

Pocono Mountains Chamber of Commerce
Stroudsburg, PA

IMPACT

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Joseph McDonald - First Vice Chairman
Jamie Keener - Second Vice Chairman
Daisy Gallagher - Treasurer
Larry Crimi - Secretary
Charles Niclaus - Assistant Secretary
Bob Hay - Past Chairman

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Robert Phillips - President/CEO
Patricia Metzgar - Vice President, Operations/Development
Torey Chester - Membership Director
Parviz Alasty - Vice President, Business Development/Government Affairs
Miriam Conway - Executive Assistant

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John Casella	Richard Henley	Barbara Samet
Denise Cebular	Scott Henry	Isaac Sanders
Holly Corcoran	Tim Kelly	Conrad Schintz
Dr. Matthew Connell	Elizabeth Koster	Paul Schuchman
Larry Crimi	Chris Kurtz	Linda Seliger
Bruce Denlinger	Allan Muto	Jack Wallie
Gene Dickison	Jane Niering	Bill Wells
Dr. Robert Dillman	Ann Pilcher	W. Andrew Worthington
Frank Epifano	William Prall	
Dr. Kim Filipkowski	Lynn Price	

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IMPACT

(USPS 380-890)
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Stroudsburg, PA 18360-2093

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IMPACT

Monthly

August 2007 VOL. 36, NO.8

BUDGET ADOPTED; TAX INCREASES ON BUSINESS STOPPED

Pennsylvania's 2007-08 fiscal year's General Fund budget holds the line on business tax increases proposed by the Rendell administration - some seven new and/or expanded taxes on business to the tune of \$1.2 billion.

With the help of members and pro-business legislators, the PA Chamber was able to stop these ill-conceived new taxes:

- a new electricity tax at an estimated budget cost of \$75 million;
- a 1 percent increase in the sales tax at \$1.42 billion;
- a health-care payroll tax at \$120.8 million;
- a loosely-defined oil company gross profits tax at \$760 million; and
- a new increase to landfill tipping fees estimated at \$41.6 million

Two additional taxes that were proposed but not enacted included a 10 cent per pack increase to the cigarette tax at an estimated cost of \$61 million and a smokeless tobacco/cigar tax at \$30 million.

The budget includes a one-mill reduction in the Capital Stock and Franchise tax, continuing the scheduled phase-out without interruption, while the efforts of anti-business lawmakers to implement mandatory unitary combined reporting were defeated.

The budget also includes \$75 million for a film industry tax credit. With money available in this year's budget thanks to a \$650 million revenue

surplus, the PA Chamber and other business groups had instead hoped for a legislative fix for a Revenue Department policy change that now subjects downloadable computer software to the state sales tax. The policy change was a result of a court ruling in the Graham Packaging case; business took a \$55 million hit in last year's budget as a result. The PA Chamber has been working on a legislative solution, but has been repeatedly told there was no money in the budget to address the issue.

A solution to Graham Packaging or other business tax reforms single sales factor, elimination of the cap on net operating losses and a reduced Corporate Net Income tax would have been a wiser use of state dollars and would have a much broader benefit than the film industry tax credit.

The budget provides funding from slots revenues for a new Pittsburgh Penguins arena and the Philadelphia Convention Center.

Varying figures have been cited in reference to the new budget's increase in spending over the prior fiscal year, with 3.3 percent (which doesn't include the pending transportation funding bill) at the low range; and 4.5 percent if the transportation funding bill is included. Others have put the spending increase at more than 5 percent. The increase is more than some lawmakers had wanted, but nonetheless represent a smaller increase in the growth of government spending than previous state budgets.

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Pocono Mountains Business Magazine TV Show "Your Local Business and Economic News Report"

Airtimes: Mondays at 4:30 p.m., Thursdays at 8:00 p.m.,
and

Sundays at 12:00 noon on Blue Ridge Cable TV 13.
Airtimes are subject to programming changes.

For up-to-date airtime changes, program information,
or to download a copy of the show, go to

www.GeorgeTV.com



Postmaster: Send address changes to Impact, 556 Main Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360

NEW MEMBER BREAKFAST



3D Image Studio, LLC, located on Main Street in Stroudsburg, specializes in three-dimensional visualizations and simulations. Some of the ways that they can be used are for architectural visualizations, virtual prototyping, product presentations, advertising, and games. Give them a call today at (570) 431-0156.

