

UP NEXT: Details at www.worthingtonchamber.org

MARCH 10 — BREAKFAST FORUM WITH PCC AND BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

MARCH 17 — BUSINESS AFTER HOURS; CREATIVE CUISINE

MARCH 25 — KICKOFF EVENT FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS OF WORTHINGTON; WINKING LIZARD TAVERN

MARCH 26 — WOMEN'S BUSINESS NETWORK LUNCHEON; CAFFÉ DANIELA

APRIL 8 — GET SMART! BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP; THE WINERY

SAVE THE DATE ... for these annual favorites

APRIL 21 — STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCH

MAY 16 — REDS, WHITES & DESSERTS

MAY 21 — SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARDS LUNCHEON

JUNE 25 — BUSINESS EXPO

JULY 10 — A TASTE OF WORTHINGTON

SEPT. 19 — OLD WORTHINGTON MARKET DAY

SEPT. 28 — GOLF OUTING

Reds, Whites & Desserts plans uncorked

12TH ANNUAL EVENT OFFERS WINE TASTING, HORS D'OEUVRES, DESSERTS, AUCTION PACKAGES — AND NUMEROUS OPPORTUNITIES TO PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS

The Chamber will uncork its 12th annual Reds, Whites & Desserts fundraising event on Saturday, May 16, from 7 to 10 p.m., returning for the fifth year to The Conference Center at NorthPointe, host and presenting event sponsor.

The popular event offers wine tasting, hors d'oeuvres, desserts for sampling and auction, a coffee bar, and dozens of silent auction packages featuring travel, food, wine, fashion, sports, family fun and other themes.

This year, as in the past 11, decorations, event and auction themes and other event details are planned by a committee of enthusiastic volunteers, co-chaired by Steve Sommer, Caldwell Leasing, and Chamber trustee Erin Ellis,

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Young Professionals group debuts at March 25 mixer

Emerging business leaders who live and work in the Worthington area soon will have new resources for networking, educational and social opportunities, as a steering committee of "YP" Chamber members launches the Young Professionals of Worthington (YPoW) later this month.



Young professionals between the ages of 21 and 39 are invited to a kickoff event organized by the group on March 25, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at Winking Lizard Tavern, 100 Hutchinson Ave. A cash bar will be offered, and hors d'oeuvres sponsored by Winking Lizard will be served. (Register to attend at www.worthingtonchamber.org through the Calendar of Events.) Along with other Chamber YPs, the group expects to plan networking, philanthropic, educational and social events. ★



Among the members of the YPoW steering committee are, clockwise from left, Kathy Yannucci, Katica; Ann Baldwin, Mary Kay Cosmetics; Andy Miller, AAA Ohio Auto Club; Anish Mistry, UnitedWare LLC; Brian Dwyer, Computer Site Columbus; Kira Krombach, Intercall; and Greg Giessler, Cam Taylor Co. Ltd., Realtors.



CHAMBER CONNECTIONS is published for Chamber members like Eric Gnezda of Gnezda Communications LLC, who entertained a crowd of 145 at the Chamber's 2009 annual meeting with a musical parody, *50 Ways to Love Your Chamber*. More annual meeting news can be found on page 8.

Annual meeting photos by Shellee Fisher-Davis, The Art of Exposure



Please welcome these member businesses who joined the Chamber this month.

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Owner
Lisa Stevens, Office
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Worthington, OH 43085
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Phone: (614) 804-2455
www.buckeyecommunitycalendars.com
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Wayne Miller, Owner
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Worthington, OH 43085
Phone: (614) 226-7213
www.chronosconsulting.biz
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Referred by: Leslie Meyer-Miller, Passage Insights, LLC



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William L. VanSickle, Director of Education
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Referred by: Cyndi McAlpine, ActionCOACH Business Coaching

Jack Maxton Chevrolet

Bill Bowen, General Sales Manager
Kristina Woodson, HR Director
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Barbara L. McClatchie, D.D.S.

