

January 2010
Volume 6, Issue 1

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

Chamber Events

1/20 **Preble County
Safety Council**
12:00 Noon
Preble County YMCA

1/21 **Chamber General
Meeting & Luncheon**
11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Eaton Country Club
100 Morton Rd., Eaton

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

Chamber News

*Promoting Free Enterprise and Advancing the Business
Community of Preble County*

Preble County Chamber of Commerce General Meeting & Luncheon

Thursday, January 21, 2010
Eaton Country Club
100 Morton Road, Eaton

Speakers

Toni Wiedeling, Executive Director
Southern Ohio Chamber Alliance

“State of the Chamber”
Matt Appenzeller, Executive Director
Preble County Chamber of Commerce

To make your reservation, please contact Virginia at the
Chamber Office at 456-4949 by Friday, January 15th!
Cost is \$15, payable at the door!

President's Message

Dear Investors,

It is hard to believe that we have said goodbye to 2009 and we are now welcoming in a new year. With that being said, reflecting back over the past several years, the Chamber continues to add value for Chamber members by evaluating existing programs, adding new events, and increasing member benefits.

We completed 2009 at an 82% retention rate during a tumultuous year. Although this is not in line with our success over previous years, our retention rate was slightly better than average for area Chambers in the last year. We also measure our success with membership growth. In 2009, the Preble County Chamber added 46 new members- a new record for the second consecutive year!

I am proud of our accomplishments over the last year, from changing our name from the Eaton-Preble County Chamber to the Preble County Chamber to the successful launch of a concept audit to form a Chamber Foundation.

To celebrate all of our successes the Chamber moved our annual awards banquet to February 4, 2010. Please come and celebrate with us at the Eaton Country Club, 100 Morton Dr., Eaton. The Banquet will begin at 6:00 p.m. There will be a chance to win amazing door prizes, great food and great people to socialize with. I promise this to be an event to remember- so I hope to see you all there!!

Shanna Renner,
Chairperson- Board of Directors

Board of Directors

Shanna M. Renner
Chairperson
Fifth Third Bank
456-7306

Charles Pennington
787-4535

Bradley Neavin
Eaton Community Schools
456-1107

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

Ray Potter
SCORE
456-1241

Leslie Collins
The Register Herald
456-5553 Ext. 110

STAFF

Matt Appenzeller
Executive Director
456-4949

Virginia Lindsey
Secretary
456-4949

Preble County Chamber "Awards Banquet"

**Thursday,
February 4, 2010
6:00 p.m.**

**Eaton Country Club
100 Morton Rd.
Eaton, Ohio**

We will be calling to ask if you would like to donate a Silent Auction Item (No minimum – No maximum) for this event.

We will need reservations for the Awards Banquet by:
Friday, January 29, 2010.

Cost is \$20/person, payable at the door!

Please call the Chamber Office at 937-456-4949 or email at: chamberoffices@preblecountyohio.com to make your reservation(s).

Some of the Awards to be received are "Excellence In Business"; "New Business of the Year"; Distinguished Service Award"; "President's Award"; and others!

We hope you will make plans to attend this 28th Annual Awards Banquet for the Preble County Chamber of Commerce.

Safety Council Update

By Kathy Schulz



For the August training topic, Melissa Wallace, the Health Commissioner from the Preble County Health District joined the group to educate us on the H1N1 Pandemic Influenza.

She shared great information on preventing the spread of the infection. One key reminder is to wash your hands! She suggested singing "Happy Birthday" while you are washing your hands to make sure you take the time that is necessary to remove the germs from your hands.

We would like to welcome the following new members to the Preble County Safety Council:

- Birchwood Genetics, Inc., West Manchester, Ohio
- Forklift Training Systems, Oxford, Ohio

First-time Homeowner Tax Credit Extended with Important Changes

On November 6, 2009, the Worker, Homeownership and Business Assistance Act of 2009 went into effect. This Act extends the first-time homebuyer credit to April 30, 2010 and expands the eligibility requirements for purchasers.

The new legislation includes some important changes for those buying a home after it was signed into law. These changes include:

- Higher income limits now apply. The credit is reduced if

your modified adjusted gross income exceeds \$125,000 (\$225,000 if married filing a joint return) and is completely eliminated if your AGI is \$145,000 (\$245,000 if married filing a joint return).

