

March 2021

The Chamber Advantage

GREENCASTLE-ANTRIM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Join

Grow

Prosper



Flexible & Focused

Movie trailers are powerful, aren't they? A few fast flashing scenes, a couple one-liners from a main character in the throws of action and you're hooked, wanting more and enticed to follow up at the box office. In the marketing world this is called "*building the buzz*."

As the Reading Advantage Book Club read recently in Guy Raz's book How I Built This, one of the main factors of entrepreneurial success is the ability to create a buzz about the product. "It's about getting a nontrivial [that means A LOT!] of people talking about your product... about creating a general awareness about your company... and that there's something cool or interesting about what you're doing." That's just what movie trailers do. They build buzz even before the product is launched.

So, let me try the same about our upcoming Women's Seminar on May 11. Flash this: three great speakers; chatter of visiting businesswomen; scenes of tea sets & fancy scones; a serious face discussing the challenges of being flexible & focused in the current business world; and a little shopping, too!

The real power of the buzz, is that it gets others buzzing, too.
Let the buzz begin!

— Valerie



A big thank you to Greencastle-Antrim School District Superintendent Dr. Lura Hanks who spoke to members of the G-ACC at the Chamber's February Networking Advantage sponsored by HRG, Inc. Dr. Hanks' presentation, "Designing Our Future," addressed the opportunities that the COVID pandemic has brought to the world of education,

as well as the five competencies of the G-ASD graduate. Dr Hanks commended the G-A community for its involvement and input, noting the wide range of individuals who have enthusiastically participated as members of the Design Team.

Chamber Calendar

**MAR
24**

CHAMBER CHOICE ADVANTAGE

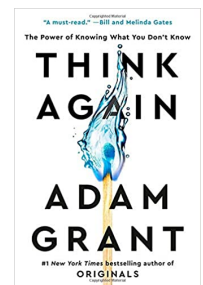
Who Cheryl Hefft with World Kinect Energy Services
What During this virtual presentation, Chamber members can find out how they can save money on commercial energy bills
When March 24 at 9 a.m.
Where Online Presentation
RSVP RSVP [HERE](#)



**MAR
26**

READING ADVANTAGE Think Again

Who Join G-ACC Executive Director Valerie Meyers every 4th Friday of the month to discuss the advantage of reading as a tool to growing in leadership.
Endorsed by The Lilian Besore Library & the Greencastle-Antrim Education Foundation
What "Think Again" by Adam Grant (Participants need to secure their own copies)
When March 26 at Noon
Where Hybrid event online &/or at the Chamber.
RSVP RSVP's requested but not required [HERE](#)



**APRIL
15**

MEMBER ADVANTAGE Resilience in a Box

Who Ines Pearce, Senior Director, Global Resilience
U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation
What Virtual presentation: Addressing Crisis Preparedness & Business Interruptions
When April 15, 9:00 a.m.
Where Hybrid Event: Online or at the G-A Chamber of Commerce
Info Learn more about Resilience in a Box [HERE](#)



**MAY
1**

COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE May Day Clean-Up Day

Who G-A Community Groups / Community Members
Supported by Waste Management
What May Day Clean-Up Day in Conjunction with Keep PA Beautiful
When May 1, 8:30 - 11 a.m.
Where Meet in the Square and return to the Chamber for pizza lunch
RSVP Register individually or as a group [HERE](#)



Special Invitation

FROM THE CHAMBER

**GREENCASTLE
ANTRIM** Chamber
of COMMERCE

Sponsored by:

**F&M
TRUST**

**MAY
11**

Flexible & Focused

The Character of Today's Women Business Leaders

8:30 - 11:00 a.m.
Rhodes Grove Conference Center
\$25 Members, \$30 Non-Members



A morning brunch will be provided
with some time for visiting special vendors including:
Mama K's Buns & Honeybird Designs

KATHERINE TITUS



Featured Speakers:
Katherine M. Titus was appointed head of Mercersburg Academy in July 2016. Katie came to Mercersburg after serving as associate head for school life at St. George's School in Middletown, Rhode Island. She earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics with a minor in secondary education from Middlebury College and a master's degree in educational leadership from Columbia University in 2011.

