

## Businesses Use Tax Money to Change the Lives of Local Families

*How would you like to use your business's tax liability to change the lives of Monroe County families?* Pocono Alliance and Wealth Strategies and Management LLC will host a presentation regarding the Pennsylvania Pre-K Education Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program on January 9<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am - 9:30am.

The presentation will include a light breakfast and educate business owners on this worthwhile program that provides scholarship funds to send income-eligible children in Monroe County to pre-school. Guest speaker Representative Mario Scavello will also discuss the benefits of this program to Monroe County families.

All Pennsylvania businesses that pay any of the following taxes are eligible to participate in Tax to the Max for Kids Campaign: Capital Stock Franchise Tax, Bank and Trust Company Shares Tax, Title Insurance Company Shares Tax, Insurance Premiums Tax, Mutual Thrift Institutions Tax. Also, Personal Income Tax-Subchapter S-corporations and other "pass through" entities will be able to use the credit against the shareholders, member or partners' personal income taxes.

You have to pay these taxes anyway, so why not keep those funds here in Monroe County? The following businesses that have opened the door to academic success and changed the lives of children in need by participating in this program include; Vigon International, Inc., First National Community Bank, PennStar Bank, ESSA Bank & Trust, PP&L Corporation, National Penn Bank, Wind Gap Electric, Inc., and Penn Security Bank.

If you would like to learn more about this opportunity to put your business's tax dollars to work in our community and help Monroe County families, then please attend this presentation.

The program will take place at Wealth Strategies and Management LLC at 907 Main Street in Stroudsburg. If you would like to register for the presentation, contact Roxanne Powell at Pocono Alliance at (570) 517-3958 or email [rpowell@monroecountypa.gov](mailto:rpowell@monroecountypa.gov). For more information, visit Pocono Alliance's website at [www.poconoalliance.org](http://www.poconoalliance.org) or on Facebook under Pocono Alliance.

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### GPCC MISSION STATEMENT

Act as A Unified Voice of Business  
Dedicated to the Prosperity of all  
Commerce  
Leading to the Enhancement of  
the Quality of Life in our region and surrounding  
areas.

## January 2014 Calendar of Events

- January 7**.....*West End Committee*  
8:00 a.m.– *Western Pocono*  
*Community Library-Brodheadsville*
- January 8** .....*Econ Dev./Transportation Committee*  
8:00 a.m. – *GPCC*
- January 9** .....*Expo Committee*  
8:00 a.m. – *GPCC*
- January 13**.....*Education Committee*  
11:00 a.m.– *MCTI - Tannersville*
- January 13**.....*Business Card Exchange*  
5:30 p.m.– *Big Daddy's Family BBQ -*  
*Bartonsville*
- January 14** .....*Women In Business Luncheon*  
Noon – *Stroudsmoor Country Inn -*  
*Stroudsburg*
- January 17**.....*Report to Business Breakfast*  
8:00 a.m. - *Chateau Resort &*  
*Conference Center - Tannersville*
- January 21**.....*Women in Business Committee*  
9:00 a.m.– *GPCC*
- January 24**.....*Environmental Committee*  
8:00 a.m.– *GPCC*
- January 24**.....*Safe 80 Task Force*  
11:00 a.m. - *Stroud Township Bldg. -*  
*Stroudsburg*
- January 27**.....*Finance Committee*  
7:45 a.m. – *GPCC*
- January 27**.....*Executive Committee*  
8:15 a.m.– *GPCC*
- January 28**.....*Board of Directors*  
8:30 a.m. - *Location TBD*

### Business Card Exchange and other Sponsorships Available for 2014!

Please contact  
Pat Metzgar at the  
Chamber at 570.421.4433 to find  
out which sponsorships fit your  
needs!

## Members in the News

Jason Monteagudo, an Investment Adviser Representative with **Keystone Financial Management's** Montage office, recently spoke to a class of third year medical students during The Commonwealth Medical College's (TCMC) Core Week. Core Week is TCMC's attempt to educate their students in topics outside of their chosen field.



Jason Monteagudo

Monteagudo, who focuses a large part of his practice on serving physicians, spoke to basic financial concepts that impact all of us, no matter what our income level. Topics that were discussed included: a basic understanding of the more common savings vehicles available, the challenge of addressing debt and using debt in productive ways and how to achieve financial and personal balance through the management of current obligations, future savings and personal enjoyment.

