

## MEMBER LUNCHEON

### Tuesday, April 10, 2012

11:45-1:00 P.M.

*Lunch Begins Promptly at Noon!*

**Charleroi Area School District Campus**

100 Fecsen Drive, Charleroi

Keynote Speaker:

## RONALD TOMALIS

Secretary, Department of Education  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

*See page 4 for details.*



Ronald Tomalis

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Gosai & Gandhi, MD	Insert
Mon Valley Messenger	Insert



## March Member Spotlight RTS Packaging, LLC



**RTS Packaging, LLC** is the MVRCC's March Member Spotlight. Pictured is the RTS Management team: (left to right) Andre Kordistos, Production Superintendent, Mike Null – Maintenance Manager, Mark B. Raitano – General Manager; Joellyn Gray – Office Manager; Bob Dever – Shipping Supervisor.. See story on page 3.



## Mon Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce

One Chamber Plaza  
Charleroi, PA 15022

724-483-3507 Fax: 724-489-1045

E-mail: [info@mvrchamber.org](mailto:info@mvrchamber.org)

website: [www.mvrchamber.org](http://www.mvrchamber.org)

President: Armand Ferrara

V. President: Atty. Rick Mudrick

Secretary: David Galloni

Treasurer: Milton Kubik

Executive Board: Jerry Zahand, Sr.

Executive Board: James Protin

Chamber Staff:

Executive Director: Debra Keefer

Financial Assistant: Donna Angelo

We regret any errors or omissions  
in this newsletter

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

### Karen Juskowich

6516 Keystone Avenue  
Finleyville, PA 15332  
*Associate Member*

### Primerica

Gerald Stasicha/Beverly Belczyk  
523 Broad Avenue  
Belle Vernon, PA 15012  
724-929-7160  
*Financial Advisors/Services, Insurance*

### Harlan G. Shober, Jr.,

**Washington County  
Commissioner**  
100 W. Beau Street, Suite 702  
Washington, PA 15301  
724-228-6720  
[www.co.washington.pa.us](http://www.co.washington.pa.us)

## MAKING YOUR MEMBERSHIP DOLLARS WORK

It is becoming a fact of life that expenditures of any kind are being scrutinized and analyzed more than ever before. When reviewing your memberships in professional organizations, please keep in mind what you expect from those ever important dollars. . .

- **QUALITY** – the Mon Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce delivers QUALITY programs and QUALITY networking opportunities at QUALITY venues. The planning committee strives for new, fresh, and interesting ideas.
- **PRICE** – Annual dues are affordable – and have not been increased for NINE years. The Chamber now offers payment plans and accepts all major credit cards. A yearly membership can equal the cost of a one time print ad. Most programs are free with membership, and auxiliary ones are also affordably priced.
- **SERVICE** – The Mon Valley Chamber of Commerce is accessible by daily office hours, phone, fax, voicemail and cell phone. The staff accepts it as a mission and considers it an honor to serve its members .
- **CONVENIENCE** – The business community of the Mid Mon Valley is fortunate to have its own full time Chamber located in the most central location of the region. Note: This did not happen by luck; the ongoing support of existing members have made this a reality.
- **EXPERIENCE** – The current director, Deb Keefer, has worked full time for the Chamber for 15 years. In addition, The Board of Directors, Executive Committee and staff have hundreds of years in combined business experience and represent a myriad of specialties: retail, legal, real estate, banking, services, non-profit and more.

Whether you are an existing member or thinking of joining, please know that a membership dollar spent at the Mon Valley Regional Chamber is taken very seriously. Please give us a call at 724-483-3507 or complete an application on line at [www.mvrchamber.org](http://www.mvrchamber.org). We would love to bring you on board!

Are you a business, individual or Nonprofit that has not joined the Chamber of Commerce?

Call Deb Today at  
724-483-3507!