JOCELYN MELTON



Jocelyne Melton is the CEO of Baxter Group, Inc., a Certified Indoor Environmentalist, and an innovative leader in Business Development & Marketing. In 2019, the Baxter Group received the SBA Women Owned Business of the year award for Eastern Pennsylvania region and later that year, was chosen as the recipient of the Franklin County Area Development Corporation (FCADC) Small Business of the year award.

SHERRI STAHL



Sherri Stahl is the Senior Vice President for WellSpan Western Region. Previously she held the role of CNO and SVP for Summit Health. Currently, Sherri is responsible for the oversight of the western region of WellSpan to include; growth and access, entity operations and leadership, performance improvement and quality.

RSVP HERE



Welcome New Members!



Custom Cleaning Service Co., Inc.



GRAND POINT
CHURCH

Grand Point Church



Greystone Kennels



Play Learning Center, LLC

Thank you Renewing Members!

All Things Country
APX Machine Shop, Inc.
Blaise Alexander of Greencastle
Cornerstone Bible Church
Drake Orthodontics
Echo-Pilot Newspaper
Franklin County Commissioners
Greencastle Church of the Brethren
Greencastle Notary Services
Greencastle-Antrim Food Pantry

Hudson Construction Company
JD Law Company, Inc.
John Allison Public House
McCrea Heating & Air Conditioning
Patriot Federal Credit Union
Penn State University - Mont Alto
Premier HVAC
Project Big Love
Salem Ridge Community Church
SpiriTrust Lutheran LIFE

Members in the News



Menno Haven celebrated the near completion of the Brookview Health Care Center at a private ribbon

cutting on February 26 featuring key partners including Hugh Davis, CEO, and Board of Directors Chair Wayne Yeager. The new Health Care Center will replace the 56-year-old Brookview Nursing Center, and is designed to serve 56 residents and composed of three unique households with skilled living services.

Thanks to all their loyal customers, **Lizzy's Restaurant** has raised \$1,500 to support the Breast Cancer Awareness - Cumberland Valley!



HRG is one of the



HRG has been profiled by PA Business Central as one of the "Top 100 Organizations" in the central Pennsylvania region. This recognition goes to

companies who are leaders in the industry, but, more importantly, leaders in the community who make a difference through volunteerism and charitable support. Congratulations!



After 18 years serving at **WellSpan Family Medical** in Greencastle, Jane Rice will transition to the position of Hospitalist at Chambersburg and Waynesboro

Hospitals as of April 1, 2021. In her farewell letter, she says to her patients, "You will be in capable hands after my departure; and rest assured, there will always be a place in my heart for you."



Healthgrades recently recognized **WellSpan Chambersburg Hospital** and WellSpan York Hospital for their excellent patient care! WellSpan Chambersburg earned

the Healthgrades America's 100 Best Hospital Award, and WellSpan York Hospital received the Healthgrades America's 250 Best Hospitals award. [Read more here.](#)



The Foundation for Enhancing Communities recently awarded a grant to **Hearthstone Retirement Home** as part of the COVID-19 Community Response Fund.

In total, the COVID-19 Community Response Fund has awarded 121 grants totaling \$274,010 to 93 nonprofits in local counties.



SEK, CPAs & Advisors recently announced that the firm has won ClearlyRated's 2021 Best of Accounting® Award. Award winners have proven to be

industry leaders in service quality based entirely on ratings from their clients. SEK, CPAs & Advisors received satisfaction scores of 9 or 10 out of 10 from 93% of their clients, significantly higher than the accounting industry average of 43% in 2020. Congratulations!