The presentation was received well by the audience and Mr. Monteagudo expects to present at next year's Core Week.



Dr. Rose Guilbe

**Pocono Health System** welcomes Dr. Rose Guilbe as the Medical Director of the Palliative Care Program at Pocono Medical Center. Dr. Guilbe will be involved with teaching medical students at Pocono Medical Center and at The Commonwealth Medical College. She joins us after serving as medical director of the Family Medicine and In-patient Palliative Care Unit at Montefiore Medical Center in New York since 1999.

"The arrival of Dr. Guilbe brings to our community a leader in palliative and hospice care," said Kathleen E. Kuck, President and CEO of Pocono Health System/Pocono Medical Center. "We are excited to have Dr. Guilbe here to provide inpatient, outpatient, Cancer Center, and hospice palliative care to assist patients coping with serious illness and those patients' families."

Palliative care, a recognized medical specialty, emphasizes the management of symptoms associated with serious illness, helping patients and their families articulate their goals of care, and coordinating care in different settings. Dr. Guilbe is a clinical associate professor of medicine at The Commonwealth Medical College and Albert Einstein School of Medicine in New York, and has been very involved with teaching as well as publishing articles and a

book chapter pertaining to comfort and end of life care. She completed her undergraduate education in biology and psychology at Adelphi University in Long Island, New York and received her medical degree from Universidad Central del Caribe, US School of Medicine.

Dr. Guilbe completed her residency in Family and Social Medicine at the Department of Family Medicine in the Bronx, New York. Prior to her most recent service at Montefiore Medical Center, she also served as the Hospice Medical Director for Compassionate Care Hospice in Bronx, New York and as an attending Family Medicine physician at various health centers and hospitals. Dr. Guilbe is a member of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, Society of Hospital Medicine, Society of Teachers of Family Medicine and Palliative Care, American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American Medical Association.



Lori-Jo Yarosh

**CareGivers America** in East Stroudsburg welcomes Lori-Jo Yarosh as the newest addition to their marketing team. Lori-Jo has more than 30 years of Sales and Marketing experience with nearly 20 of them in healthcare. Her background includes designing and implementing marketing, advertising, public relations and promotional plans, as well as business to business selling, territory management and networking.

Lori-Jo is a graduate of the Pennsylvania State University with a BS in Marketing, University Scholars Program. She was born and raised in East Stroudsburg, PA and currently lives in Pocono Township with her husband, Dave and their two sons, Stephen and Andrew.

CareGivers America is located at 300 East Brown Street, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301. Telephone: [570-421-3200](tel:570-421-3200). Website: [www.caregiversamerica.com](http://www.caregiversamerica.com)



Jeffrey Mutchler

**Wealth Strategies & Management LLC (WS&M)** is pleased to announce the addition of Jeffrey Mutchler to their team of financial services professionals. Mutchler will serve as Financial Advisor at WS&M, assisting WS&M's clientele with their financial strategy and portfolio management needs while providing the quality level of customer service for which WS&M is known.

"I am very excited to be joining WS&M," expresses Mutchler. "WS&M has emerged as a notable presence in the Northeast Pennsylvania financial services market, priding them-

selves on attention to detail and in providing a wide selection of strategies, services, and solutions for clients."

Mutchler continues, "My role at WS&M also allows me to become a part of LPL Financial's national network of independent financial service providers, gaining me access to the comprehensive package LPL Financial offers financial professionals seeking greater autonomy and a sense of ownership."

Mutchler has an established track record for his excellent service with specific experience in financial planning, portfolio management, estate planning, endowments, foundations, business succession planning, and investment policy statements. Mutchler began his career in financial services in 2007 as an intern with the Smith Barney financial advising division of Citigroup Global Markets Inc., followed by a four-year role as Financial Consultant at Pennstar Bank's Investment Division. Mutchler is a graduate of Penn State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and Management.

