VENANGO AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2019

BUILDING LEADERS

CREATING CONNECTIONS

ADVOCATING FOR BUSINESS

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE
Our Mission
The mission of the Venango Area Chamber of Commerce is to build, serve and promote regional business.

Our Objective
• Create stronger business to business connections
• Develop the next generation of business leaders
• Be the business information connector
• Ensure sustainability of the Chamber

Creating Connections
An important role the Chamber plays is serving as a connector for Chamber members and local businesses.

The Invest Venango initiative encourages Venango area businesses and individuals to shift spending back into the local economy.

VenangoWorks! focuses on celebrating and recognizing business in Venango County, by posting stories and photos on social media using the hashtag #VenangoWorks.

Interested in doing business with our members? You can find our full online membership directory at www.venangoworks.org.

Invitation To Join
Chamber membership is open to businesses that maintain a voluntary annual dues investment. The Chamber’s staff and board of directors are committed to providing the highest level of service and support to members while providing increased visibility and promotion.

You can contact us at (814) 676-8521 or chamber@venangochamber.org, or visit us at 24 Seneca Street in Oil City.

Chamber Staff
Susan Williams
President & CEO

Tess Byham
Executive Assistant

Ashley Cowles
Program Manager

Heather Hondel, Intern
Grove City College

Jessica Wilson, Intern
Geneva College

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Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 9 - 7:30 • Wednesday & Friday 9 - 5:00 • Saturday 6 - 2

Staff:
Lynne Marshall • Tracey Mohrknern • Jamie Duarte • Tina Dehart
Katelyn Horter • Laura Hutchinson • Candace Advent

Receptionists:
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UPMC is affiliated with the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.
**Advocacy**

The Chamber is the voice of the business community, working to remove barriers to business progress and promoting opportunity for business success. In 2019, the Advocacy Committee will focus on issues impacting business, including blight and transportation, as they impact the communities and workforce of Venango County. The Chamber hosted a Candidate Forum in May and will continue to advocate for business to legislators at local and state levels.

**Education**

The Chamber’s Educational Taskforce/Committee has identified three strategic goals:

- To gain a better understanding of programs at Venango area schools and determine the impact of those related to career preparation, entrepreneurship and leadership.
- To serve as the connector between education and business for the various training, learning and business opportunities across Venango County.
- To identify educational partners to connect with and support, maximizing the impact of existing programs.

**Leadership**

The Chamber’s Community Leadership Development Committee works to create a community vision, to determine what leadership is needed to achieve future goals to advance the best interest of Venango County. The Chamber launched Leadership Venango in the fall of 2018, open to any community members, and aims to develop leaders for the community. The Chamber also seeks to develop leaders within its staff and board.
In 2017, the Chamber launched Be Here—an initiative focused on changing the narrative of our region. Too often we hear negative comments from community members about our area—Be Here is all about showing that the Venango Area is a great place to live, work and play, while also working to identify challenges that do exist and help to come up with possible solutions.

With Be Here, the Chamber has conducted surveys of past and present community members, spoken with local students and community groups, held various contests, participated in meetings and events around challenges in our area, and promoted opportunities through a website, social media, and more.

A Be Here Ambassador Program was recently launched, as a way to equip positive community members with information and resources to spread the message that you CAN thrive in the Venango Area. Would you like to be an ambassador for our region? Contact Ashley at acowles@venangochamber.org. Visit www.beherevenango.org to learn more about the Be Here initiative.
Future Leaders & Entrepreneurs Exchange (FLEX) represents the needs and interests of Young Professionals by positioning themselves as leaders, entrepreneurs and advocates for the sustainability of the Venango Area through civic engagement, leadership development and networking.

Each spring, FLEX recognizes local young professionals making a difference in our community through leadership and civic engagement at FLEX Presents. This year, 12 young professionals were nominated by the community and recognized for their accomplishments. Ashley Cowles, the owner of Core Goods and Program Manager at the Venango Chamber, was named Young Professional of the Year.

Visit www.venangoflex.org to learn more about FLEX events and programs.