*“Top 25 Largest Chambers  
in the Greater Pittsburgh Region”*



**Save money on your  
electricity bill!**

**For more information,  
contact ChamberChoice  
at 1-866-699-9968.**



## THANK YOU RENEWING MEMBERS\*

### 86 Years

Valley Independent

### 50 Years and Over

FROGGY 94.9 & Pickle Radio  
Interstate Paper Supply Company

### 38 Years

Lee Supply Company

### 25 Years and Over

Columbia Gas of PA  
Culligan Water Treatment, Trilli Holdings  
Maple Creek Distributors  
Roberts Dairy Queen

### 15 Years and Over

Charleroi Paint & Glass

### 10 Years and Over

Comcast Business Services  
Cupari Home Improvements  
FairPoint Communications  
Gosai & Gandhi, MD  
LOGIX  
Medved's Pharmacy  
Rotary Club of Charleroi  
RTS Packaging  
Subway/TCBY

### 5 Years and Over

Affordable Health Insurance  
Chaney's Natural Health & Wellness  
Corning Federal Credit Union  
Progeny Systems  
Southwestern PA Human Services, Inc.  
Stewart Creative  
Union-Finley Messenger  
The Willow Room

### All other Renewals

Badzik Printing Service, Inc.  
Belasco, Ober & Associates  
Best Western – Garden Inn  
Blank Welding  
Cal-Ed Federal Credit Union  
Foundation for Free Enterprise Education (PFEW)  
Holiday Inn Express  
MarBill Diamonds & Jewelry  
John Mollenauer  
Mon Valley Messenger  
My Girls Korner Kitchen  
Nokomis, Inc.  
Outside the Box I.T., LLC  
Pennatronics Corporation  
Peoples Natural Gas  
RCx Building Diagnostics, Inc.  
Roberts Auto Body  
Rupert Chiropractic Clinic  
Washington Wild Things

### MEMBER REMINDER

*Payment of 2012 Dues makes your business eligible for the Chamber's Pot of Gold. Next Drawing to be held March 13 at the Chamber Luncheon at the Charleroi Elks Club.*



\*These renewals only reflect dues received as of February 29, 2012. Renewals will continue to be acknowledged in upcoming issues of the Regional Reporter.



## March Member Spotlight RTS Packaging, LLC



Mark B. Raitano,  
General Manager

**RTS Packaging, LLC** in Charleroi is featured in the Mon Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce Member Spotlight for the month of March. The company, located right next to the Chamber building employs more than 80 people, and has been a member and financial supporter for 20 years.

RTS Packaging, LLC is one of the world's largest partition producers. The Charleroi Plant is one of 15 locations in North and South America. The plant manufactures fiber and corrugated partitions for the food and beverage industry. Learn more about RTS at [www.rtspackaging.com](http://www.rtspackaging.com).

Current MVRCC  
Member Count:

# 304

**And Growing!**

*Congratulations!*  
You Belong to the Largest  
Business Organization  
in the  
Mid Mon Valley!



## CHAMBER NEWS

### WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE FEATURED AT MARCH LUNCHEON AT THE CHARLEROI ELKS.

The Washington County Commissioners will be featured at the Mon Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce luncheon to be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at the Charleroi Elks Club from 11:45am to 1:00pm.

Commissioners Larry Maggi, Diana Irey-Vaughan, and newly elected Harlan Shober (pictured right) will be updating attendees on the state of the County and projects slated for 2012 and beyond. A panel discussion facilitated by Washington County Chamber President Jeff Kotula is planned along with a briefing on the Charleroi Monessen Bridge Project from PennDOT representatives, Amy Costabile and Len Kubitz. "We host the Commissioners at least once a year," said Armand Ferrara, Chamber President. "And we always have a nice crowd interested in the state of the County. It's a very important program and a great networking event."

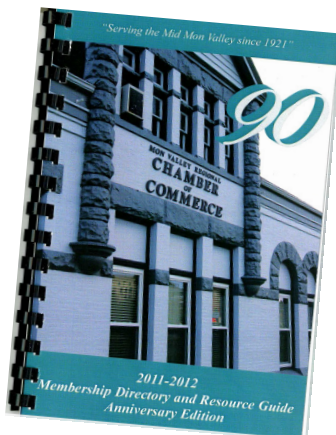


Attendees can make reservations at a cost of \$15.00/person and may register by calling, faxing, or e-mailing the Mon Valley Regional Chamber office. [info@mvrchamber.org](mailto:info@mvrchamber.org), 724-483-3507 or printing a faxable registration form at [www.mvrchamber.org](http://www.mvrchamber.org). The Chamber accepts VISA, MasterCard and Discover.