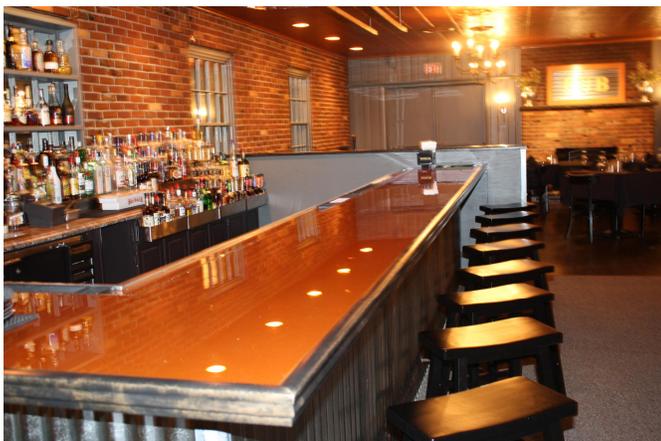
A new day has dawned at **The Blakeslee Inn** on Route 940 in Blakeslee. The Inn and Restaurants, family owned and operated since 2001, has undergone a total transformation.



Blakeslee Inn's Newly Renovated Dining Area

Long known in the region for fine dining, The Blakeslee Inn now boasts two, more casual restaurants; Pasta Renova and The BI Pub. While each of the restaurants live up to the Blakeslee Inn's reputation for inventive dishes and superb service, it is the atmosphere that has seen the most dramatic improvement. The newly redesigned restaurants and hotel lobby offer a serene, approachably modern environment. As you enter the lobby, you are greeted by a roaring fire, majestic marbleized columns and the warm smile of the Blakeslee Inn staff. Just inside, the BI Pub beckons with its glassine copper bar and warm weathered brick as the firelight dances on galvanized accents. Here, you can indulge in their full bar and gourmet pub fare while relaxing with friends. Just next door, Pasta Renova envelopes you, like a fine glass of Merlot, in its subtly themed decor. Renova's centerpiece, a layered art installation of exotic wine boxes serves as a graceful re-

minder of the bountiful region that inspires the authentic Italian cuisine. Finally, the Classic fine dining restaurant's deep toned walls and dramatic three dimensional copper wall juxtapose beautifully with the crisp white linens and silver place settings.



*Blakeslee Inn's Newly Renovated Bar Area*

The transformation of the Blakeslee Inn's interior in combination with its impeccable attention to detail and long standing reputation for fusing unexpected ingredients with expert flair set it apart from all others in the region making it a "must try" on every foodie's list.

To make a reservation or for more information you can contact Blakeslee Inn at 570.646.1100.

St. Luke's University Health Network is capping off the fundraising efforts of the **Pocono Alliance** with a final \$5,000 contribution to the campaign for a Crossing Abilities All-Inclusive Playground in Mountain View Park in Tannersville. The gift was presented to Michael Tukeva, Executive Director of the Pocono Alliance Thursday, December 12 at St. Luke's Pocono Pediatric Associate, 208 Lifeline Road, Suite 201 in Stroudsburg. Tukeva led the community-wide effort to secure the necessary funding.

Specialized playgrounds like this one provide children of all abilities with the experience of play, while encouraging acceptance and promoting overall health and wellness. The total cost of this playground was \$431,580 and was covered through grants, sponsorships, donations and in-kind contributions. Construction began in May 2013, but planning and fundraising efforts began earlier in 2012. "Early planning included reaching out to local families who have children with disabilities to learn what was most important to them and to their children," says Tukeva. "We appreciate St. Luke's generosity and support so that we can finally make this project a reality, and we are grateful to so many who have made considerable contributions throughout our fundraising campaign."

According to Tukeva, this final gift from St. Luke's has come at the right time, putting the organization on track to open the playground in April 2014 when the park re-opens for the new season. "It's been wonderful to see so

many organizations and individuals come together in support of this project," he says. "The new playground will provide a safe, fun environment that encourages imaginative play and developmental learning."

"St. Luke's is delighted to make the final contribution to support this worthwhile effort," says Robert Martin, Chief Strategy Officer, St. Luke's University Health Network. "It's a wonderful cause; we expect the playground will be appreciated by many children and families in this area for years to come." More than 5,300 children in Monroe County live with disabilities.

This playground is designed to encourage physical, sensory and social cooperative play. A sound garden is also part of the installation. "Play is a vital part of human development for all children," says pediatrician Dr. Christopher Lynch. He and his colleagues at St. Luke's Pocono Pediatric Associates support the initiative. "Now children who live with limitations will be able to participate and interact with other children in a healthy, fun, creative way."