FLEX Officers
From Left:
Hannah McCarthy, Events & Fundraising Chair
Tessa Byham, Marketing & Community Partnerships Chair
Rachel Stiller, President
Kat Thompson, Vice President
Laura Ordaz, Membership Chair
Events & Festivals

The Venango Chamber hosts several member events, including the Annual Golf Scramble, Member Steak Fry and monthly networking mixers sponsored by member businesses. These events provide opportunities for members to connect with other member businesses, many who are also customers. In addition to member events, the Chamber holds community events, the largest being the Oil Heritage Festival and Cranberry Festival.

The Cranberry Festival will be held on Saturday, September 21, in Morrison Park, Seneca. The week preceding the festival includes additional community activities, including the crowning of the Cranberry Festival King and Queen. The community is invited to come enjoy entertainment, free children events, food, crafts, a car show and more!

Learn more about Cranberry Festival by visiting www.venangochamber.org/information-connections/festivals/cranberry-festival/.

This year, the community will celebrate 41 years of the Oil Heritage Festival, to take place July 25 - July 28, with multiple pre-festival events. The Oil Heritage Festival celebrates our history by incorporating many heritage related events into a fun-filled weekend that draws thousands of visitors and guests to the region. For a full list of events and additional information, visit www.oilheritagefestival.com and follow us on Facebook.

This year marks the Fourth Annual Oil Heritage Festival Bike ‘n Brew, hosted by the FLEX Young Professionals. The event includes outdoor activities, including customized bike rides, and a brewfest, with craft beer from local and national breweries. Learn more about the event at www.ohfbikenbrew.org.

Saturday, July 20
Outdoor Activities 11AM - 4PM
Brewfest 5-8PM (VIP admittance at 4PM)
Leadership Venango

“The single biggest way to impact an organization is to focus on leadership development. There is almost no limit to the potential of an organization that recruits good people, raises them up as leaders and continually develops them.” – John Maxwell

We believe this is the same for communities.

What is Leadership Venango?
Leadership Venango is a nine-month program designed to identify, educate, involve and motivate individuals who desire to become more effective leaders. The program engages citizens from a broad range of geographical, institutional and economic backgrounds, with the goal to ensure that new leadership will continuously be added to the community. During the nine months, the class will seek to better understand the problems and opportunities we face in creating the best future for Venango County.

Session Topics
Every session includes speakers and activities focused on leadership skills, including topics like conflict management, effective communications, generational differences, board management and more.

Leadership Venango Retreat: team building, personality evaluations, soft skill building
- Honorable Leadership: local government overview, business ethics, board member development, professional head shots
- Understanding Community Caregiving: local non-profit overview, county services, poverty simulation
- Maximizing Clean Communications: local communication channels, media training, social media, public speaking
- Leading a Healthy Community: how healthcare affects our region, opioid crisis, generational differences
- The Importance of an Educated Workforce: continuing education, funding education in our region, workforce development
- Business & Economic Development: economic development, SCORE & Small Business Development Center, strategic planning
- Empowering Your Community: oil and gas, renewable energy, recycling, local agriculture, leading with energy
- Attracting Residents & Visitors: local heritage, history and recreation, tourism

Leadership Venango allows participants to experience Venango County through the lens of leadership, and leadership through the lens of Venango County.

How do I apply?
You can find more information about tuition, scholarships and an application at www.leadershipvenango.org.

Complete and submit the application form, signed by both applicant and employer/sponsor, by September 6, 2019.
The Venango Chamber takes great pride in its role as ambassadors for Venango County and the Oil Region.

Our community calendar at beherevenango.org is the place to find out what's happening in our local area. All community groups are invited to add their activities to this calendar.

Our office, at 24 Seneca Street is open to visitors who stop by seeking directions and information. A newly published printed road map of the county is available for FREE.

VenangoWorks!, the Venango Chamber’s newsletter, is mailed monthly to more than 500 Chamber members and is available for everyone’s viewing on the Chamber’s website.

Each newsletter includes:
• Business feature articles and briefs
• Business tips and networking advice
• Listing of new members
• Chamber calendar of events
• FLEX Your Ideas (FYI), a section for young professionals

To view past copies or to subscribe, visit www.venangochamber.org/information-connections/newsletter/.

Thank you for your support of our new brand of ice melt products. We had a great first year and will be introducing new products this season, including a pet friendly ice melt.

We had a great reception to our new line of ice melt products in part because of:
• We use a recyclable small fibre drum, which holds 50# or 100# of product and keeps the product fresh.
• There is less spillage of product with the drum versus a bag.
• A free scoop is included.