### DON'T MISS OUT... ADS ARE SELLING QUICKLY! RESERVE YOUR SPACE NOW!

*Advertising in the 2012-2013 Directory will put your business in front of thousands of targeted clients! Capitalize on your investment with the Chamber by utilizing this valuable tool to increase your current market growth and reach new customers.*

Call Donna at 724-483-3507 TODAY to reserve your ad space!



### STATE EDUCATION SECRETARY FEATURED AT APRIL CHAMBER LUNCHEON

The Mon Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce will host the Commonwealth's Secretary of Education on April 10 at the Charleroi Area School District, from 11:45-1:00pm



Ronald Tomalis, State Education Secretary

Ron Tomalis was nominated by Governor Tom Corbett to serve as the Secretary of Education and was confirmed by the State Senate on April 26, 2011.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) develops and administers educational policies to improve the quality of education in the Commonwealth and achieve the basic and higher education goals established by the Governor, General Assembly and the State Board of Education, including public and non-public elementary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education. PDE provides service and technical assistance to Pennsylvania educators; administers education laws of Pennsylvania and the federal government; plans and administers policies for libraries; and manages a system of pre-service and in-service professional development to ensure high-quality personnel in the educational system.

Tomalis brings a range of public and private experience in education and educational systems to his role as a member of Governor Corbett's cabinet. From 1995 to 2001, he served as PDE's executive deputy secretary under former Governor Tom Ridge. From 2001 to 2004, he worked for the United States Department of Education in several positions, including counselor to the Secretary and as acting assistant secretary of education in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education.

After his public service, he was a private advisor and consultant in the field, and most recently was the director of Dutko Worldwide/Whiteboard Advisors, based in Washington, DC. At Dutko, he was a principal advisor to non- and for-profit groups, foundations and companies operating in Pre-K and postsecondary education environments.

Tomalis, born and raised in Camp Hill, is a graduate of Dickinson College.

*See enclosed flyer for registration information.*

## CHAMBERS PARTNER TO PRESENT CONFLICT MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

The Mon Valley Regional and Greater Rostraver Chambers of Commerce will present a Mediation and Conflict Management Workshop on Thursday, March 29, 8am-noon, at the Lombardi Conference Center at Monongahela Valley Hospital. Dionne Eddy and Mike Baines of Functional Solutions will conduct the training. The cost is \$25/Chamber Member, \$35/Non Chamber Member and includes morning refreshments, meeting materials and parking token. Registrations are being accepted on a first come first served basis by calling or e-mailing the Greater Rostraver Chamber office at 724-929-3329 or [grcoc1@comcast.net](mailto:grcoc1@comcast.net).



Michael Baines will be one of the presenters at March 29 Conflict Workshop

Who should attend: Managers and potential managers, and people who must deal with difficult situations and people. "We hope to see some of larger employers in the region take advantage of this important human resource management class," said Deb Keefer, MVRCC Director. "A few hours of training can save a lot of dollars otherwise spent on the hiring and firing process."

What will be presented:

- A look at conflict - positive and negative.
- How conflict can cost an organization.
- How we grow conflict.
- How to avoid creating conflict.

Mediation, the mediator, and the mediation process.

If the March 29 workshop is filled, the training will be repeated in another session in the following months.



## MELVIN B. BASSI GOLF TOURNAMENT SECURES HIGHWAY APPLIANCE AS EVENT SPONSOR

The Mon Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Melvin B. Bassi Golf Tournament will be held at **Butler's Golf Course** in Elizabeth on June 7, 2012. An 8:00am registration and practice will be followed by a 9:00am shotgun start. **Highway Appliance** will be the main event sponsor.

A brand new vehicle will be given away as a Hole-in-One Prize sponsored by **Rotolo Motors** of North Charleroi. In addition, several auxiliary prizes will be offered on other holes. Butler's Golf Course is a Billy Casper® managed golf course, and more information about the course can be accessed at [www.butlersgolf.com](http://www.butlersgolf.com).



The Chamber's golf outing is held in memory of the late Melvin B. Bassi, outstanding community and business leader in the Mon Valley.