Mountain View Park opened in 1978 and is considered one of the most beautiful parks in Monroe County. In addition to the playground, it offers ball fields, tennis and basketball courts, a soccer field, pavilions and nature trails.

**Pocono Health Foundation** and The Rotary Club of the Smithfields held their annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 3, 2013, which awarded non-profit



*Santa arrives for the Holiday Tree Lighting*

agencies grants that will improve the lives of children in the community. This year, the Holiday Tree Lighting funded six organizations in the total amount of over \$6,000 dollars. Those recipients are: Center for Vision Loss – Monroe County, Equil-i-brium, Girl Scouts in the Heart of PA, Melon's Gift, Inc., Pocono Area Transitional Housing (PATH) and Pocono Services for Families and Children

"We always look forward to the holiday season here at Pocono Medical Center as it gives us an opportunity to work alongside the Rotary Club of the Smithfields in giving back to our wonderful community for which I am so proud to

serve,” says Kathleen E. Kuck, President & CEO of Pocono Health System/Pocono Medical Center.

The Pocono Health Foundation Grant Committee selected this year’s recipients based on a competitive grant review process. The event also included musical entertainment from the JM Hill Elementary School Chorus, Stroudsburg Jr. High School Chorus, and the East Stroudsburg North High School Chorus. Santa arrived by the Borough of East Stroudsburg Fire Department and luminaries sold in memory or in honor of loved ones lined both sides of East Brown Street in the festive event.

The Pocono Health Foundation and Rotary Club of the Smithfields raises funds by the sale of red, green, and white holiday bulbs in memory or in honor of a special person. The bulbs can be purchased by calling the Pocono Health Foundation at (570) 476-3530. Individuals can learn more about the Pocono Health Foundation by visiting [PoconoHealthFoundation.org](http://PoconoHealthFoundation.org).

**AlignLife of East Stroudsburg** gives back to the community. Dr. Brettney Ramsour, his family and staff prepared, cooked and served those less fortunate during the Holiday season at the Salvation Army. Turkey, mashed



*Dr. Brettney Ramsour with family and staff*

potatoes, broccoli, stuffing, cranberry and hot dinner rolls were served. Susan their massage therapist played Christmas Chorales on the harp. Everyone had a Great time!

January 13, 2014 @ 6:30pm Health Missions a non-profit will Sponsor a "New Year New You" Health Seminar at Alignlife of East Stroudsburg 747 Milford Road. Start the New Year out right! Learn how to make a & keep a commitment to your Health! **Win Win Win** a trip! Just for coming you can win a cruise. Bring your cell phone to enter at the end of the Seminar!! Invite family & friends. It's a Win Win situation..... Call 570-476-5577 to reserve your seat. Hurry seating is limited.

**The Pocono Health Foundation** announces the offering of various healthcare-related scholarships. The scholar-

ships are awarded to students who exemplify academic excellence, compassion, and a desire for improving the quality of life in our community. These scholarships are designated for nursing students entering their final year of an accredited nursing program.

R. Dale Hughes established the first scholarship in 1991, and it was named the *R. Dale Hughes Nursing Scholarship Endowment*.

The Cramer Family established *The Jennie Cramer Nursing Scholarship* in 1992 to help recruit outstanding nursing students to Pocono Medical Center.

The final nursing scholarship is *The Robert A. Gordon Memorial Nursing Scholarship*, created by the Pocono Medical Center Board of Directors in 1991 in recognition of Mr. Gordon’s outstanding service as a Board member.

In addition to the nursing scholarships, there is also a scholarship designed for future healthcare professionals who are currently Monroe County High School seniors accepted in a college or university program. This scholarship is made possible through the *Dr. Elmo Lilli Memorial Healthcare Scholarship*. Dr. Lilli began serving as a family and geriatric physician in 1959 and also served as Chief of the Medical Staff at Pocono Medical Center from 1978 to 1980.

In conjunction with these four scholarships, the Pocono Health Foundation invites community organizations to apply for a grant through the *Dr. Alberta Finch Children’s Health Endowment* or the *Dr. Claus G. Jordan Endowment Fund*. Anyone interested in learning more about these grant and scholarship opportunities is encouraged to visit the Pocono Health Foundation website at [www.poconohealthfoundation.org](http://www.poconohealthfoundation.org). The applications for all of the scholarships will be accepted through March 31, 2014.