We are seeking distributors for certain areas.
Contact Bob at 814.758.4164
2019 Board of Directors

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*Prices plus tax, title and tags. Lease payments are for 10K miles/yr. All lease payments are with $3000 due at signing plus tax, 1st payment, title, plate and doc fees. All leases require approved credit. Trax lease requires in household lease. Silverado lease requires lease loyalty. Lease loyalty requires in-household GM lease, must qualify. Equinox lease requires in household non-GM lease (must qualify) GMF discounts & 0% financing require financing with GM Financial (must qualify). 0% financing in lieu of rebate. Residency restrictions apply. Lifetime Power-Pointe Warranty is a limited Powertrain warranty. Silverado savings include GMF discount. See dealer for details. Good through 5/25/19.

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*Prices plus tax, title and tags. Lease payments are for 10K miles/yr. All lease payments are with $3000 due at signing plus tax, 1st payment, title, plate and doc fees. All leases require approved credit. Trax lease requires in household lease. Silverado lease requires lease loyalty. Lease loyalty requires in-household GM lease, must qualify. Equinox lease requires in household non-GM lease (must qualify) GMF discounts & 0% financing require financing with GM Financial (must qualify). 0% financing in lieu of rebate. Residency restrictions apply. Lifetime Power-Pointe Warranty is a limited Powertrain warranty. Silverado savings include GMF discount. See dealer for details. Good through 5/25/19.
Recognizing Excellence

The Venango Area Chamber of Commerce recognizes businesses, individuals and organizations that go above and beyond to make our region successful.

**Business and Partner in Business of the Year**

The Chamber selects the Business of the Year, from the Chamber’s membership, using a wide array of criteria including reputation for customer service and reliability, major achievements in a given year, innovation, business leadership and excellence. The 2018 Business of the Year was Matric Group.

The Partner in Business award is given to a local nonprofit, education or government organization bringing creative solutions to community challenges; creating innovative programs, partnerships, fundraising, marketing; promoting the region as a place to do business or visit and improving the quality of life for the Venango Area residents. The 2018 Partner in Business was The Barrow-Civic Theatre.

**Citizen of the Year**

Each year, the Chamber honors a citizen or citizens that have consistently evidenced civic leadership through volunteerism and service to their community. Leah Gesing was named the 2018 Outstanding Citizen of the Year.

**Volunteer of the Year**

The Venango Area Chamber’s staff selects the Volunteer of the Year, the person that has assisted the Chamber with events or activities throughout the prior year. Stewart Berlin was recognized as the 2018 Volunteer of the Year.

Visit www.venangochamber.org/chamber/recognition-awards for more information about nominations and recognition events.

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**FSCAS**

Family Service & Children’s Aid Society of Venango County

716 East Second Street • Oil City, PA 16301 • 814-677-4005 • www.fscas.org

Our services include:

- Alternatives to Violence
- Drug & Alcohol Treatment
- Effective Safe Parenting
- Family Foundations Program
- Individual & Family Counseling
- Home & Community Services
- The HEIGHTS Program
- Oil City PREP Program
- PPC Violence Free Network & Shelter Supervised Visitation
- Venango Fatherhood Initiative
- Youth Connection (formerly BBBS)
COURSES:
- Certified Employment Support Professional Preparation
- Paraprofessional Highly Qualified Teacher Aide Training

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS
(complete in one-year or less):
- Administrative Medical Assistant
- Clinical Medical Assistant
- Dental Assistant
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Legal Office Supervisor
- Medical Office Supervisor
- Medical Scribe Specialist
- Online Medical Billing and Coding
- Pharmacy Technician
- Phlebotomy Technician

ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAMS:
- Business Administration
- Criminal Justice
- Applied Technology
  - CNC/Machinist Technician
  - Construction Technology
  - Electric Utility Lineman
  - Industrial Maintenance
  - Refrigeration, Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning
  - Welding (Electric Arc)
- Nursing RN
- Rehabilitative Services
- Respiratory Care

BACHELOR’S DEGREE PROGRAMS:
- Medical Imaging Sciences
- Rehabilitative Sciences, Court and Community Services
- Technology Leadership

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Call: 814-393-1211 or Schedule at www.clarion.edu/visitvenango