A+ Tutoring, located in the Eagle Valley Mall in East Stroudsburg, provides tutoring services in the comfort and convenience of your home with no long-term contracts. They tutor all academic subjects and their students range from Pre-K through 12th grade and include ESL students, students with learning challenges, and home-schooled students. They also provide assistance in the planning and implementation of Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), Gifted Individualized Education Programs (GIEPs), and 504 Plans. Give them a call today at (888) 897-TUTOR.

DeCusatis Environmental Design, Inc. is an environmental consulting company specializing in the on-lot septic disposal permitting process. This process includes the site evaluation and soil probes, percolation tests, and septic system design. They also perform PS.M.A. septic system inspections on existing septic systems. All of the work is done by a state-certified Sewage Enforcement Officer and a certified inspector.

Montana Mercantile, LLC, located on Route 611 in Tannersville, is a specialty retail boutique offering lodge & western style home décor, fine art, handmade jewelry, and hand-forged iron accents. They also have a large selection of wildlife art and sculpture, handcrafted accent furniture, and unique pieces to add distinctive beauty to your home. Stop by and see them today or call them at (570) 629-4950.

Robbins Construction Company, Inc. is a small excavating business located in East Stroudsburg. They do backhoe and bulldozer grazing. They will also haul gravel. Call them today for your excavating needs at (570) 629-2970.

August 2007
Calendar of Events

- August 1.....**New Member Breakfast
7:30 a.m. - Burnley Employment & Rehabilitation Services -
Snydersville
- August 3.....**Government Affairs Committee
8:00 a.m. - Best Western Pocono Inn - Stroudsburg
- August 8.....**Economic Development/Transportation Committee
8:00 a.m. - PMCC
- August 9.....**Membership Committee
8:00 a.m. - PMCC
- August 10...**Leadership Pocono
8:00 a.m. - PMCC
- August 13...**Quality of Life Committee
8:30 a.m. - PMCC
- August 13...**Education Committee
12:00 noon - JR's Grill & Salad Bar
- August 13...**Business Card Exchange
5:00 p.m. - Chateau Resort & Conference Center -
Tannersville
- August 14...**Women in Business Luncheon
12:00 noon - Grace Park Seniors Living Well - Stroudsburg
- August 15...**HR Committee
8:30 a.m. - PMCC
- August 17...**Monthly Breakfast
7:30 a.m. - Best Western Pocono Inn - Stroudsburg
- August 21...**Business Development Committee
8:00 a.m. - PMCC
- August 24...**Environmental Committee
8:00 a.m. - PMCC
- August 27...**Finance Committee
7:30 a.m. - PMCC
- August 27...**West End Committee
8:00 a.m. - Western Pocono Community Library
- August 27...**Executive Committee
8:30 a.m. - PMCC
- August 28...**Board of Directors
8:30 a.m. - Best Western Pocono Inn - Stroudsburg
- August 28...**Women in Business Steering Committee
10:00 a.m. - PMCC
- TBA.....**Expo Committee

Welcome New Members

The following new members are not listed in the 2007 Membership Directory & Buyer’s Guide. Please be sure to add this page to your copy of the Directory.

3D Image Studio, LLC
P.J. Moskal
586 Main Street, #7A
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
(570) 431-0156
(570) 431-0175
pjmoskal@3DimageStudio.com
www.3DimageStudio.com
ANIMATIONS

A+ Tutoring, LLC
Maria Ann Geffers
208 Eagle Valley Mall, #200
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301
888-897-TUTOR
(570) 676-0444
director@Aplustutoring.com
www.Aplustutoring.com
CONSULTANTS - EDUCATION

Always On Time Property Services
Michelle Smith
263 Country Club Estates
Thornhurst, PA 18424
(570) 472-3773
(570) 472-9410
alwaysontimeserv@aol.com
CLEANING SERVICES

Chestnut Hill Nursery
HCR 2 Route 209
Brodheadsville, PA 18322
(570) 992-5131
(570) 992-4181
www.chnnursery.com
GARDEN CENTERS - LANDSCAPING

Cinch Creative Media
Perry Hebard
560 Main Street, Suite A
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
(570) 421-7859
info@ineedcinch.com
www.ineedcinch.com
WEB SITE-MEDIA SERVICES

DeCusatis Environmental Design
John DeCusatis
PO Box 927
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
(570) 629-6581
(570) 422-1011
johndecusatis@yahoo.com
CONSULTANTS - ENVIRONMENTAL