If you’re a small employer with fewer than 25 full-time equivalent employees, [you may qualify for a tax credit worth up to 50%](#) of your premium costs when you buy health insurance through the Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP).

Non-profit employers may qualify for a tax credit worth as much as 35% of premium costs.

**Here’s how you can get access to the credit through the SHOP in 2014:**

Contact an agent, broker, or insurer about enrolling in a SHOP Qualified Health Plan.

Fill out a paper application for SHOP eligibility. You can get an agent, broker, Navigator, or assistor to help you, if you want.

Send the application in to the SHOP Marketplace.

After it receives a completed application, the SHOP Marketplace will notify you about eligibility by phone or email and by regular mail if you request it.

Apply for the tax credit when you fill out your business tax returns for the 2014 tax year.

For more information on the SHOP Marketplace, visit [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov) or call 1-800-706-7893, 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday. TTY users should call 1-800-706-7915.

The 2014 IndyCar Series television schedule will feature three weekends of ABC coverage at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, including the network's 50th consecutive telecast of the Indianapolis 500 Mile Race on Sunday, May 25. NBC Sports Network (NBCSN) will televise 13 races, including 11 in a row that culminates with the season finale on Labor Day weekend at Auto Club Speedway in Fontana, Calif.

The complete 2014 IndyCar Series schedule was released today in conjunction with broadcast partners ABC and NBCSN. ABC will broadcast five races as well as Indianapolis 500 qualifying on Saturday, May 17, and Sunday, May 18. NBCSN will televise two early season races and resume telecasts with the annual Saturday night race June 7 at Texas Motor Speedway.

May at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway has a new look and will feature the first IndyCar Series road race at the iconic facility, the Grand Prix of Indianapolis, on Saturday, May 10. ABC will televise the race beginning at 3:30 p.m. ET. The following weekend, ABC will televise Indianapolis 500 qualifications from 4-6 p.m. Saturday and 1-3 p.m. Sunday. ABC's telecast of the 98th Running of the Indianapolis 500 Mile Race will begin at 11 a.m. ET on Sunday, May 25. The event will continue one of the longest-running relationships between a television network and a sporting event.

"With the debut of the Grand Prix of Indianapolis, the intensity of qualifications for the Indianapolis 500 and the 'Greatest Spectacle in Racing,' ABC is the destination to tune in for our three big weekends of competition in May," said Mark Miles, CEO of Hulman & Co., the parent company of INDYCAR.

ABC's schedule also includes the season-opening Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg on Sunday, March 30, and the Chevrolet Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix doubleheader on Saturday, May 31, and Sunday, June 1. The telecasts for all three races will begin at 3:30 p.m. ET. The network also broadcast both Detroit races in 2013.

"The Indianapolis 500 has been an important property for our company for many years and the milestone of the 50th consecutive race on ABC is one that we plan to celebrate," said Julie Sobieski, ESPN vice president, league sports programming. "It's only fitting that our celebration also will include the new race on the Indianapolis road course and the drama of qualifications.

"At the same time, we're also very happy to again be able to air the season opener from St. Petersburg as well as the doubleheader from Detroit. We look forward to an exciting season with the IndyCar Series and the Month of May at Indianapolis."

NBCSN will pick up the schedule with the Firestone 600 on Saturday, June 7, and carry it through to the season finale Saturday, Aug. 30, at Auto Club Speedway. The NBCSN portion of the schedule continues the IndyCar Series emphasis on consistency in start times. With the exception of night races, many of the NBCSN telecasts will begin at 3 p.m. ET.

Miles added: "We're grateful to our television partners for working with us on a schedule that gives our fans the best of both networks. Fans will know that NBC Sports Network is our home for the final 11 races of the season, including two doubleheaders, as we build up to another exciting championship."

"We're pleased to again present a record 13 races to IndyCar's passionate fan base on NBCSN, including Long Beach, Barber, two doubleheaders and the final 11 races of the season," said Jon Miller, president, programming, NBCSN.