- A credit of up to \$8,000 will still apply to qualifying first-time buyers. [A buyer who has not owned a primary residence during the three years up to the date of purchase.]
- This new law also provides for a “long-time resident” credit of up to \$6,500. Home owners who have maintained the same principal residence for at least five consecutive years in the eight year period ending at the time they purchase a new principal residence, could qualify for a credit of up to \$6,500.
- Several new restrictions on purchases that occur after Nov. 6 go into effect with the new law:
 - Dependents are not eligible to claim the credit.
 - No credit is available if the purchase price of a home is more than \$800,000.
 - A purchaser must be at least 18 years of age on the date of purchase.
- Members of the Armed Forces and certain federal employees serving outside the U.S. have an extra year to buy a principal residence in the U.S. and still qualify for the credit.
- Qualifying home purchases in 2010 can be claimed on either the 2009 or the 2010 individual tax return.

For more details on the credit, visit the [First-Time Homebuyer Credit page](#) on IRS.gov.

This article provided by: Williams & Keckler, LLC, Certified Public Accountants, 219 East Main Street, Eaton, OH 45320.



Health Spot....

Sponsored by The Greenbriar

Food Focus: WINTER



From: Monica Cengia, Dietitian

Chocolate

So we all know chocolate is delicious... but did you know it's good for you, too?



Historically, the cocoa bean was cherished by the Aztecs for being a cure-all for many medical conditions. After all, cocoa beans rank on the top list of plants with the highest amount of natural antioxidants content. Blueberries, raspberries, apples, pecans and walnuts are right behind them! Dark chocolate (at least 65% cocoa) has many excellent health benefits including... **Antioxidants** - can help prevent cancer **Flavanols** - reduce blood pressure, decrease risk of blood clots, helps lower LDL, raise HDL and prevent plaque buildup in arteries!
Prepared by: Emily Spurlin, Dietetic Student, Miami University, Copyright,2009.

Chocolate Mocha Mousse

Tasty & quick! This impressive dessert can be made just a few minutes before guests arrive!

- 3 cups fat-free milk
- 1 T instant coffee crystals, regular or decaf
- 1 large box (2.1 ounces) sugar-free instant chocolate pudding
- 3 cups fat-free whipped topping (8-ounce container)
- Additional whipped topping (optional)

In a medium bowl, mix milk with coffee. Let set a few minutes and then stir until coffee is dissolved. Add pudding mix and stir constantly with a wire whisk for 2 minutes. Refrigerate for 5 minutes. Add whipped topping and mix well. Pour into a serving bowl or individual parfait glasses. Garnish with additional whipped topping, if desired. Ready to eat or refrigerate and serve later. Eat slowly and enjoy!!
Makes 8 servings, each serving = ¾ cup. Calories: 104, Fat: 0 g, Cholesterol: 2 mg, Sodium: 279, Carbohydrates: 20 g, Dietary fiber: 1g, Protein: 3 g

Source: Quick & Healthy Recipes and Ideas, 3rd Edition, 2008, Author: Brenda J. Ponichtera, RD, www.QuickandHealthy.net, Publisher: Small Steps Press (health conscious books for the general population, a division of the American Diabetes Association), Retail price: \$18.95.

“Chocolate fix” ideas with less fat & calories!

- Kashi Dark Chocolate Cherry or Dark Mocha Almond granola bars
- Special K Chocolatey Delight cereal
- Fat free or low sugar hot mix
- Weight Watcher's Chocolate Mousse
- Fat free chocolate pudding cups
- A small handful of chocolate animal cookies
- Fat free frozen fudgesicles
- Ghiradelli's dark chocolate chips: 10 chips = 50 Calories; little bits for that “chocolate fix”
- Smaller bites can satisfy your chocolate craving!

Choosing the Right Group Rating Program

Each fall, employers begin choosing their workers' compensation Group Rating Program. This important decision affects how much you pay in workers' compensation premiums and determines how claims are handled, which is why you should carefully consider your options.

Our Association's Group Rating Program has a wide range of savings tiers serving every industry so you are placed with companies similar to yours. Other Groups may only offer limited savings. With our multiple tiers, up to the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation's (BWC) maximum allowed discount, we can pinpoint the greatest savings you are eligible for. Even if you have claims, our range of discount levels enables us to place most companies in our Group.

Higher Savings

Our program gives you the total package. Not only can you save on premiums, but you hire The Frank Gates Service Company / Avizent, a workers' compensation leader with 63 years of experience serving Ohio employers. Frank Gates offers a higher level of savings, service and expertise. The comprehensive claims management, risk management and hearing representation services provided through our program help you maintain your future Group eligibility.