Hollywood Tans
Benay Magluilo
900 Business Drive, #4, Suite #102
East Stroudsburg, PA 18302
(270) 223-5075
jmagluilojr@yahoo.com
TANNING SALON

Montana Mercantile, LLC
Susan Parker
RR1 Box 2800
Tannersville, PA 18372
(570) 629-4950
(570) 629-5760
montanamercantile@earthlink.net
www.mtmercantile.com
RETAIL

Mountain Manor Golf Club
Bill Lee
PO Box 95
Marshalls Creek, PA 18335
(570) 223-1290
(570) 223-7876
blee@ltsbuilders.com
www.mountainmanor.com
GOLF COURSES - COUNTRY CLUBS

Premier Administrative Resources
Louise K. Bach
PO Box 277
Bushkill, PA 18324
(570) 588-4113
(570) 588-6536
ruonpar@verizon.net
www.premieradministrativeresources.com
SECRETARIAL SERVICES

R & L Painting and Home Improvements
Richard Lally
301 Devonshire Road
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
(570) 619-1018
rlpaint1@ptd.net
www.randlpaintingpa.com
CONTRACTORS - PAINTING &
WALLPAPERING

Robbins Construction
Don Robbins
31 Abeel Road
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301
(570) 629-2970
EXCAVATING

SRT Contracting
Peter Lapin
PO Box 671
Marshalls Creek, PA 18335
(570) 223-6077
(570) 223-6077
pdlapin@ptd.net
CONTRACTORS

T.R. Technology Solutions
Robert Sedwin
19 Image Drive
Scotrun, PA 18355
(570) 730-4600
Rob.sedwin@trtechsolutions.com
www.trtechsolutions.com
COMPUTERS

Monthly Breakfast



*left to right- front row- Kyle Lewis, Mike Rapino, Dennis Jin and back row
Dennis Jeter, Robert Phillips, IOM*

The Monthly Breakfast was held on June 15, 2007 at the Best Western Pocono Inn in Stroudsburg. A Sound Strategy, Inc. sponsored this month's event. Mr. Dennis Jeter talked to the members about Pocono B2B, a Business Resource Directory. Pocono B2B provides an online directory service to local businesses and advertising opportunities on PoconoB2B.com. Also, for businesses that have a need for Web design services, they have a few different packages to choose from. For more information contact A Sound Strategy at (570) 422-7741.

The Special Program was the Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC). Mr. Jim Rienhardt, Executive Director of PEEC, talked to the members about the improvements on their grounds. All of the improvements allow for more space and better facilities for the many group activities and rentals that PEEC handles. About a year ago they opened their new Visitor Activity Center. They also have new group lodges, family duplex cabins, a new pavilion and a new gazebo. The biggest news though, as of this spring, is the opening of their Yurts. Yurts are circular, canvas-covered structures that will sleep twelve. Recently, they have become popular in parks all over the country.



left to right- Robert Phillips, IOM, Maria Schramm, James Rienhardt

Monday Morning Report Is Back!

If you are interested in receiving the Chamber's Monday Morning Report please email Peter Alasty at palasty@poconochamber.net so your email address can be added to the distribution list.

If you are not familiar with the Monday Morning Report, upcoming Chamber events and meetings for the week are posted.

RINEHART RENTALS

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570-517-5700
800-695-1371

PLEASANT VALLEY MOTORS
ROUTE 209 & 115
BRODHEADSVILLE, PA 18322
570-992-4827
800-891-2317

Ribbon Cuttings



Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm

Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm recently held a ribbon cutting for their new education building. This building will allow them to admit larger groups and it also gives them some much-needed storage space. If you have never been to Quiet Valley or want to go again, give them a call today at (570) 992-6161

Women in Business Luncheon



From left to right, Dr. Kimberly Filipkowski- Uli Klein, Catherine Schrat

The July Women in Business Luncheon, which was held at Pangea Restaurant in Scotrun, was sponsored by Dr. Kim Filipkowski of Chiropractic Health Partners of the Poconos. Uli Klein of The Gift & Incentive Program delivered an informative presentation entitled "How to Motivate through Incentives."

The August luncheon will be held at Grace Park Seniors Living Well in Stroudsburg, and will feature Ginny Sosnowski of Nurse Family Partnership doing a presentation on "Helping New Parents Succeed."