NBCSN also will televise two of the season's first three races - the 40th Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach on Sunday, April 13, beginning at 4 p.m. ET, and the Honda Indy Grand Prix of Alabama on Sunday, April 27, beginning at 2:30 p.m. ET as well as live coverage of final preparations for the 98<sup>th</sup> Indianapolis 500 on "Carburetion Day," May 23.

**United Way of Monroe County** offered words of thanks today after receiving a significant contribution from **Sanofi Pasteur** and its employees – the generous result of the company's annual campaign.

Sanofi Pasteur's employees – with the assistance of a company match -- raised more than \$291,000, with 90 percent credited toward the United Way of Monroe County's annual campaign. A world leader in the vaccine industry, Sanofi Pasteur, of Swiftwater, is the United Way's largest single contributor for Monroe County. The company matched 50 cents on the dollar for all employee workplace donations.

As part of the internal campaign, Sanofi Pasteur developed a creative platform titled, "Go Coconuts for Our Cause." The initiative featured a festive tropical theme, emphasizing the "fun" in fundraising. Employees were welcomed into a lush luau environment, featuring a ukulele player, themed gift baskets, tropical drinks, island-style food and flowers, all while engaging with representatives from the United Way and several of its partner agencies.

Additionally, to underscore the impact of donations received, United Way of Monroe County factoids and outcomes were also featured. Employee communications incorporated throughout the campaign also highlighted

United Way clients benefitting from the generosity of donors, including homeless families, and young children with undiagnosed medical challenges requiring medical intervention.

Key company volunteers for the campaign were: Dale Parisi, vice president, Human Resources, Commercial Operations, Vaccines, Americas, who is Sanofi Pasteur's United Way campaign advisor and a board member of the United Way of Monroe County; company Campaign Chair Danine Grambo, deputy director, Commercial Operations, Planning and Analysis; and company Campaign Vice Chairs Carolyn Dulney, manager, Regulatory Affairs, and Erica McGraw, deputy director, Industrial Strategy.

As a mom, and as a long-time community volunteer, Grambo – who revealed the campaign results to a packed room of community enthusiasts -- is well aware of the critical work of the non-profit organizations serviced through United Way funding – many who assist and protect families and children. During her comments, she thanked key individuals who helped Sanofi Pasteur's efforts, including Damian Braga, senior vice president, Global Commercial Operations, and the many employees who played an integral part in the campaign.

Ralph Megliola, 2013 county campaign chair, has been very philanthropic his entire life and believes the United Way of Monroe County is the "checks and balances" of many local charities. During the 2013 campaign, he expanded the campaign outreach by re-engaging prior relationships with local businesses and cultivating new ones.

"Sanofi Pasteur leads by example and conducts a workplace campaign year after year that is truly amazing," Megliola said. "We are grateful for their generosity and commitment to our community to help those in need. You have truly made this holiday season extra special and we thank you for all you do."

"Our ladies just love chocolate! They were so happy when they received their free six-box of chocolate dipped fruit. The smiles on their faces were priceless. We even had a few first-time more mature women stop in to get their exam. How great is that?" states Barbarann Carroll, PMC Mammography Supervisor.

This year for the first time, Matt and Cindy Moore, owners of **Edible Arrangements**, partnered with the PMC's imaging centers in East Stroudsburg and Tobyhanna to encourage women to get their annual mammograms. Moore states, "More than 165 boxes were filled. We have personally been affected by this terrible disease with the loss of my sister. This was our way of reaching out to help breast cancer patients through the Hope for Strength Breast Cancer Fund."

"Most women cannot resist chocolate so what better way to encourage women to get their annual mammogram. It's truly humbling when a delicious idea reaps such sweet success. It's a great way for businesses to get involved with PMC and the Hope for Strength Breast Cancer

Fund," states Carole' Ann F. Bowyer, the fund's originator



*From l to r: Barbarann Carroll, PMC, Cindy Moore, Edible Arrangements, Catherine, PMC and Carole' Ann Bowyer, Hope for Strength*

The purpose of the fund is to minimize the financial and emotional impact of breast cancer diagnoses and treatment. The Hope for Strength Breast Cancer fund will provide up to \$500 to both male and female patients of the Dales and Frances Hughes Cancer Center for basic living expenses. The fund was established in 2011 after Bowyer's daughter was diagnosed with breast cancer. Although Bowyer's daughter lives in the Washington, DC area, she decided to create Hope for Strength in the Pocono Mountains to help the patients in the area where her daughter grew up and received an education. Please visit the fund's website, [www.hopeforstrength.com](http://www.hopeforstrength.com).