Hagerstown Community College will begin another summer of College for Kids programming on June 14. Registration is now open for week-long courses that cover a

variety of exciting subjects for students in elementary grades through high school. Of the 65 camps offered, 22 are new this summer and five are eligible for scholarships. [Click here for more information.](#)

Legislative Updates



Rep. Paul Schemel

1402 East Main Street, Waynesboro PA 17268
717-749-7384

INPUT WANTED FROM BUSINESS OWNERS

The House Majority Policy Committee launched a COVID-19 Economic Recovery Business Survey recently. The goal is to gather feedback for use by the caucus' Economic Recovery Task Force as it works to develop and implement policies to restore the state's struggling economy. The survey is open to employers in all sectors and businesses of all sizes. The brief survey seeks information about your business or industry and then invites feedback about the challenges facing your particular business or industry, the type of assistance that would be most beneficial, the one most impactful thing state government could do to support your future success, and any other ideas to kickstart the Commonwealth's economic recovery.

[Click here to take the survey.](#) Responses will be taken through March 19.

'MIXED EARNERS' UC PROGRAM NOW AVAILABLE

The state Department of Labor & Industry (L&I) is now accepting applications for the new Mixed Earners Unemployment Compensation (MEUC) program. Payments will be retroactive and will begin in several weeks. The MEUC program was created by Congress as part of the federal Continued Assistance for Unemployment Workers Act of 2020 to assist workers who had multiple sources of income that varied in eligibility for traditional Unemployment Compensation. MEUC provides an additional \$100 weekly in extra benefits to eligible claimants.

[Read more HERE.](#)



Sen. Judy Ward

Senate Box 203030, Harrisburg, PA 17120-3030
717-787-5490

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT LIMITING EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS

Voters in the May 18 primary election will decide whether future emergency declarations should be limited to 21 days unless an extension is approved by the General Assembly. The question will appear on the ballot this spring after the Senate and the House of Representatives passed the proposed constitutional amendment in two consecutive legislative sessions. The change would prevent the kind of situation we have seen during the COVID-19 emergency, in which the governor has used the emergency declaration to suspend laws, shut down businesses and spend money without the authorization of the General Assembly. [More about the bill HERE.](#)

COVID-19 RELIEF BILL SIGNED INTO LAW

Last month, the Senate and the House of Representatives gave final approval to a bill that would provide financial relief for restaurants, schools, employers and tenants impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The \$912 million-package allocates \$569.8 million for Rental and Utility Assistance and \$197 million for education programs through the use of federal funding, as well as \$145 million in state funds to support Pennsylvania's struggling hospitality industry. Read the full article [HERE](#).

GOV. WOLF REVISES MITIGATION ORDERS

As COVID-19 cases continue to decline and the state's vaccination plan is amplified, the Wolf Administration announced revised and lifted mitigation restrictions that are effective statewide as of March 1. Read the full article [HERE](#).

100 Lincoln Way E. Ste.B, Chambersburg, PA 17201
717-753-6344

Congressman John Joyce



MEETING WITH BIDEN: STRENGTHENING THE SUPPLY CHAINS

"Recently, I had the opportunity to join President Joe Biden at the White House for a bipartisan meeting on creating American jobs and securing our supply chains for medicine, technology and other key items. While I disagree with President Biden on many of his radical, misguided priorities, I went to the White House to stand up for Pennsylvanians and to serve as your voice in the room.

Resilient supply chains are key for America's success in the 21st century, particularly for Pennsylvania's robust manufacturing and medical industries. Strengthening our supply chains for technology, medicines, automobiles, defense weapon systems and other vital materials will secure American jobs for American workers, benefit hardworking families that rely on these items, and bolster our national security. As our nation rebuilds our economy, we should make sure that we're creating jobs in America - not in China. ... I will not turn away from good faith opportunities to create jobs for hardworking Pennsylvanians, strengthen our national security, and counter the growing threat of the Chinese Communist Party. " [Read Con. Joyce's full letter to Pennsylvanians HERE](#).