Dr. Barbara McClatchie, Owner
Nichole Miller, Office Manager
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Myriam H. Solomon, Lead Designer
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Myriam Solomon at the 2009 annual meeting

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Thank You, Renewing Members

The Chamber thanks and recognizes the following businesses or individuals who have renewed their annual membership as of Feb. 20. Each month, members who renew are acknowledged in the newsletter, along with a key contact person for the renewing business.

★ denotes a Sustaining Member of the Chamber. For information on how your business can become a Sustaining Member, contact the Chamber office at 888-3040.

All Ohio Insurance Agency/Pell Financial Services, Stephen Pell

AlphaGraphics, Chad Headlee

Animal Hospital of Worthington, Julie Bradford

Anne Jones, Inc., James Malin

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Kevin Hinkle

Anthony Lordo, D.D.S., LLC, Tony Lordo

Automotive Services, Inc., Doug Garriss

Boord & Associates, Larry Boord

Business Partner of Polaris, Bob Roof

Cam Taylor Co., Ltd., Realtors, Gary Parsons

Capitol Copy, Pete Russell

Chadwell Insurance Agency, David Chadwell

Charter Mortgage Company, Anish Doshi

Clark, Schaefer, Hackett & Co., Dan Lacey

Days Inn & Suites Worthington, Donna Selby

Denig Jewelers, Rick Denig

Elsa Collins Shaw, an affiliate of Bodine Perry, LLC, Jeffrey A. Shaw

Etiquette & Protocol Image

Consultants, LLC, Denise F. Pietzsch

Executive Office Place, Frank Fabish

Flexicom Wireless, Chris Jourdan

France and Associates, Inc., Larry France

Healthy Worthington Coalition, Inc., Dean Pulliam

The Hills Market, Preston Beacom

★ **Huntington National Bank**, Debra Harper

Jacob, Haxton & Boord, Steve Haxton

Liebert Corporation, James Curry, Jr.

Linworth Road Community Church, Bob Valtman

Magnum Press, David Umbreit

McConnell Hearth Health Center, Norris Woods

Joseph Mezera, Joseph Mezera

MidState Educators Credit Union, Patrick Scanlin

Mowery & Youell Law Offices, Spencer M. Youell

MRT Partners, Michael Zelnik

National City Bank - Worthington Office, Brian Elder

Natural Grove Landscape & Patio, Sean Stauffer

North American Paper Company, Barb Burkhardt

North Community Counseling Centers, David Kittredge

Ohio Physicians Health Program, Betsy Arvidson

RE/MAX North Realtors, Rory Averill

Rea & Associates, Inc., Bruce Bernard

Rutherford-Corbin Funeral Home, Don Jones

Sandler Sales Institute/Professional Coach, Nancy Keny

Sunrise of Worthington and Sunrise Place, Maureen Sorenson

Time Warner Cable Business Class, Mechele Herres

True Design, Inc., Jay Trueman

W.T. Leary Inc., Bill Leary

The Wellness Forum, Pam Popper

Willow Brook Christian Home, David Chappell

Wingate Inn at Polaris, Durand Sweatt

Worthington Dental Group, Richard Cunningham

Worthington Hills Country Club, Tara Billiter

Worthington Libraries, Meribah Mansfield

Worthington News/Suburban News Publications, Jim Toms

Worthington Presbyterian Church, Susan Marvin

Worthington Schools, Melissa Conrath

Worthington Square/Colliers, T.J. Jester

Nominate a Chamber member for the Small Business Person of the Year Award

A Chamber tradition of recognizing excellence among our own small business leaders continues this year. Nominations will be accepted through March 31 for the Chamber's Small Business Person of the Year Award, which will be bestowed at a special Chamber luncheon program on Thursday, May 21, at The Worthington Inn. Since 1987 the Chamber has awarded the honor annually to demonstrate support for small businesses and recognize successful members who are growing and bettering the Worthington community.