Contact Carole' Ann F. Bowyer at [cabowyer@ptd.net](mailto:cabowyer@ptd.net) or 570 977-0872 for more information about the Hope for Strength Breast Cancer fund and how you can get involved.

The 2014 season at the **Shawnee Playhouse** offers more shows than ever and a new Children's Season Ticket, that lets the holder enjoy SEVEN children's shows through out the year at a HUGE savings! There is something for everyone during the 2014 season, including musicals, dramas, comedies, children's theatre and special events!!

In January, we begin with our Shawnee Original Playwright Series Winners. Playwrights submit their work to be read by our performers, and then the listeners vote on what they would like to see produced. The resulting winners are the best of the best, and the audience has a chance to see a play before it moves on to other theatres!

Opening first, on January 4<sup>th</sup> are the **Shawnee Original Playwright Series One Act Winners**. This series of four short plays will be shown together at each performance. They include *Duty* by Zachary Wobensmith, *Happily*, *After All* by Julie Luongo, *18* by Hank Willenbrink, and *Assistants, Please* by Sarah McCarroll. Shows will be 8pm January 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> and 2pm January 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup>

and 19<sup>th</sup>. Prices are \$18 for adults, \$15 for seniors. Ticketing fees are not included in the price.

Next up in January will be our full length original, ***Your Enemies Closer***, by Brian McDermott. This very funny play was thoroughly enjoyed by the voting audience! When Claudia and her boyfriend plan an opulent wedding for her favorite niece, they don't foresee the comedic chaos caused by a despised brother in law, who is the favorite uncle of the bride, a lonely sister, *very* upset family members and the boyfriend of the drunken uncle!! *Your Enemies Closer* will run at 8pm on January 25<sup>th</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup> and at 2pm on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> and February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Prices are \$18 for adults and \$15 for seniors. Ticketing fees are not included in the price.

Performers for the shows are part of the Worthington Players, and are Shawnee's performers for off-season shows. The Worthington Players were established in 1999 and to date have focused on non-musical productions.

Each year, Worthington Players will produce and perform the original work of an area playwright, chosen by our Executive Committee from among submissions received in an open contest. Plays are then seen during our Staged Readings and voted on by you, the audience members.

To reserve tickets please call the Shawnee Playhouse Box Office at 570-421-5093 or visit the website at [www.theshawneeplayhouse.com](http://www.theshawneeplayhouse.com)

Real estate investment marketing firm, Authentic Mountain Properties, plans to bring back the historic character of home building in the Poconos.



Sample floor plan from Authentic Mountain Properties

The company's focus is to seek investors for the land purchase, new construction, home furnishing, marketing, and property resale of brand new "historic cottage bungalows" in an effort to revitalize the authentic character of how homes looked in the Poconos back in the early 1900's..

"This is a wonderful opportunity to be part of re-creating and preserving the authentic character of homes in our area in a positive way, explains company President, Michael Dembinski.

Authentic Mountain Properties will offer home construction services through local custom home builder **Rinehimer Construction Inc.** Rinehimer Construction is currently a preferred builder in many of the area's historic communities, including Pocono Manor & Buck Hill Falls. Property sales will be offered through Spread Eagle Realty, where authentic homes starting at 1,800 square feet will be marketed by Authentic Mountain Properties at Keswick Pointe, the area's newest neighborhood, in Blakeslee, PA (by Hannig Development LLC). Keswick

Pointe offers homeowners a great environment in which to live while protecting the quality of their new home through the best planning practices.

Real estate investors who want to learn more about how they can assist Authentic Mountain Properties in revitalizing the historic character of homes in Pocono communities, can contact Michael Dembinski at [Michael.dembinski@yahoo.com](mailto:Michael.dembinski@yahoo.com) for more information.

The **Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission** marked the completion of a 6,800-square-foot maintenance garage expansion project at the agency's Delaware Water Gap/I-80 Toll Bridge linking Monroe County, PA and Warren County, N.J. The expanded garage enhances the agency's ability to respond to winter storms and other emergencies. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was attended by Commission representatives, local officials and Pocono Mountain region business leaders. The event took on the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bridge's opening, which occurred December 16, 1953.