EXPOSING THE TRUTH ABOUT PRESIDENT BIDEN'S "COVID RELIEF"

"COVID-19 relief should be targeted for American workers, students, and vaccines. On February 27, I voted no on President Biden's so-called "COVID relief" legislation. At its core, this partisan bill - written with zero input from Republicans - is merely a vehicle for the Democrats' radical priorities, including taxpayer funding for Planned Parenthood and job-killing climate schemes. [Watch my video update on this legislation.](#)"

PA Chamber of Business & Industry



President Gene Barr



417 Walnut St., Harrisburg, PA 17101
800-225-7224

BARR URGES FUNDING FOR CHILDCARE

PA Chamber President Gene Barr added his signature to a coalition of business associations from 13 states in sending a letter to Congressional leadership, urging them to include funding for childcare centers in the 2021 federal Budget Reconciliation bill. The coalition specifically wrote in support of a recommendation to allocate \$39 billion to childcare providers through the Child Care and Development Block Grant Program as well as an addition of \$1 billion for the Head Start program to ensure that families can continue to access quality learning opportunities. Find the full letter [HERE](#).

U.S. HOUSE PASSES \$1.9 TRILLION COVID-19 STIMULUS BILL

The U.S. House approved a \$1.9 trillion stimulus package, marking a significant first step in what would be the Biden administration's first major piece of legislation. The "American Rescue Plan" provides \$1,400 stimulus checks, with those making less than \$75,000 being eligible for \$1,400 and married couples earning less than \$150,000 would receive \$2,800. It would also increase the weekly unemployment compensation benefit (which currently sits at \$300 and is set to expire in a few weeks) to \$400 through the end of August. Notably, the House-passed version of the bill includes an increase in the federal minimum wage rate to \$15 an hour – but that provision is in peril, as the Senate parliamentarian ruled late last week that the minimum wage increase cannot remain in the legislation as written. Other notable provisions in the legislation include: \$350 billion for state and local governments; nearly \$130 billion for K-12 education; and almost \$40 billion for child care providers through the Child Care and Development Block Grant program. The bill now heads the U.S. Senate.

"RIGHT TO REFUSE" LEGISLATION

The House Labor and Industry Committee convened a hearing last week to discuss **H.B. 262**, which would allow employees or job applicants to refuse to comply with employer policies related to vaccination and testing, among other provisions. During his testimony, Halper stated that for the economic crisis to end, the health crisis must end – and the path to getting there is through vaccination. The PA Chamber has been among a broad-based coalition of groups encouraging vaccination and urging employers to lead the push. These efforts, along with smart policies like temporary liability protections for companies acting responsibly, will go a long way toward getting our state on the path to economic recovery. Find the PA Chamber's position [HERE](#).



U.S. Chamber of Commerce

THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION: SIGNIFICANT CHANGES FOR THE PPP

Recent Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) updates provide forgivable loans to businesses struggling during the COVID-19 pandemic until March 31, 2021. During the February 25 Small Business Update, Jeanette Mulvey, Content Director at CO, spoke with White House National Economic Council Deputy Director Bharat Ramamurti and U.S. Chamber of Commerce Executive Vice President and Chief Policy Officer Neil Bradley about the new changes. Bradley also answered tough questions about PPP and other coronavirus business aid options that audience members posed. Starting February 24 and ending March 9, there will be a two-week exclusivity period for businesses with fewer than 20 employees to apply for first- and second-draw PPP loans. This move has been designed to give the smallest businesses, many of which are minority- and women-owned, a better opportunity to get an application approved. "98% of businesses in this country have fewer than 20 employees," Ramamurti said. "And what we've seen in previous rounds of small business relief since this pandemic started is that getting to those very small businesses has been hard. We all know that some of these small businesses don't necessarily have lawyers and accountants on staff. ... Our hope is that with a concerted effort from lenders and the administration generally, we can get the word out to these businesses that there's an opportunity to apply for PPP [and] that we can get you relief quickly."

Find the full interview [HERE](#).

U.S. CHAMBER LETTER ON PANDEMIC RELIEF & THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce sent a [letter](#) to Capitol Hill calling on members of Congress to swiftly enact targeted, timely and temporary pandemic relief to turbo-charge vaccinations and to support families, employers and communities until we achieve immunity levels that allow for a safe and full reopening of the economy through the American Rescue Plan (ARP). Within the letter, the U.S. Chamber urges Congress and the Biden administration to focus on potential compromises in the following key areas that represent the largest areas of spending in the ARP:

- School Funding
- State and Local Aid
- Unemployment Assistance
- Stimulus Payments



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