CONNECTING COMMUNITY & COMMERCE SINCE 1913

The Chamber Creates First Area Inclusion Council

The Chamber is taking action to make a difference through the formation of its first Inclusion Council. The Council is comprised of members of the business community with diverse backgrounds including race, ethnicity, gender and ability. The first meeting was held recently to discuss strategies to promote an inclusive chamber where all businesses feel valued and supported. Its tagline, "Diversity Doesn't Divide Us It Brings Us Together," underscores its mission. "We understand the work is ongoing and it is a process, but our goal is to have a chamber that reflects our society," said Vernessa Hopkins of H3 Business Services and co-chair of the Inclusion Council.



The Council will be working closely with Donna Richemond, Chief of Diversity,

Equity, and Inclusion of Montgomery County Commissioners Office, to explore outreach opportunities to connect with and understand the needs of our diverse business communities.

The work has already started with the Chamber's involvement with the International Spring Festival (ISF) and the Chamber's Annual Cultural Celebration. Dr. Francis Jeyaraj, one of ISF founders and a member of the Inclusion Council, has been invaluable with his contribution to our community and the Council. The ISF brings awareness to various cultures in our community. In its 33rd year, the festival will be held on April 15 from 11 am -5 pm at the North Penn High School. The Chamber has supported the festival in previous years but with a concerted effort this year, the Inclusion Council will use the event to educate the attendees on the value of the chamber.

The Council in partnership with ISF is working on a Unity Poster of Congratulations to our new Governor. A 20 foot poster will be created and displayed at the festival for all attendees to sign a congratulations message in their native language, showcasing the diversity of languages in our community. After the festival, the poster will be presented to

Governor Josh Shapiro in Harrisburg.



For its second

on February 23, which was a networking event as well as a celebration of its multicultural members highlighted by a food tasting of ethic food. Chamber members showcased their culinary skills by preparing dishes representing their heritage. Countries that were represented included Greece, Haiti, India, Ireland, Native American, Pakistan and Ukraine. George Whitehair, Executive Director, Boston Legacy Foundation & Publicity Chair, International Spring Festival and Shane Wheeler, CEO, Volunteer Medical Corp spoke about "Celebrating Our Cultural Difference While Focusing on the Importance of Being Able to Work Together."



IN THIS ISSUE

Featured Events..3, 10

Events Happenings...4, 5, 9

New Members...6

Renewals......7

Member Milestones..8

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PROSPECTOR

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New board chair takes office

David Onorato, Esq, principal in Hladik, Onorato & Federman, LLP is the new Board Chair for 2023. While serving on the board since 2019, Dave has been a member of the Golf Committee, chair of the Government Affairs Committee and has provided legal support for The Cham-

ber. Read more about David Onorato



Board of Directors elects new members







Vernessa Hopkins, H3 Business Services, Carolyn McCreary, Montgomery Township, and Gummi Sigurdarson, RedKnight have been elected to serve a three year term as members of The Chamber's Board of Directors. The new directors fill vacancies left by Duncan Reed, Edward Jones Investments, John Ernst, Lansdale Borough and Sheri Strouse, Harleysville Bank whose terms were completed in December, 2022.

New directors are recommended each year by the Nomination Committee. Consideration is given to business size, location, industry served and diversity. For more information regarding opportunities to serve on the Board of Directors, please contact Pam Kelly, pam@chambergmc.org.

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Over 60 employers have already registered to participate in the annual Job Fair hosted by the Chamber with support from Montgomery County Workforce Board and CareerLink. With the unemployment rate under 4% in Montgomery County, event information was shared with surrounding county organizations to provide information to job seekers as Plymouth Meeting Mall is an easily accessible location through state and local highways and public transportation. Special thanks to the Valley Forge Tourism & Convention Board for sharing their digital billboard along the PA Turnpike and to Around Ambler and More than the Curve for the extensive advertising.

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- Access to recordings of chamber webinars
- Open job positions shared on chamber social media
- One Facebook Live promotion session
- Enhanced website positioning and increased webpage content
- Two free event tickets (value of \$40
- Preferred seating at events (for all company representatives in attendance)
- · Concierge service for registration and program updates

Contact The Chamber to register your business as a Visionary Member!

The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Montgomery County | 215-362-9200 | www.chambergmc.org











Local & On Tap is a monthly networking event held at chamber member establishments for professional networking and support of a local nonprofit. Events are organized by chamber members Geoff Slick, The Mark MaGuire Team, Keller Williams; Dina Corrado, ServPro— The Lutz Team; Tom McKee, Edward Jones Investments and Brian Nestor, Nestor Insurance.

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Women Supporting Women

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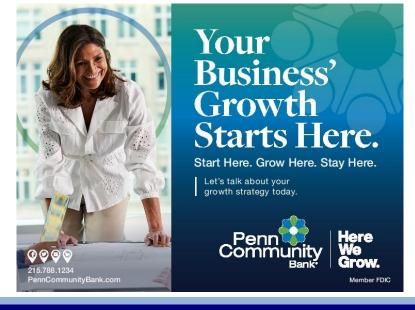
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