From l to r: William Buzzard, Delaware Water Gap Borough council vice president; Bob Phillips, Greater Pocono Chamber of Commerce president/CEO; Kim Diddio, Borough of Stroudsburg council president; Kristine Dolan, chief of staff for PA Rep. Mario Scavella - Dist. 176; Brian Fenstermaker, constituent-outreach specialist for PA Rep. Rosemary Brown - Dist. 189; Edward J. Smith, New Jersey commissioner for the DRJTBC; Carl Wilgus, Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau president/CEO; Jack Muehlhan, Pennsylvania commissioner for the DRJTBC; Jim Becker, Safe 80 Task Force chairman; William J. Hodas, New Jersey Commissioner for the DRJTBC; Jack Shoemaker, Delaware Water Gap Borough councilmember; Joseph J. Resta, DRJTBC executive director; Walter Conway, Delaware Water Gap Borough mayor; Jeanne Clark District III Superintendent for the DRJTBC (photo courtesy of VIP Studios)

Electric Light & Power magazine has chosen **PPL Corporation** as its 2013 "Utility of the Year." EL&P chose PPL based on the performance of the company's operations in Pennsylvania, Kentucky, the United Kingdom and Montana. It's the second "Utility of the Year" award for PPL in the past five years, and third overall. I invite you to check out the article at EL&P.

<http://www.elp.com/articles/print/volume-91/issue-6/features/utility-of-the-year-2013-ppl-corp.html>

## Business Card Exchange

The December Business Card Exchange was hosted by Carol Kern and the Western Pocono Community Library. Everyone had a chance to tour the newly renovated lower level of the library. The fantastic food was supplied by Kinsley's ShopRite in Brodheadsville.



*Networking at Western Pocono Community Library*



*Food provided by Kinsley's ShopRite*

A special thanks to Carol Kern for her continued support of the Greater Pocono Chamber of Commerce. Not only did she host the card exchange at the Western Pocono Community Library, she graciously hosts the West End Committee meetings each month at the library.

The Western Pocono Community Library is located at 131 Pilgrim Way in Brodheadsville, PA, and you can contact them at 570-992-7934 or visit their website at [www.wpcl@ptd.net](http://www.wpcl@ptd.net).

## Ribbon Cuttings



**Big Daddy's Family BBQ**  
97 Route 611  
Bartonsville, PA 18321  
570-517.7979



**Hillside, A Pyramid Healthcare, Inc. Facility**  
420 Supreme Court  
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301  
570-856.4749



**Waterlilly Spa**  
3533 Route 611, Unit 10  
Bartonsville, PA 18321  
570-476.1100

# IMPACT



## Executive Committee

*Chris Kurtz* - Chairman of the Board  
*Kathy Kuck* - First Vice Chairman  
*Michael Katz* - Treasurer  
*John Holahan* - Secretary  
*George Roberts* - Assistant Secretary  
*Elizabeth Koster* - Past Chairman

## Staff

*Robert Phillips* - President/CEO  
*Patricia Metzgar* - Vice President, Operations/Development  
*Miriam Conway* - Executive Assistant  
*Georgia Strunk* - Office Assistant

## Board of Directors

Madeline Anderson  
Michael Baxter  
Brandie Belanger  
Rich Berkowitz  
Vinny Bianchi  
William Blake  
Denise Cebular  
Bill Colavito  
Debi Cope  
Susan Corrigan  
Jere Dunkelberger  
Daisy Gallagher  
Alex Grum

Bob Hay  
Gary Hazen  
Scott Henry  
Rob Howell  
Brandon Igdalsky  
Tony Konn  
James McClure  
Kathy Mullins  
Chuck Nielaus  
Doug Olmstead  
Matthew Rumph  
Dr. Thomas Rushton  
Barbara G. Samet

Conrad Schintz  
Tom Sforza  
Mathilda Sheptak  
William Skinner  
Marc Troutman  
Dr. Marcia G. Welsh  
Carl Wilgus  
Theresa Yocum

# IMPACT

Visit us at [www.greaterpoconochamber.com](http://www.greaterpoconochamber.com)

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