A nomination form is enclosed in this newsletter packet. Nominations also can be submitted by e-mail to Kathryn@worthingtonchamber.org. Consider nominating the owner of the company where you are employed; a member with whom you do business as a customer or vendor; or a member with whom you've worked on a committee.

Nominees must be Chamber members; be independently owned or have an equity position (or locally owned franchise) in the company; have operated their business for at least three years; currently located in the Worthington Chamber

service area; and have 50 or fewer employees.

Members who are nominated will be asked to complete a questionnaire by April 10 that includes examples of their successful solutions to business problems; their reputation for personal integrity and fair business practices; financial strength and profitability; creativity, innovation/improvement or quality customer service; and community involvement. Follow-up interviews may be conducted.

The program is judged by the Small Business of the Year Award honorees from 1987-2008 (listed on our Web site). ★

Thanks to February Business After Hours Hosts

More than 180 Chamber members and guests brought hearty appetites for food and networking to the Feb. 12 Business After Hours at Buca di Beppo, co-hosted by AAA Ohio Auto Club. Guests enjoyed Buca's meatballs, pizza, sangria and other treats and vied for tempting door prizes including luggage and a AAA membership.

Hosts of the Feb. 12 Business After Hours were, clockwise from left, John Newstrom and Sara Wilson from Buca di Beppo, and Amber Setser and Andy Miller from AAA Ohio Auto Club.



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MedVet expands to offer new MedVet Cancer Center for Pets

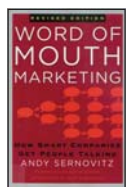
MedVet Medical Center for Pets, one of the nation's leading specialty medical centers for pets, unveiled its new MedVet Cancer Center for Pets on March 1 at an open house reception. Worthington Mayor Harvey Minton, council member Bonnie Michael, and Congresswoman Mary Jo Kilroy were among local leaders offering congratulations at the ceremony. The Cancer Center, which offers expanded surgical, medical and radiation oncology services, is located on the MedVet campus at 300 E. Wilson Bridge Road in Worthington, and focuses on providing "comfortable, compassionate and comprehensive care." The new facility is one of only a few private centers in the nation specializing in cancer treatment for pets. A regional leader in dog and cat health care. MedVet offers 24-hour veterinary emergency services and specialists in anesthesiology, cardiology, critical care, dermatology, internal medicine, medical oncology, neurology, ophthalmology, radiation oncology, radiology, rehabilitation and surgery.



"Bookworking" opens a new chapter in networking

Worthington Libraries will unveil its new "Bookworking" program on March 11 at 7 p.m. at the Old Worthington Library. Unlike traditional book discussion groups (where everyone reads the same book), this program is designed to let readers share a personal favorite. The first session features business and professional development books. Librarian Jeff Regensburger invites those who have read a great business, leadership or professional development book to tell others about it: what you liked, how it helped, and why others might enjoy it. For more details, contact him at 807-2651.

Read 'em and reap ... Book Discussion Group to meet April 8



An established event for business people who benefit from reading and networking while discussing current business books continues on April 8, as a Chamber's partnership with Worthington Libraries, the Get Smart! Book Discussion Group, meets to discuss "Word of Mouth: How Smart Companies Get People Talking," by Andy Sernovitz. The discussion will begin at 5:30 p.m. at The Winery, 8231 N. High St. To reserve a copy of the book, contact Jeff Regensburger at 807-2651. Register for the event on the Chamber's Web site.

The Rite Bite is awarded county weight management contracts

Franklin County commissioners have chosen The Rite Bite to provide worksite weight management services for county employees, a proven cost-saving initiative for health care costs. County employees may select a 12-week nutrition/fitness program or 8-week strength/stretching program.

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Worthington Presbyterian Church welcomes Susan Marvin



Susan Marvin is the new administrative assistant at Worthington Presbyterian Church, 773 High St. Contact Susan about services, church programs or community outreach activities at 885-5355.

