

# BROOKLYN CHAMBER NEWS

## MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT GREG GENS - SUPERIOR PRODUCTS

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>President's Message</i>	<b>1</b>
<i>Chamber Calendar</i>	<b>1</b>
<i>Member Spotlight</i>	<b>2</b>
<i>Member of the Year</i>	<b>2</b>
<i>Annual Meeting</i>	<b>2</b>
<i>Chamber Help</i>	<b>3</b>
<i>Taste Of Brooklyn</i>	<b>3</b>
<i>Chamber Grants</i>	<b>3</b>
<i>Polaris</i>	<b>4</b>
<i>Safety Training</i>	<b>4</b>



### CHAMBER CALENDAR

1/4	Board of Directors Meeting
1/10	Exec. Committee Meeting
1/17	Luncheon
2/7	Board of Directors Meeting
2/9	Taste Of Brooklyn
2/14	Exec. Committee Meeting
2/20	Luncheon
3/6	Board of Directors Meeting
3/13	Exec. Committee Meeting
3/20	Luncheon
4/3	Board of Directors Meeting
4/10	Exec. Committee Meeting
4/16	Luncheon
5/1	Board of Directors Meeting
5/8	Exec. Committee Meeting
5/15	Luncheon
JUNE	GOLF OUTING TBA
6/5	Board of Directors Meeting
6/12	Exec. Committee Meeting
6/18	Luncheon

At the end of each year it is natural for us to look back on what has occurred in the year and reflect upon it. As I look back on 2007 and the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, I am pleased by what we have accomplished, but I know we can do even more.

This year the Annual February Winter Social was established and we were able to continue the Summer Social, Home Days, Breakfast with the Mayor and the Summer Car Cruise. We increased our Scholarships given to Brooklyn students and residents and we established an educational business grant in conjunction with Polaris. A meaningful dialog was established between the Chamber and Brooklyn Schools Superintendent Jeff Lampert and High School Principal Marsha Miller, which can be the basis for future coordinated efforts between the schools and the business community.... a very good and busy year. I look forward to including all of these events and a Summer Golf Outing in the 2008 Calendar of Chamber activities.

Personally, I have thoroughly enjoyed working in the Chamber over the year, and I would like to thank all of the people who helped throughout the year. Brooklyn Mayor Ken Patton continues to support the Chamber that he was integral in establishing. Mike Kissel from Memphis Kiddie Park spearheaded the Summer and Winter Socials and the Annual Car Cruise. Panera Bread, Skyline Chili, The Sausage Shoppe, GFS Food Services, Rockne's, and our Member of the Year Sharon Glagola from Ridge Park Manor, all donated time and products to these events. The rest of the Chamber's Executive Committee, Past President Glenn Skorko (Quantum Digital Solutions), Treasurer Donna Thompson (City of Brooklyn) and Secretary Valerie Thompson (the Chamber's Assistant Director) all put in many hours for the Chamber this year.

While still serving on the Board, Past Chamber President's Ken Grodek (EmbroidMe) and Mark Heller (Fodor Realty) lead the way on the luncheon

programs and the Newsletter respectively, while Chamber Board Members Joe Salem, Ruben Mendeola (Ferrous Metal Products), Cindy Foster (Key Bank), Colleen Williams (American Greetings) and Doug Hogan (First Energy) all generously gave their time to the Chamber. I am looking forward to working with them in 2008 along with our new Board members Candy Banks (Town Planner), Greg Frey (State Farm Insurance) and Laura Rosa (Vita: A Chiropractic & Wellness Center)

And finally, to all of our Chamber Members, thank you for your time interest and support in 2007.

**Happy Holidays, See you in 2008!**



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Westbrook Village, located at 4000 Westbrook Drive in Brooklyn, is one of the newest properties to be added to the elite K&D Group portfolio. Westbrook is all new... including owners and management. Multi-million dollar renovations are being completed in order to make this community one of the K&D Group's finest properties yet!