Group Rating enrollment packets are being mailed to current Group members and those who have submitted savings estimate authorization forms (AC-3s). If you haven't already requested a free Group Rating estimate, call 800-395-4119 today or complete an online AC-3 at www.frankgatesgroups.com. If you are a member not currently participating in our Group, why not consider it? When you join our program, you pay no extra association dues. If you are currently in

another Group, request an estimate and compare.

Compare Your Options

Before you choose a Group Rating Program, ask your potential Administrator:

- How many discount levels does your Group offer?
- Is my business saving as much as possible, or could I qualify for a better discount level if one was available?
- In the past, have your savings been as high as your estimates?
- Will I receive full workers' compensation claims and account management services in addition to my premium discount?

Take time and study your options. Some Groups try to force employers into making an early decision. The BWC's official deadline for applications is the last business day in February (2/26/2010).

To learn more about our Group Rating Program, or to request assistance in comparing your offers, please contact your Frank Gates Account Executive at 800-777-4283.


2010 Ohio Safety Congress – Save the Date

The Ohio Safety Congress & Expo is one of the finest occupational safety and health events in the Midwest. The event, scheduled for March 30 - April 1, 2010, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, will offer dynamic keynote speakers, a variety of educational sessions and displays of occupational safety and health products.

Free registration makes the Ohio Safety Congress a valuable tool for your injury prevention program.

- Reduce training costs for you and your employees.

- Earn free CEUs for accreditation and BWC discount programs.
- Save on registration fees and out-of-state travel expenses.
- Fewer injuries mean lower workers' compensation costs.
- Choose from 150 educational sessions to help your business save lives and save money.



The Gathering Place
(formerly Eaton Banquet Center)
501 Nation Avenue
Eaton
Thursday, January 14, 2010
4:00-6:00 pm

The Eaton Banquet Center, 501 Nation Avenue, Eaton, is now under the management of the Preble County Council on Aging. The Banquet Center is now available for many Senior Center activities, events, and for public rental. For Rental or Catering information, please call Valerie at (937) 456-4947.

Plan now to attend our Open House.
Hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served.

Reservations are not needed.

Twin Creek Tea Room

19 E. Dayton Street
West Alexandria, Ohio

announces its **2010** schedule

Evening Candlelight Dinners

Saturday, February 13, 2010
(Valentine's Day)

Saturday, April 10, 2010
(Springtime Theme)

Saturday, May 8, 2010
(Mother's Day)

Saturday, October 16, 2010
(Sweetest Day)

Saturday, November 20, 2010
(Thanksgiving Theme)

Saturday, December 18, 2010
(Christmas Theme)

**Serving at 5:30 p.m.
and 7:30 p.m.**

**CALL (937) 839-5094 for
reservation(s) (required)**

Ivy Parlor Gift Shop open for shopping during Candlelight Dinners.

The Twin Creek Tea Room is open for lunch on W, T, F, S from 11-2 p.m.

The Ivy Parlor Gift Shop is open for shopping until 3:30 or longer as needed

**Reservations accepted but not
required for lunch.**

**Box lunches and carry-out available.
Private parties by arrangement.**

Check out our regularly updated
website:

www.twincreektearoom.com



“Welcome” New Chamber Members!

Whispering Oaks Bed & Breakfast

Mike Sowder & Debbi Hornbrook
Sowder, Inn Keepers
Located at 1881 Route 127 N.
Eaton, OH 45320
Phone: 937-603-9476
Fax: 937-456-1121
Email: debbinmike@gmail.com
Website:

www.whisperingoaksbedandbreakfast.com

Product/Service: Overnight lodging
accommodations

Frizzell Construction, Inc.

Pat Frizzell
Located at 900 S. Barron Street
Eaton, OH 45320
Phone: 937-456-4296
Fax: 937-456-4841
Email: frizzelljim@yahoo.com
Website:
www.frizzellconstruction.homestead.com

Product/Service: New home
builder/remodeler/plat developer

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Ohio Safety Congress & Expo

The BWC Division of Safety and hygiene will hold the annual Ohio Safety Congress on March 30, 2010 and April 1, 2010 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

This two day event is free to the public and attendees have access to approximately 150 educational sessions and 200 exhibits of safety and health products. Please visit the OSC website at the link below for registration, a list of events and exhibitors, etc.

<http://www.ohiobwc.com/employer/programs/safety/SafetyCongress.asp>

Make sure you visit us at the Hunter Consulting Booth.

