



December 2008
Volume 4, Issue 12

Member of Ohio Chamber of
Commerce & U.S. Chamber of
Commerce

Chamber Events

12/4 Chamber "Holiday
Open House"
4 PM – 7 PM
122 W. Decatur St.
Eaton, Ohio

12/17 Preble County
Safety Council
12:00 Noon
Preble County YMCA
Eaton, Ohio

**Eaton-Preble County
Chamber of Commerce**
122 W. Decatur Street
P.O. Box 303
Eaton, Ohio 45320
Phone: (937) 456-4949
<http://www.preblecountyohio.com/>

Chamber News

To promote free enterprise within & advance the business community of the Eaton-Preble County area.



HOLIDAY Open House

December 4, 2008
4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

New Office Building
122 W. Decatur Street
Eaton, Ohio

Come join in the fellowship & refreshments!

President's Message

The chamber is on the move! Moving to a new location at 122 W. Decatur. Eaton National Bank has graciously provided the chamber an office in the bank building since 1995. During the last 3 years, the chamber has increased membership by 40 percent and has moved aggressively toward our mission of promoting free enterprise and advancing the business community in Eaton and Preble County. The opportunity arose this year, through the generous support of Reid Hospital, to expand the chamber's office space and provide a business center for Eaton and Preble County. The business center includes a conference room and several offices that will be available to chamber members and non-profit organizations to hold business meetings and events. SCORE, a nonprofit association dedicated to educating entrepreneurs and the formation, growth and success of small business nationwide, will provide counseling by appointment to existing business owners and those considering starting a business. Long term plans include development of a business resource center with access to the latest business and management information.

You are cordially invited to attend a Holiday Open House being held December 4th from 4:00 - 7:00 pm at the new office at 122 W. Decatur to celebrate this milestone in the chamber's development and give chamber members and the community to visit the new office location. Refreshments will be served. Please contact the chamber at 456-4949 or chamberoffices@preblecountyohio.com if you would like to sponsor this event or for more information.

December marks my final month as Chamber Board Chairperson. I have enjoyed serving the chamber members and feel very lucky to have worked with such a great group of Board members over the past four years. A special thank you to Virginia for her valuable assistance during this time!

Continued.....



Board of Directors

Joanne Beineke, *Chairperson*
472-2115

Larry Englert, Treasurer
Englert & Pollock
456-4393

Charles Pennington
787-4535

Bob Stonecash
Mayor City of Eaton
456-5130

Bradley Neavin
Eaton Community Schools
456-1107

Josh Maggard
Wal-Mart Super Center
456-1777

Ron Gard
Girton-Schmidt-Boucher
Funeral Home
456-3333

Ray Potter
SCORE
456-1241

Howard Carter
Carter Cleaning Enterprises, LLC
533-1732

Kathy Posey
The Greenbriar Nursing Center
456-9535

Kathy Schulz
Rohm and Haas Chemicals, LLC
839-1307

Michelle Buckley
The Classic Touch Fine
Photography
472-0001

Dan Appenzeller
Member-At-Large
839-4476

Matt Appenzeller
Membership Services Director
839-4476

Taking on the Chamber Board leadership role is Shanna M. Renner, of Fifth Third Bank. Shanna was born and raised in West Alexandria, Ohio. Shanna attended Twin Valley South High School and Wright State University. She has been employed with Fifth Third Bank for 6 ½ years and currently serves as Financial Center Manger and Assistant Vice President. In 2007, Shanna was recognized as Manager of the Year and Fifth Third Bank President Circle Club member. Shanna is a member of the Eaton Rotary Club and the United Way Advisory Board. In addition to bringing her business expertise to the chamber, Shanna has a great sense of humor and enthusiasm. I am confident she will be a great asset to the Chamber Board and you will all enjoy getting to know Shanna in the coming months.

I look forward to watching the Chamber continue to grow, develop and support the vibrant Eaton-Preble County business community!

Joanne Beineke, Chairperson, Eaton-Preble County Chamber of Commerce

Membership
Director Notes

By Matt Appenzeller

On Tuesday, November 18, 2008, a Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Judge issued a preliminary injunction, restraining the Ohio BWC from enacting its current group rating plan for the policy year beginning July 1, 2009. The judge and ordered the BWC to enact a group retrospective rating plan for the policy year beginning July 1, 2009.

A news article from the Cleveland Plain Dealer regarding the ruling can be found at

http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2008/1/1/cuyahoga_judge_orders_ohio_bur.htm

The Plaintiffs argued the current system allows some companies to enjoy huge discounts under a group rating system while others outside the group

pay higher premiums to subsidize the claims of the group, even though businesses outside the group may also report few claims. The plaintiffs asserted:

- 1) Ohio law requires retrospective rating,
- 2) the current group rating plan is not equitable,
- 3) the group rating plan violates the equal protection clause of the Ohio and U.S. Constitutions.

The court rejected the second and third arguments but agreed that Ohio law, as written, requires retrospective rating. This is an important issue as it may affect all businesses. We will keep you posted as we receive more information.