Northwest Counseling Services sponsors forum for caregivers

The fifth annual Educational Forum on Older Adult Issues, sponsored by Northwest Counseling Services, will take place on Tuesday, March 17, from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at First Community Church, 3777 Dublin Road. The free event includes breakfast, resource displays, and box lunches. The keynote speaker will be local cardiologist Judson S. Millhon, Jr., M.D., FACC, FSCAI, who will discuss "Keeping Your Heart Healthy." For more information, call 457-7876, ext. 432.

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Welcome! More New Members

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2009 Reds, Whites & Desserts uncorked

▶ CONT'D. FROM P1

senior sales manager for The Conference Center at NorthPointe.

Numerous opportunities are available for Chamber member businesses to promote their companies through sponsorships, auction donations or participation as presenters of wines and desserts. (See the list of opportunities on the Chamber's Web site on the event registration page.)

Sponsorship opportunities include Major Event Sponsorships (\$1,000 includes a reserved table for six and multiple signage and promotional opportunities); the Wine Glass Underwriter opportunity (\$1,000 underwriting covers the cost of take-home wine glasses with your



company's logo satin-etched with the date); Wine Station Sponsorships (\$650 for a reserved table of six and advertising opportunities); Patron Sponsorships (\$350 for four tickets and a business card-size program ad); Friend Sponsorships (\$225 for four tickets and a listing in the program); and, for those who contribute prizes for the silent auction packages, promotion in auction displays and event publicity.

Individual tickets for the event are \$50 per person, available through the Chamber by phone, fax, e-mail or Web site registration in the CHAMBER CALENDAR section.

Member businesses interested in auction prize donations should contact the Chamber at 888-3040. Sponsorship and ticket inquiries, as well as offers to provide wine or desserts, should be made at the Chamber at 888-3040, or by e-mailing Theresa@worthingtonchamber.org.

Volunteers are needed to recruit sponsors and silent/dessert auction items; plan and execute the decorative theme; prepare auction packages; monitor the auction process; set up and clean up the facility; and other tasks. To volunteer, e-mail Sherman@worthingtonchamber.org.★

Groundhog Day Forecast Breakfast

The Cat in the Hat, rather than Punxatawny Phil Groundhog, took center stage at the 2009 Groundhog Day Business Forecast Breakfast when approximately 120 guests gathered Feb. 2 at Brookside Country Club to hear community leaders' predictions for 2009.

Worthington Schools Superintendent Melissa Conrath, Worthington Libraries

Director Meribah Mansfield and Worthington City Manager Matt Greeson introduced their presentations with an entertaining three-part prologue in the style of children's author/allegorist Theodore Geisel, "Dr. Seuss." The event was sponsored by National City Bank, now part of PNC.

The audience also heard highlights of the recent member survey sampling Chamber members' views on the economy and learned how many Worthington-area businesses are weathering the downturn. Responding businesses showed some confidence in their growth in 2009. In the next three to six months, 72 percent of responding businesses expect to keep the same number of employees, and 16 percent expect to *add* employees. Only 3 percent expect to eliminate staff.★



Left to right: Melissa Conrath, Meribah Mansfield and Matt Greeson





"Promotes. We should continually emphasize the importance of the Chamber's activities and advocacy to support small businesses. Providing numerous ways to help businesses gain exposure continues to be our focus."

Rodney Stearns
The Laurels of Norworth
Retiring board member



"Supportive. I think that word encompasses all that the Chamber strives to do through its programs and member benefits. Especially in these troubled economic circumstances, our support to fellow Chamber member businesses is vital."

Shera Skaggs
CSGraphics
Newly elected board member



"Relationships. While the Chamber offers many opportunities to create new relationships, we also have opportunities to increase and develop existing business relationships. As a result we build a network of business partners who are people we know, trust, and feel confident working with on a regular basis."

Geoff Biehn
Trinity Financial Services LLC
Second-year board member; treasurer, 2007-2008

WHICH WORD IN THE CHAMBER'S MISSION STATEMENT IS MOST MEANINGFUL TO YOU?