Foursomes, sponsorships and door prizes (\$25 value or more) are now being accepted by calling Deb or Donna at 724-483-3507. The cost per golfer is only \$120 and includes greens fees and cart, lunch, beverages, dinner and many extras. The Chamber accepts VISA, Mastercard and Discover. *See insert for additional information.*

Proceeds from the Bassi Tournament fund Leadership Washington County scholarships, The Challenge Program in local high schools, and several other educational initiatives in the Mid Mon Valley in memory of the late Attorney Melvin B. Bassi, outstanding community and business leader in the Mon Valley.

This year's Golf Committee is chaired by Milt Kubik and includes Michael Baines, J. J. Georgagis, Denise Mornak, Trish Brickner, Milt Kubik, Josie Pelzer, Diann Donaldson, Jeffrey Mendola, Jim Protin. Anyone is welcome to join the committee or volunteer for the day.





## 2012 CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Meet the 2012 Mon Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors: left to right seated: Trish Brickner, MonValleyCareer Link, Karen Juskowich, Juskowich Notary Service, Donna Ramusivich, Monongahela Valley Hospital, Deb Buck, Audrey's Draperies, Lori Spina, Gosai & Gandhi Medical Group, Diann Donaldson, Reliance Business Systems, Standing: left to right, David Galloni, Charleroi Federal Savings Bank, Wayne Ray, Snapshot 47, J. J. Georgagis, Keystone Bakery, Dr. Brad Ferko, Charleroi Area School District, Ken Wiltz, Retired-Charleroi Area School Board, Deb Keefer, Chamber Director, Milton Kubik, Charleroi Park Trustees, Richard Mudrick, Attorney, Armand Ferrara, Coldwell Banker and Randy McMahon, Handyman Matters.

Missing from the photo is: Jim Protin, Chester Engineers, Jerry Zahand Sr., Highway Appliance, Lydia Zanardini, Smitty's Marina & Grill, Jeffrey Mendola, Waddell and Reed, Josie Pelzer, Rotolo Motors, Joe Williams, Mon Valley Office Equipment, and Vito Dentino, Dentino Agency and Attorney Keith Bassi, Solicitor.

### BOARD REPRESENTS ALL FACETS OF BUSINESS

The 2012 Chamber Board of Directors is an astute group of individuals, representing the different geographic areas of the region and many occupations. Among the make up is retail, professional services, home services, medical, banking, and real estate. The non-profits represented on the Board deal with workforce development, education and healthcare.

The male/female ratio has improved over the organization's 90 year existence. The current 22 member board consists of 14 men and 8 women. "In 1997, there were only three women on the Board," said Deb Keefer, who is the second female Chamber director, the first being Ann Zaphiris that was employed by the Board for a few months in 1990.

The Chamber Executive Committee consists of Armand N. Ferrara, Jr., President, Richard Mudrick, Vice President, David Galloni, Secretary, Milt Kubik, Treasurer, Jerry Zahand, Sr. and Jim Protin, both Executive Committee Members at Large.



This 1955 Chamber Board picture shows all male representation. Today's Board is 40% female and employs a female Chamber Director.

## CHAMBER NEWS

## CHAMBER PROMOTES PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT THROUGH GRANT PROGRAM

The Design Committee of the TEAM Charleroi Business & Community Alliance, a committee operating in conjunction with the Mon Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce, has established a FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT to assist business and property owners in Charleroi's Central Business District in improving the appearance of the facades of the commercial buildings. The funding for the program was secured through the Washington County Local Share Account from gaming revenues.

Owners of businesses and commercial properties in the project area (McKean and Fallowfield Avenues between the Borough line on the southern end and 12<sup>th</sup> street on the northern end (including Chamber Plaza and all streets perpendicular) are eligible to apply for the matching grant façade project, the purposes of which are as follows:

- To stimulate investment, sales and other economic activities in the central business district.
- To enhance the existing historic character of building in the central business district.
- To promote the image of the central business district as a strong economic entity.
- To encourage preventive maintenance and proper repair of the buildings and storefronts.
- To increase property values in the central business district.
- To encourage new businesses to locate in the central business district.



Charleroi Elks Club received a \$5,000 grant through this program.

Grants will be made on a 1 to 2 matching basis (one dollar of grant money for each two dollars of private investment) **with a maximum grant amount of \$5,000.00 per property**. Grants will be awarded on a first come, first serve basis (based on numbered file with will be opened for each preliminary application when submitted). Minimum grant is \$1,000 per property, i.e., **must be at least \$2,000 investment**. Grants will be a reimbursement basis only.

