the legislature next year. This will more than likely be held in February of 2010. As the calendar is still being set for the upcoming session of the legislature, no specific date has been set.

CALENDAR OF COMMUNITY EVENTS

October 24TH

What: Black Hare Renaissance Faire

When: All day gates open at 9:45AM

Where: Jackson County Junior Fairgrounds. Call (304) 372-7810 or (304) 372-7393 for further information.

October 24th

What: CASA Family Events and Motorcycle Ride

When: 9:30 AM – 6:30 PM

Where: Parchment Valley & Ripley. Call (304) 373-1165 for more details.

October 30th

What: FFA Harvest Festival

When: 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Where: Jackson County Junior Fairgrounds

October 30th & October 31st

What: Haunted Trail & Hay Ride

When: 7:00 – 10:00 PM

Where: Jackson County Junior Fairgrounds

October 31st

What: Trick or Treat

When: 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Where: Ravenswood, Ripley, and surrounding areas.



104 Miller Drive
 Ripley, WV 25271
 Phone: 304.532.3565
 Fax: 304.372.1153

Membership Application

Firm _____

Representative _____

Street Address _____

Mailing Address _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____ FAX _____

Classification (i.e. Yellow Pages) _____

E-mail _____

Website Address _____

As the representative from the above firm, I hereby apply for membership to the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, Inc. to help promote the growth and prosperity of our community.

Signature _____

Date _____

Membership Type

ORGANIZATIONAL \$150.00 – Any non-profit organization primarily operating in Jackson County wishing to join with the JCCC to achieve common goals.

INDIVIDUAL \$50.00 non-voting - Any individual having an interest in general welfare and prosperity of Jackson County.

SUBSCRIBING – Any firm, corporation, association, government entity, and/or individual doing business in or residing in Jackson County.

1-5	\$150.00
6-15	175.00
16-25	200.00
26-35	225.00
36-45	250.00
46-55	275.00
56-65	300.00
66-75	325.00
76-85	350.00
86-95	375.00
96-105	400.00

Two part time employees equal one with application. Dues will be refunded if application is not approved by the Board of Directors of the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce.

Over 106: .50 per employee.
 Maximum \$1,000 per year