For more information on upcoming WIB luncheons, to donate a door prize, or to sponsor a luncheon, please contact Miriam Conway at (570) 421-4433.

Business Card Exchange



This month's Chamber Business Card Exchange was held at the Water Gap Country Club on July 16th. Everyone enjoyed butlered hors d'oeuvres, a roast beef carving station, and a delightful pasta bar. It was a wonderful evening to be outside networking and appreciating the beauty of their historical golf course. If you are looking for a place to have your next event, contact the Water Gap Country Club at (570) 476-0300.

Membership Anniversaries

15 Years

Gray Chevrolet Cadillac of the Poconos
Pleasant Valley Motors

5 Years

cds creative, Inc.
Eastern PA Business Journal
Hotel Jonas, Inc.

Congratulations!

From the President



Transportation Funding Plan Signed into Law

This week, Governor Ed Rendell signed into law a transportation/mass transit funding bill that is expected to provide nearly \$946 million a year over the next decade to fund road and bridge repairs, and the state's mass transit systems.

- The Proposal:
- Implements the tolling of I-80, which will be managed by the Turnpike Commission. The toll will be approximately 8 cents per mile, with about 10 toll booths placed across the state. Construction to provide for tolling capacity is expected to be completed within 18-36 months.
 - Authorizes the Turnpike Commission to issue a \$5 billion bond, to be paid for by future tolling increases.
 - Allows for performance criteria, such as rider capacity, in determining funding for mass transit agencies.
 - Adopts a code of conduct for the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission that is similar to that which exists for the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board.
 - Moves up the date for increasing fares on the Pennsylvania Turnpike to 2009. Fares were originally slated to be increased by 25 percent in 2010. Fares will continue to increase at a rate of 3 percent annually after 2009.
 - Allows for a greater local share for mass transit systems, increasing it from 13 percent to 15 percent. With the exception of Allegheny County, local government units must use existing revenue streams to increase their share of revenue. Allegheny County, at the request of county officials, will be permitted to impose a \$2 fee on rental cars, as well as a 10 percent tax on alcoholic beverages (assessed by the glass).
 - Provides for an impact study to determine the amount of traffic diverted onto local roadways as a result of the implementation of tolls on I-80.
 - Requires the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission to regularly report to the chairs and minority chairs of the transportation committees in the House and Senate regarding the I-80 tolling project.

The Senate passed the funding bill by a vote of 30-19; it passed the House by a 124-79 margin.

Robert Phillips, IOM

Members in the News

Achieve Business Solutions and The Alternative Board (TAB) is holding CEO Leadership and Management Skills' Workshops. Sessions will be held September 5, 6, 10, and 11 in East Stroudsburg, PA, Hackettstown, NJ, and Sparta, NJ. They will be holding both breakfast and lunch workshops that will run for approximately 1-1/2 hours. Seating is limited and advance registration is required. If you are interested in attending or learning more, fax your name, business name, date/session preference, and phone number to (973) 833.0200, or email info@tab-nwjerseypoconos.com. The \$19.95 lunch and materials fee is waived for TAB Members and first time workshop attendees. If you spend more time working in your business than on your business, you need TAB!

The Alternative Board® (TAB), together with Achieve Business Solutions, held a Technical Summit for business leaders in the Northern New Jersey & Poconos business community. "Strategically Using Technology to Improve Your Bottom Line" seminar took place on July 11, 2007. More than 30 business leaders attended this members-only event where experts covered such topics as "Growing Your Business with The Internet and eTools," "Reducing Telecom Costs," "Disaster Planning," and "Improving Organizational Productivity." TAB organizes peer advisory board meetings of owners, CEOs, and presidents of privately-owned companies, creating a "think tank" atmosphere. TAB Boards® meet monthly in the Sussex County and Pocono areas. One-on-one business coaching is also provided to each board member. The Alternative Board hosts various educational leadership seminars throughout the year. To learn more, visit www.tab-nwjerseypoconos.com or email info@tab-nwjerseypoconos.com.

The American Red Cross of Monroe County has elected new officers for the 2007-2008 fiscal year. Connie Roberts has been named as Chairperson of the local chapter for a two-year term. Connie is a Stroudsburg resident and executive producer/host of several TV programs with GeorgeTV.com. Lee McCloud has been elected Vice-Chairperson, John Burrus is Secretary, and David Richmond is Treasurer. The American Red Cross of Monroe County provides food, shelter, and clothing for victims of fires and other disasters. It offers several health and safety courses, as well as collecting blood and blood products to save precious lives.