Karen Harrison and Doug Price, owners of the K&D Group, have been providing homes for many people over the past 25 years. They began their small property management business by purchasing their first property which included 8 apartment suites. They rolled up their sleeves, worked hard and demanded perfection. As their portfolio expanded, they never lost site of the "human touch" and today they are the largest property management company in the Cleveland area. Their portfolio includes 26 properties spanning from the east to the west side of Cleveland

with over 11,000 suites. The Westbrook has spacious one and two bedroom suites that make you feel right at home. Some of the amenities include a sparkling pool and picnic grounds that make outdoor activities fun for the whole family. Convenient, indoor garages and carports make parking easy and hassle-free. Lush landscaping gives the grounds a polished, elegant look. The K&D Group has just unveiled the first of its kind, Preferred Employer Program, which is an exclusive program targeted to corporations. The employees of these select corporations enjoy specials

such as:

- **½ off first months rent**
- **Reduced security deposit**
- **Job transfer addendum**
- **Home purchase addendum**
- **Free pool passes**
- **Reduced garage rates**
- **2.5% renewal rate**

Please come and visit us at Westbrook Village and allow our professional staff to roll out the red carpet for you! Enjoy a "cup of warmth" by the water falls and fireplace in our new leasing office. We are anxious to meet you!

## BROOKLYN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBER OF THE YEAR

### Sharon Glagola Ridge Manor Party Center



Congratulations to Sharon Glagola and the Ridge Manor Party Center for winning the Chamber's Member of the Year Award for 2007. Sharon graciously

donated the Party Center for use during the 2007 Taste of Brooklyn and All That Jazz fundraiser, which benefits our scholarship fund. She also donated the soft drinks. Because of her generosity, we were able to keep our costs down and raised over \$1,100 for the scholarship fund. She has agreed to again, donate the party center for this year's fundraiser on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Ridge Manor Party Center has been in existence since

1975. Sharon Glagola became the manager of the Party Center at the end of 1988. They are open 7 days a week and provide on site, full service catering. The grand ballroom can accommodate 50-350 guests for your wedding reception, corporate party, graduation party, shower, or any other social event. If you are interested in using Ridge Manor Party Center for an upcoming event or you have any

questions, please contact Sharon Glagola at 216-749-5509. You can also visit them on the web at [www.ridgemanor.homestead.com](http://www.ridgemanor.homestead.com)

It is with great appreciation that we award the Member of the Year Award for 2007 to Sharon Glagola and the Ridge Manor Party Center. We sincerely thank you for all of your hard work and dedication!

## ANNUAL MEETING

On the evening of November 15<sup>th</sup>, the Chamber held its Annual Meeting at Ridge Manor Party Center. Those in attendance were able to hear from our President, Greg Gens, as he recapped what the Chamber has been doing the past year. He spoke on our scholarship

fund, upcoming business grants, Chamber finances, activities the Chamber has been involved with, and what is to come for 2008. We also heard from Mayor Patton and many of the city's department heads. We would like to thank Mayor Patton and all of the

department heads that graciously gave up their evening to attend the meeting. If you are interested in receiving the packet of information that was given out at the annual meeting, please contact Valerie Thompson at [asst-dir@brooklynohiochamber.org](mailto:asst-dir@brooklynohiochamber.org).

org or you can call 216-288-5484 to request the materials.



## How to use a Chamber of Commerce to help grow your business...

Reprinted by permission of *Inside Business* magazine.

For centuries, businesses have reaped the benefits of joining chambers of commerce. But beyond the myriad of networking opportunities, there are many ways a chamber can help your business grow and thrive. According to Vicky Hawke, executive director of Northern Ohio Area Chambers of Commerce (NOACC), networking is the No. 1 reason businesses join a chamber. "For the small cost of a chamber membership, businesses have access to other businesspeople in the community," she says, adding that chambers also address and serve the needs of the business community through education and advocacy issues. The dollars-and-cents savings

that go along with a chamber membership is NOACC's sweet spot. Founded in 1995, NOACC currently offers benefits to almost 35,000 employer groups through the members of 133 chambers of commerce in northern Ohio. The largest independent chamber association in the United States, NOACC was created to attract and retain members in local chambers of commerce by offering significant discounts and rates on benefits businesses want. Local chambers join NOACC and pass savings on to their members who can take advantage of the programs and effectively improve their businesses' bottom line. "People don't join the chamber of commerce to help the chamber; they join the chamber of commerce to help their business. It's not a contribution; it's an investment

in their business," Hawke says. NOACC's member benefits include group



health insurance and group life and disability insurance with Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, workers' compensation group rating programs, credit card processing and payroll processing services with Heartland Payment Systems, freight delivery and employee-wellness programs. The caveat to reeling in the savings? Members have to take the first step in receiving the benefits. "Neither the chamber nor the vendor is spending a lot of time in trying to sell them anything," says Hawke. "They have to actually go looking for it and they have to ask 'Is there a discount because of my

chamber membership?' or 'How do I get this discount?' It's like any other membership buying group — you must take advantage of the savings." The organization negotiates with vendors to get group discounts for their members. For example, companies that opt for health insurance coverage with Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield can receive a 3 percent discount for groups between two and 50. If they also enroll in Anthem life insurance, that discount can be as much as 5 percent. In the case of workers' compensation premiums, NOACC has saved companies up to 90 percent of their premiums. "We save our members millions of dollars every year between the various benefits we offer," says Hawke.