Eligible grant activities must be reviewed and approved by the TEAM Design Committee and applicants must show proof of payment to their contractors to be reimbursed under the grant guidelines.

The program has picked up momentum in the last six months, awarding \$15,000 in grants to downtown property owners. There are projects in progress, and applications are approved for spring start dates. If anyone is interested in completing projects in the designated project area, guidelines and application can be e-mailed by request at [info@mvrchamber.org](mailto:info@mvrchamber.org) at 724-483-3507. Deb Keefer, Chamber Director is the Grant administrator, and John Mollenauer is the Design Committee Chairman.

## Attention Chamber Members: GET YOUR MESSAGE OUT!

### SPONSOR THE REGIONAL REPORTER

**\$65 Insert Sponsor - (\$45 Non Profit Rate)**

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**CALL 724-483-3507 TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE!**

### E-MAIL BLASTS

1 Free Blast/Member/Year—Additional \$25 each

(Limit 3/Member/Year)

[Find us on Facebook](#) 

Post your news on the Chamber FACEBOOK page!

### EVENT SPONSORSHIPS

Something for everyone's budget! See all of the opportunities at [www.mvrchamber.org](http://www.mvrchamber.org)

### DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER/TABLOID

Submit your news (anniversaries, achievements, etc.) to **[info@mvrchamber.org](mailto:info@mvrchamber.org)**

Deadline for Editorial/Advertising for April Tabloid:  
Wednesday, April 4. Tabloid—Publication date:  
Thursday, April 12, 2012.

### AFFORDABLE ADS ARE A PHONE CALL AWAY!

Advertise in the **Mon Valley Messenger**—Contact Judi Robbins, Ad Manager at 412-708-7328 or [robbins.judi@gmail.com](mailto:robbins.judi@gmail.com)

Advertise in the monthly Chamber Supplement to the **Valley Independent**—Contact your Ad Rep or Karen Strickland at 724-684-2609.



"Serving the Business Community Since 1921"

**REGIONAL REPORTER**

One Chamber Plaza

Charleroi, PA 15022

724-483-3507

info@mvrchamber.org

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## Mark Your Calendar For These Upcoming Events!

**Tuesday, March 13** – Chamber Luncheon, Panel Discussion w/ Washington County Commissioners, Charleroi Elks Club, 11:45 AM – 1:00 PM. *See page 4 for details.*

**Please note:** There will not be a Chamber Board Meeting in March.

**Thursday, March 29** – Mediation Workshop, Anthony Lombardi Education Conference Center Room "F," Monongahela Valley Hospital, 8:00 AM—12:00 Noon. *See page 5 for details.*

**Tuesday, April 10** – Chamber Luncheon, Alumni Room, Charleroi Area School District, 11:45 AM—1:00 PM. *See insert for details.*

**Wednesday, April 18** – Chamber Board Meeting, SPHS Board Room, 8:00 AM

**Friday, April 27** – "First Swing" Breakfast w/ Washington County Chamber of Commerce, Nemacolin Country Club, 7:45 AM

**Tuesday, May 15**—Chamber Luncheon, California University of PA, Convocation Center, 11:45 AM—1:00 PM.

**Wednesday, May 16** – Chamber Board Meeting, SPHS Board Room, 8:00 AM

**Thursday, June 7**—Melvin Bassi Memorial Golf Tournament, **NEW LOCATION!** Butler's Golf Course, Elizabeth—9:00 AM Shotgun Start. *See story on page 5 and insert for additional information.*

### **Winter Weather Cancellation Policy**

If inclement weather causes a 2 hour delay or cancellation in the Charleroi Area School District, please consider the Chamber and/or TEAM Charleroi morning meetings or events cancelled. You can get the information on WTAE Channel 4 TV beginning at 5:00 AM or on their website [www.thepittsburghchannel.com](http://www.thepittsburghchannel.com).

For Chamber and/or TEAM Charleroi luncheon meetings or afternoon events please call the Chamber office at 724-483-3507.

*Watch the mail, e-mail, FACEbook and website for more information on all upcoming events!*

[www.mvrchamber.org](http://www.mvrchamber.org)