East Stroudsburg University's new College of Education has its first Dean. Dr. Patricia A. Miller has been appointed by ESU President Dr. Robert J. Dillman to head the College, which was formerly known as the School of Professional Studies. The new College of Education allows the university to feature its teacher education programs with greater appeal to prospective students, faculty and administrators, and to strategically improve the preparation of teachers. It houses the following departments: Early Childhood and Elementary Education; Media Communication and Technology; Professional and Secondary Education; Reading; Special Education and Rehabilitation; and Academic Enrichment and Learning. The college had about 2,000 students enrolled this past spring semester. The offices of Academic Enrichment and Learning, and Upward Bound and the Office of Field Experiences and Partnerships are also part of the new college.

Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc. (HRG) is proud to announce its 45th anniversary. Since 1962, the firm has grown from a storefront office in Harrisburg with three employees and two clients to employ close to 300 men and women in nine offices throughout the state. HRG offers a full range of engineering services in the areas of water resources, environmental studies and design, land development, water and wastewater systems, electrical systems design, surveying, Geographic Information Systems, transportation engineering, and financial consulting. Over the past four decades HRG has been recognized numerous times as one of the top 500 design firms in the United States by Engineering News Record, Top 50 Fastest Growing Firms in Central Pennsylvania by the Central Penn Business Journal, and Pittsburgh's 100 Fastest Growing Companies by the Pittsburgh Business Times. The firm has also been named ASCE Employer of the Year for the Central Pennsylvania Section and one of the Best Places to Work in PA.

Mountain Cleaning Service (MCS) celebrates five years in business. MCS reflected the hopes of many Pocono Mountain region businesses, as a small start-up, single-person shop - just one man who wanted to be in this part of the country, providing quality service to good people. MCS has grown over the years from one person to dozens, from residential cleaning to commercial cleaning, to specializing in carpets and upholstery. Owner David Henon is proud to be a part of the community and offers special discounts to Chamber Members. Call (570) 588-5828 for a free estimate or visit www.mtclean.com.

Mountain Cleaning Service (MCS) gives back to the community. During the month of August 2007 MCS will donate 15% of all income to Monroe Animal League. An independent, all volunteer 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation serving Monroe County since 1943, Monroe Animal League promotes animal welfare and humane education and provides much-needed funds for emergency treatment by veterinarians. Wherever possible they provide pet food to the needy and loan cages and humane traps. As part of their support and promotion of Monroe Animal League, MCS is distributing free Emergency/Fire decals, provided by the League, to all of its clients. The decals are to be placed on entry windows and doors of homes to alert emergency professional of the number and type of pets in the home. For more information, contact (570) 588.5828, mtclean@ptd.net, or visit www.mtclean.com. Monroe Animal League can be reached at: (570) 476.8444, or online: www.Monroe-animals.org.



Niclaus Engineering Corporation (NEC) celebrated its 10th Anniversary on Thursday, June 28, 2007. A friendly gathering and a ribbon cutting ceremony took place between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. at their office located at 804 Sarah Street, Suite 201 in Stroudsburg. NEC is a full-service Civil and Environmental Consulting firm with expertise in surveying, site plans, subdivisions, commercial, and industrial development. With a staff of diversely certified employees, NEC's primary focus is providing personalized service to their clients.

Riverside Rehabilitation Centers

welcome Kendall Santarelli, MS OT, to their staff as a full-time Occupational Therapist, beginning July 16, 2007. Santarelli evaluates and treats patients with injuries to their upper extremities, resulting from repetitive strain disorders, traumatic injury to the hand, wrist or forearm, arthritis, CVA, head trauma, developmental delays in motor skills, work injuries, or spinal cord injuries. Occupational Therapy patients, referred by their physicians, can set an appointment with Ms. Santarelli by calling Riverside at (570) 839-9975. For additional information on Occupational Therapy, contact Riverside Rehabilitation at (800) 514-3878 or online: www.riversiderehab.com. Riverside Rehabilitation Centers provide comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation services including physical, occupational, and speech therapies. There are convenient locations in Brodheadsville, East Stroudsburg, Mt. Pocono, and Moscow with extended evening hours. Most insurance plans are accepted.



Kendall Santarelli

PMCC 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.