Visit [www.noacc.org](http://www.noacc.org) for more information.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL TASTE OF BROOKLYN AND ALL THAT JAZZ

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual "Taste of Brooklyn and All That Jazz" Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at Ridge Manor Party Center from 7pm-10pm. All of the proceeds benefit the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce's Scholarship Fund. Entertainment will again be provided by the Brooklyn High School Jazz Ensemble. Local Brooklyn establishments will provide the food. Last year, we were able to raise over \$1,100 for the scholarship fund.

We are hoping to do even better this year. Tickets are \$25 per person. Please contact Valerie Thompson (216-288-5484) or Mike Kissel (440-781-4495) for ticket information. Hope to see you there!



## BROOKLYN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSINESS GRANTS

On December 19<sup>th</sup>, the Chamber of Commerce gave away 7 grants to its members for a One Day Adult Training Program at Polaris Career Center. Members were asked to fill out a short form and submit it to the Chamber. At the luncheon on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 7 winners were chosen to receive gift certificates to Polaris Career Center. This is the first time the Chamber has offered grants to its members. We look forward to doing the same in 2008.

Congratulations to the following businesses for being awarded the grants:

**Brooklyn Reform Church**

**Dollar Bank**

**Ferrous Metal**

**5/3rd Bank**

**Jeffery S. Castel, DDS**

**Brooklyn Sun News**

**Wally's Auto Service**



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**We are on the web!**  
[www.brooklynohiochamber.org](http://www.brooklynohiochamber.org)

Officers

**PRESIDENT**

Greg Gens

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Greg Frey

**TREASURER**

Donna Thompson

**SECRETARY**

Valerie Thompson

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The Town Planner

Cindy Foster  
Key Bank Operations Center

Greg Frey  
State Farm Insurance

Greg Gens  
Superior Products

Mark Heller  
Fodor Realty

Doug Hogan  
FirstEnergy

Mike Kissel  
Memphis Entertainment

Ruben Mendiola  
Ferrous Metal Processing

Mayor Kenneth E. Patton  
Ex-Officio

Laura Rosa  
Vita Chiropractor & Wellness  
Center

Glenn Skorko  
Quantum Digital Solutions

Colleen Williams  
American Greetings

**Kick off the New Year at Polaris Career Center!**



Join us on Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at Polaris Career Center as we kick off our 1<sup>st</sup> luncheon for 2008! The speaker will be Doug Miller, Director of Marketing and Community Outreach for Polaris. Doug will provide an overview of Polaris Career Center services, highlighting services to three specific areas: High School, Adult Education and Businesses. A luncheon buffet will be served by students in the culinary academy under the direction of Chef Chris Olszewski and Chef Elliott Callahan. A Polaris Career Center Gift Bag will be given to the door prize winner. The meeting and luncheon will be held in room 124. Those attending may park in the front lot and come in through the main entrance to the welcome center. They will be directed to room 124 which is located directly off of the commons area. An optional tour will be available following the luncheon. Polaris Career Center is located at 7285 Old Oak Blvd in Middleburg Heights. Registration and networking will begin at 11:30am and the program will start at 12noon. The cost for members is \$12 and non-members are \$17. Hope to see you there!

**Ohio BWC Safety Training Courses Jan-Mar 2008**



MESSAGE from the Ohio BWC and NOACC:

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation Division of Safety & Hygiene Training Center offers 64 occupational safety, health, and ergonomic courses in twelve locations statewide and seven online courses. All courses are offered at no additional cost to Ohio employers who pay into the Ohio workers' compensation insurance fund. Courses are designed to emphasize practical application of safety principles, to help develop a safety culture, and to provide current and proposed standards for regulatory compliance. The Safety Course Schedule for Jan-Mar 2008 is available as a download from the [www.noacc.org](http://www.noacc.org) website. To enroll or learn more about the courses, visit the BWC Learning Center at [www.bwclearningcenter.com](http://www.bwclearningcenter.com)