At a recent strategic planning session, new, current and retiring board members were asked to share their thoughts on the most meaningful language in the Chamber's mission (stated below).

OUR MISSION
The Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce promotes and supports a vibrant environment for the business community. The Chamber builds strong member relationships through productive networking, meaningful partnerships, relevant and supportive resources, and effective use of technology.

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Annual Meeting Highlights

New officers of the Chamber's board of trustees, elected at the annual meeting on Feb. 24, are **Brian Elder, National City Bank, now part of PNC, chair;** **Kay Lakhi, The Rite Bite, chair-elect;** and **Jay Williams, Tiger Systems, treasurer.**



There must be 50 ways to love your Chamber!

*Get Anthem Plan, Sign...
Make a new sale, Dale!
Click on the Web, Deb...
Just come to 4P,
Lee...
Join us for golf, Rolf...
Our Expo is great, Nate*



Annual meeting audience elects 5 trustees, enjoys '50 Ways'

Facts and figures were in abundance at the Chamber's annual meeting on Feb. 24 at the Doubletree Hotel Columbus/Worthington. But executive director Kathryn Paugh asked attendees to take back to their offices only one message: a heartfelt thanks. "At a time when the economy has forced us all to make tough choices, you chose the Chamber... as a resource to help you sustain your business ... as a foundation for building strong relationships that will grow your business ... and as a community partner committed to the vitality, liveability and profitability of the Worthington area," she said. "So, no matter which of our 50 Ways you have chosen to connect, thanks for realizing that, in tough times, Chamber membership is one of the best choices you can make for your business and for local economy."

In addition to the Doubletree, event sponsors were Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield and CompManagement Inc., a Sedgwick CMS Company. Five new trustees and three board officers were elected at the business meeting. Outgoing trustees Jon Hellstedt, Rodney Stearns, Tom Ellis and Mona Shinn were recognized for their board service during the past three years. New trustees elected for three-year terms included Bill Alsnauer, agent, State Farm Insurance & Financial Services; Paul Cynkar, managing director of operations for Battelle for Kids; Anthony Lordo, D.D.S.; and Jay Williams, director of business development for Tiger Systems. Shera Skaggs of CSGraphics was elected to fill an unexpired two-year term. Membership in attendance also approved the slate of officers recommended by the board's nominating committee: **Brian Elder, National City Bank, now part of PNC, chair;** **Kay Lakhi, The Rite Bite, chair-elect;** and **Jay Williams, Tiger Systems, treasurer.**



Guests learned about Chamber benefits at display tables showcasing opportunities for involvement and through Eric Gnezda's entertaining musical parody. ★

Left: Azaria Akashi, Myriam Solomon and Pat Bright learn about SendOut Cards, a new way to communicate, with the help of Rich Cordle.
Right: Marla Jones, Your Professional Helper, and Bruce Bernard, Rea Strategic Systems, react with other audience members who were delighted by Eric Gnezda's musical parody, 50 Ways to Love Your Chamber.



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Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce
25 W. New England Ave., Worthington 43085

Visit our Web site at:



To submit news items about your business or inquire about rates for advertisements and inserts, call the Chamber office at (614) 888-3040 or e-mail kathryn@worthingtonchamber.org.

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Whalen & Company CPAs and Consultants
Worthington Industries
Worthington Inn



Silver Sustaining Members

CFBank
Old Bag of Nails Pub/Pig Iron BBQ
Shawan Marquis Agency Inc.

**Brian Elder, Chamber Board Chair,
National City Bank, now part of PNC**
Kathryn R. Paugh, Executive Director

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Larry Bonifield, Vice President
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Chadwell Insurance Agency, David Chadwell, 888-3067	Lauterbach & Eiber Insurance, Todd Weithman, 459-6500	Tom Ellis Insurance Services, Inc., Tom Ellis, 985-9000
France and Associates, Inc., Larry France, 888-8124	Nationwide - Gwynn Vaughan Agency, Dan Brown, 433-7233	Wallace Grossman Associates, Neal Grossman, 431-2400