* * * *

If you have not checked out our new web site at www.preblecountyohio.com please make a point to browse the site in the near future. There are several features to the new layout that we did not have previously.

Membership benefits are clearly explained under the benefits section. A member directory can be searched by category instead of alphabetically. We have a calendar to post upcoming events.

Also, under Business Resources, members can download a matrix of finance, training, and tax incentives for business and industry provided to us by Jon Heffner of Heffner and Associates. This is valuable information that consolidates all the programs into a few pages rather than searching for the information online. The matrix includes contact names and phone numbers for business owners to make inquiries to the right person.

Finally, if you have a photo of your business or your employees, please email it to me at mjappen@yahoo.com. Depending upon how the Board of Directors wishes to approach the posting of photos on the web site, we may be able to post the photo in the top right corner along with our current slide show.

Safety Council Update

By Kathy Schulz

For the November training topic, Karen Jenson, from the Library Services Department at the Bureau of Worker's Compensation, provided an overview of some of the internet web sites available to the public which provide safety related information. Some examples include:

Environmental Protection Agency. www.epa.gov

Provides a wealth of information on a wide range of topics. Of particular interest: resources on lead, asbestos, indoor air quality, mold and school environmental issues

National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health: www.cdc.gov/niosh

Provides current information on services and research, including mining health & safety, health care injuries, respirators, and firefighting hazards. Many of their publications are available online

Occupational Safety and Health Administration. www.osha.gov

Includes OSHA media releases, online publications, statistics, OSHA standards & directives, "Technical Links," training center courses, "hot topics," and "what's new."

For the entire list, visit the BWC's website:

<http://www.ohiobwc.com/employer/prgrams/safety/relatedlinks.asp>

Members who have met the participation requirements of the Safety Council Program, already receiving a 2% rebate on their premiums, may soon see another rebate check in the mail. Companies that have met the performance requirements are eligible for an additional discount, up to another 2%. The rebate checks will be distributed during the November-December time frame.

Next month, we will have a presentation of Fall Prevention.

Full-Time Executive Director Eaton-Preble County Chamber of Commerce

Salary: Negotiable based on skills and experience

The Eaton-Preble County Chamber of Commerce is searching for a highly motivated, results oriented, creative applicant to serve as Executive Director. Qualified candidates must demonstrate leadership, communication, organizational, and time management skills. In addition to other skills and objectives, the Executive Director shall work under the general supervision of the Board of Directors, oversee daily operations, develop and retain the membership base, advance the business interests of the community.

Qualifications:

BS in Business, Communication or related program or equivalent experience. Three or more years of management or leadership experience, or administrative experience with a Chamber of Commerce or other organization. Strong verbal and written communication skills. Demonstrated ability to work with a wide variety of stakeholders.

For a complete list of duties and responsibilities, please visit:

www.preblecountyohio.com

Mail resume to: Eaton-Preble County
Chamber of Commerce
Attn: Larry Englert
P.O. Box 303
Eaton, Ohio 45320

Ohio Sales Tax - Mandatory electronic filing begins 2009

The way businesses file sales tax returns in Ohio is changing. Starting in 2009, all vendors - regardless of sales volume - will be required to file electronically

rather than on paper. The first mandatory electronic return is due Feb. 23, 2009 for monthly filers and on July 23, 2009 for semi-annual filers. However, all businesses can get a head start by choosing to file electronically now.

For business owners, electronic filing cuts down on paperwork and postage costs. For state government, each electronic return saves a dollar or two in processing costs. The Ohio Department of Taxation currently offers three ways to file a sales tax return electronically: Ohio Business Gateway, eForms and Telefile.

Consult your accountant for more information.

“Welcome” New Chamber Member!

Champaign Residential Services, Inc. (CRSI)

This is the Miami County Regional Office with Jarred Vordemark, Program Administrator.

Located at 405 Public Square – Suite 373, Troy, Ohio 45373

Phone: 937-335-6974

Email: jvordemark@CRSI-Oh.com.

They are a Not-for-profit provider of MR/DD Services.

EATON-PREBLE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

AMBASSADORS

Abigail Noland

Preble County Library

937-456-4250

Carolyn Ulrich

Ulrich Company

937-787-4264

KarenKay Williams

5 Points Wireless

937-456-7320

Bob Barnes

Barnes Funeral Homes, Inc.

937-456-1111

See you
Thursday
December 4th
4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
At
122 W. Decatur St.
Eaton, Ohio

TOAST OF THE...
Town

***CHAMBER
HOLIDAY
OPEN HOUSE***



**Eaton-Preble County
Chamber of Commerce**
122 W. Decatur Street
PO Box 303
Eaton, Ohio 45320
Phone: (937) 456-4949
<http://www.preblecountyohio.com/>

U.S. Postage Paid
Presorted Standard
Permit No. 318
Eaton OH 45320

Mission Statement:

To promote free enterprise within and advance
the business community of the Eaton Preble
County area.